

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)

iv. Trusting and truthful relationship (Proverbs 31:11)

v. Material needs (Ephesians 5:28)

1. Key verses

- a. 1 Corinthians 7:32-34
- b. 1 Timothy 3:4, 5:8
- c. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- d. Hebrews 11:7
- e. 1 Peter 3:7

2. Important comparisons

- a. How we clothe our body vs. our wife’s
- b. Our office and supplies vs. wife’s kitchen and supplies
- c. Our “business lunches” vs. wife’s getting out to eat
- d. Our travel and conferences vs. wife’s vacations and conferences
- e. Our transportation vs. wife’s transportation
- f. The sin of putting your wife to work so you can pursue your career, ministry, or hobby

3. 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?

4. Reminder: You don’t have to get married, but if you do, then fulfill your vows to God.

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