



## **Covenants**

(The secret to flourishing relationships)

### **Lesson 3: Marriage Covenant**

(March 14 & 15)

Marriage was meant to be a Covenant, not a Contract

In the United States, 17% of all the divorces that occur are due to adultery on the part of either or both of the parties

83% of failed marriages have nothing to do with adultery

#### **Covenant**

- A voluntary pledge under oath; agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities for the sole purpose of establishing a flourishing relationship.

#### **Differences between a covenant & contract**

- **Covenants** surrender privileges and accept responsibility
- **Contracts** guard privileges and dodge responsibility

Marriage is a Covenant (Genesis 2:20-25)

**Genesis 2:23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."**24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is **united** to his wife, and they **become one flesh**.**25** Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. *New International Version*

God's heart towards the Marriage Covenant

**Malachi 2:14** You ask, "Why?" It is because **the Lord is the witness** between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, **the wife of your marriage covenant...** **16 "The man who hates and divorces his wife,"** says the Lord, the God of Israel, **"does violence to the one he should protect,"** says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful. *New International Version*

### **Husbands Covenant Responsibility**

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, **go all out in your love** for your wives, **exactly as Christ did for the church** - a love marked by giving, not getting. *Message Bible*

### **Husbands are to love like Christ**

1. Love first
2. Love regardless
3. Love radically

**Ephesians 5:26** Christ's love makes the church whole. **His words evoke her beauty.** Everything he does and says is designed to **bring the best out of her,** **27** dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. **28** And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. **They're really doing themselves a favor** - since they're already "one" in marriage. *Message Bible*

### **Top three reasons women have affairs**

1. Low self-esteem
2. Emotionally starved
3. Anger

### **Wife's Covenant Responsibility**

**Ephesians 5:33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must **respect** her husband. *New International Version*

**Respect** - To honor and admire profoundly and respectfully. To regard with respect tinged with awe.

**1 Corinthians 7:4** Marriage is not a place to "stand up for your rights." Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. *Message Bible*

"Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate." *Barnett Brickner*