

Outline

Love Affair

I Promise—The Covenant of Marriage

Point# Content

1. Marriage is a beautiful covenant of a Love Threesome.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:22-25 NIV

2. If marriage is such a beautiful covenant, then why are there so few good marriages?

"50% of all marriages in America end in divorce." The above statement about the divorce rate in America hides all the details about distribution, however." *divorcerate.com*

Age at marriage for those who divorce in America

Age	Women	Men
Under 20 years old	27.6%	11.7%
20 to 24 years old	36.6%	38.8%
25 to 29 years old	16.4%	22.3%
30 to 34 years old	8.5%	11.6%
35 to 39 years old	5.1%	6.5%

About 60 percent of all marriages that eventually end in divorce do so within the first 10 years, researchers say. If that continues to hold true, the divorce rate for college graduates who married between 1990 and 1994 would end up at only about 25 percent, compared to well over 50 percent for those without a four-year college degree. *New York Times, April 19, 2005*

3. Because we enter into marriage with a few myths that make it impossible!

"We should get married because we love each other."

"Everything good about us will just get better when we get married."

"We have so much in common that we will expect the exact same things in marriage."

"Everything bad in my life and about me will disappear when I marry my true love."

"My true love will make me whole."

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4. Because we enter marriage as a Contract rather than a Covenant.

Contract An agreement between two or more parties, especially one that's written and is enforceable by law. "If you keep your end of the deal, I will keep mine. If you don't, then I won't." (houses, cars, Direct TV, cell phones)

Covenant A blood bond of life and death – a life and death guarantee.

Mentioned 286 times in the Bible

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I'll show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' "

Genesis 12:1-3 NIV What does this word "blessing" mean? Blessing means to be on the receiving end of the supernatural favor of God.

"O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" Genesis 15:8 NIV

"On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram." Genesis 15:18 NIV

God said, Abraham, I'm going to pour out my supernatural favor on your life. I'm going to bless you. I love you unconditionally. I'm going to make your name great and you're going to be just a huge difference maker. I'm going to keep, God said, my end of the deal. I'm in covenant with you.

5. God expects Relationships to be based on Covenant rather than on Contracts.

Contract	Covenant
About Loopholes	About Loyalty
Looking for a way out	Looking for a way through
About feelings	About faith
Selfish	Selfless

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6. Covenants are built in the power of PROMISE (our word and our heart); contracts are built in negotiations.

“When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger (or the pastor), ‘My vow was a mistake.’ Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?”
Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 NIV

7 How do I make marriage a covenant in my life?

Unmarried	Married
Live Transparently	Live Authentically and Transparently
Delay Physicality	Commit to know each other
Keep your word	Love with your heart; decide with your brain
Don't say "I Love You" vainly	Say "I Love You"
Wait to get married	Seek Counseling before in trouble
Date in social groups	Date
Be a good friend	Be a good friend
	Commit to never use the "D" Word

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