

The Marriage Covenant Seminar

I. Overview

II. The Covenant of Marriage

III. The “Fine Print” of the Marriage Covenant

a. The Husband

- i. Spiritual Leader of the family (Ephesians 5:26)
- ii. Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs (Ephesians 5:25)
- iii. Trusting and truthful relationship (Proverbs 31:11)
- iv. Material needs (Ephesians 5:28)
- v. Home and family a priority (Ephesians 5:31)

b. The Wife

i. Overview

1. If she, as Ephesians 5:24 commands, is to be subject to her husband “as the Church is subject to Christ,” then those verses which define the Church’s undying love for Christ also define the wife’s undying love for her husband.
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. 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)
 1. A life-long companion (Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 5:18; Ecclesiastes 9:7-9; 1 Corinthians 11:9)
 2. Consider these following areas of his life
 - a. Career – Who do you want to be helping him and praising him?
 - b. Ministry – Why do other women praise him more than you with what results?
 - c. Leisure / Sports – Who is his greatest fan?
 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.

IV. Closing