

The Marriage Covenant Seminar

I. Overview

II. The Covenant of Marriage

III. The “Fine Print” of the Marriage Covenant

a. The Husband

i. Overview

1. If he, as Ephesians 5:25 commands, is to love his wife as “Christ loved the Church,” then those verses which define Christ’s undying love for us also define the husband’s undying love for his wife.
2. Remember that
 - a. Legitimate needs do not indicate imperfection or fault (Adam & Eve);
 - b. Covenant needs are not grown out of but instead increase with spiritual growth;
 - c. Warning against defrauding your spouse;
 - d. Warning against cruel expectations;
 - e. You cannot understand but rather must accept these needs; and
 - f. If not you, then who?
- ii. Spiritual Leader of the family (Ephesians 5:26)
- iii. Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs (Ephesians 5:25)
 1. Conversational intimacy
 - a. Access (Hebrews 4:16)
 - b. Topics that result in emotional comfort and security (Philippians 4:6-7)
 2. Intimacy through emotional / psychological comfort and care (Ephesians 5:33)
 3. Actually being there
 - a. In the beginning, given by God the Father (Genesis 2:24)
 - b. Reaffirmed by God the Son (Matthew 19:5)
 - c. Instituted in the Church Age by God the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:31)
 4. Questions to consider
 - a. If you do not meet these needs, who do you want to meet them?
 - b. What are your spouse’s moral alternatives?
 - c. Will you trap your wife in the prison of a Christian marriage?
 - d. Are you willing for these same alternatives when it comes to your needs?
 5. Reminder: You don’t have to get married, but if you do, then fulfill your vows to God.
- iv. Trusting and truthful relationship (Proverbs 31:11)
- v. Material needs (Ephesians 5:28)
- vi. Home and family a priority (Ephesians 5:31)

b. The Wife

i. Overview

- ii. Submission to his leadership (Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18)

- iii. Love your husband by giving him a sexually exciting marriage (Proverbs 5:15-19)
- iv. Helpmate and companion in his life pursuits (Ecclesiastes 9:7-9)
- v. The home as a refuge (Proverbs 31:12)
- vi. Respect (Ephesians 5:33)

IV. Closing