

Marriage:

A sacred covenant between
1 man & 1 woman.



Marriage was the first point God addressed after the creation of the world. It was the first institution God created and the most important among mankind. Marriage is important not only to the family, but to society overall. God's plan was that the marriage relationship would be an earthly representation of the very nature of God. As the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons, yet live in community, unity, and singleness of purpose, so also should husband, wife, and children live in community, unity, and singleness of purpose. The marriage relationship lived out according to God's plan is a testimony to God's love for humanity and greatly benefits both husband, wife, and children. Marriage is to be permanent, *no matter what* - that is what we promised with our wedding vows!

Biblically, marriage is a covenant, a commitment without reservation. Malachi 2:14 reminds us that the wife is a husband's *partner*, the wife of his marriage *covenant*. A covenant commitment is a 100-0 relationship for life. Just as Jesus Christ gave everything for you, you are called to give *all* in your marriage without expectations of return. Nelson's Bible Dictionary states, "A covenant, in the biblical sense, implies much more than a contract or simple agreement. A contract always has an end date, while a covenant is a permanent arrangement. Another difference is that a contract generally involves only one part of a person, such as a skill, while a covenant covers a person's total being." It is a choice couples make to commit all of themselves to their marriage for life. It is not a matter of living with your spouse as long as he or she makes you happy and meets your needs - it is a matter of living out God's purpose for your life and marriage.

Does your behavior towards your spouse depend on what he or she does for you or how they are acting? Or do you treat your spouse as God would want you to no matter what? Even if your spouse wrongs you, do you address that poor or sinful behavior in a Godly way? Yes, you are not perfect, but do you seek the holiness God has called you to? Is there evidence in the way you treat your spouse that you are growing in Christ? View your marriage as a *sacred covenant* and live as the Lord God would want you to live.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook is a great resource helping couples experience peace in their marriage relationships. Also see:

Book to check out: *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas

Articles to check out: *Covenant: The Heart of the Marriage Mystery* by David Kyle Foster
What Is The Importance Of Covenant Marriage? by Tim Keller