

# 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)

#### vi. Home and family a priority (Ephesians 5:31)

1. Loving our wives as Christ loved the church at meal times (Luke 24:30; Revelation 3:20, 19:9)
2. Priority of the home (Ephesians 5:31)
3. Discipline of children (Ephesians 6:1-4)
4. Honor in the home (Proverbs 31:28; 1 Peter 3:7)
  - a. The mother is not the children’s servant
  - b. Servant as defined by Christ in Luke 22:27
5. We cannot use “ministry” or God as an excuse to neglect our responsibilities in the home (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6)
6. 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?
7. Reminder: You don’t have to get married, but if you do, then fulfill your vows to God.

### 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**