

"What is Covenant?" Series  
The Marriage Covenant  
Sunday, March 7, 2022  
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The Hebrew word *beriyth* is translated in English as: "will", "covenant" and "testament," It means binding agreement and comes from the word meaning "to cut". It is mentioned approximately 300 times in Scripture.

Testament = Covenant – a testament is a covenant, and a covenant is a testament.

In Biblical times a covenant vow was binding and unbreakable.

Three facts about a Covenant Relationship

1. It is entered into by a sacrifice
2. It requires laying down your life for another
3. It requires total commitment

Marriage is a Covenant

Proverbs 2:16-17 "Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and **ignored the covenant she made before God.** (NIV)

- The unfaithful wife

Malachi 2:13–14 "Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 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." (NIV)

- The unfaithful husband

### **The Mystery**

Ephesians 5:31-33 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (NIV)

- Paul is Making a parallel between Christ and the church and marriage
- Marriage is a great mystery

Psalm 25:14 "The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him,  
And He will show them His covenant."

- God reveals His covenant to those who fear Him

Heb 9:16-17 “For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.”

- The final sacrifice is the death of Jesus.

### **We enter into the covenant through the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.**

2 Cor 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again”

- The sacrifice upon which the covenant of Christian marriage is based is the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Reading from: Marriage Covenant by Derek Prince, Published by Whitaker House

### **Heart of Marriage**

A commitment to covenant: Releases God’s Grace

1. Without commitment there is no marriage

The end purpose of marriage is unity

1. To “know” spouse
2. God’s Word clearly differentiates between “know” and “lay”

The Bible uses the word “know” only in a covenant marriage relationship.

### **Adam “knew” Eve**

Genesis 4:1 – “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”

### **And the man forces her and “lies” with her**

Duet 22:25-27 ““But if a man finds a betrothed young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the young woman; there is in the young woman no sin deserving of death, for just as when a man rises against his neighbor and kills him, even so is this matter. For he found her in the countryside, and the betrothed young woman cried out, but there was no one to save her.”

- then only the man who lay with her shall die

God designed marriage to be the boundary in which there is sexual relations.

### **In the New Testament**

1 Corinthians 6:16-17 “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.””

### **Covenant Marriages are Honorable**

Hebrews 13:4 – “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

- God's requirements for covenant marriages are designed to protect us and keep us from getting hurt.

**There is nothing more valuable than the human soul.**

Mark 8:36-37 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- One soul is worth more than the whole universe.
- Marriage is two souls coming together as one.

"The most important concept in marriage is the commitment of covenant. while circumstances change from good to bad, and emotions move from up to down, commitment to God's covenant of marriage is the constant that every couple needs. Commitment is based on fact, not feeling...commitment is the glue that holds." *June Hunt*

**The Covenant Relationship Between Christ and the Church**

Ephesians 5:35-37 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."