

The Marriage Covenant Seminar

I. Overview

- a. Cornerstones of this seminar
 - i. I am not here to tell you that the Bible does not say what it says, not to free you from the commands of Holy Scripture. I am here to tell you what the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God commands in terms of your marriage and to bring you under the authority of the commands of Holy Scripture
 - ii. Both husbands and wives bring into their marriages legitimate needs as created by God.
 - iii. A need is not rooted in or based on sin or lack of faith.
 - iv. Two reoccurring questions will continually be asked:
 1. If you do not meet this need, then who do you want to meet it?
 2. Same alternatives when it comes to your needs
- b. The covenant defined
 - i. The covenant of marriage, as both conceived and defined by God, is made with God on the basis of legitimate needs of both the husband and wife to which both the husband and wife are held equally accountable.
 - ii. Six components of the covenant
 1. Legitimate needs do not indicate imperfection or fault; God created Adam both perfect and good yet with needs only Eve could meet and visa versa.
 2. Covenant needs are not “grown out of” but instead increase with spiritual growth.
 3. Defraud
 4. Cruel expectations
 5. You cannot understand; rather, you must accept
 6. If not you, then who?

II. The Covenant of Marriage

- a. The Covenant
 - i. Made with God
 1. By the Husband (Malachi 2:14)
 2. By the Wife (Proverbs 2:17)
 - ii. Meeting covenant needs is not to be a legal burden or duty
 1. Out of love
 2. Out of a desire to be the one to meet these needs in your spouse
 3. Out of desire to be the “missing piece” of the puzzle and serve your spouse by becoming one through the meeting of these needs
 - iii. Made with your spouse (Matthew 19:4-6)
 - iv. Made with the State (Romans 13:1)
 - v. Made before the Church (Hebrews 13:4)
 - vi. Is by nature binding
 1. The question of divorce (Malachi 2:16; Mark 10:9)
 2. The question of remarriage (Mark 10:11; Matthew 5:31-32)
 - vii. Did I marry the wrong person? (Proverbs 3:5-6, 5:21, 16:33, 19:14)
 1. The “form” or “type” of wedding or marriage has no bearing on this issue

2. Whether you were married in the church, by a rabbi, by an Islamic Mullah, by a Hindu Priest, by a cultural ceremony, by the state or legal system, or by common law declaration, if you are married, then you are married.
 3. The Word of God gives no guidelines for what constitutes a marriage ceremony. Thus, the desire for some to rid themselves of an undesirable spouse by declaring that the marriage is void because it did not follow some prescribed church ordinance or ceremony is completely false. Even the commonly held conventional wisdom that if a marriage is not consummated then it is not valid is false. Once married, you are joined by God, not the church, not sexual intimacy – but by God. The church may bless, but you are joined by God regardless (1 Corinthians 7:12-13, 27, 39)
- viii. What if my spouse does not fulfill his or her part of the covenant?
1. Husband yes, wife no (Ephesians 5:25)
 2. Wife yes, husband no (Ephesians 5:22)
 3. Covenants are binding even when they are “man’s” (Galatians 3:15)
 4. God holds us to our covenants (Psalm 15:4)
 5. Therefore, what is to be my response?
 - a. Wives (Colossians 3:18)
 - b. Husbands (Colossians 3:19)
- b. In the Covenant of Marriage, if you do not meet your spouse’s legitimate needs, then who do you want to do this?
- i. Legitimate needs do not indicate imperfection or fault
 1. God created Adam both perfect and good
 2. Yet Adam had some needs only Eve could meet
 - ii. Issue of trapping your spouse with his or her devotion to God
 - iii. Issue of teaching your spouse to meet legitimate needs outside the primary will of God
 - iv. Again, meeting covenant needs is not to be a legal burden or duty but rather an act of service based on love and a desire to fulfill the role God intended when you spoke vows with your spouse.
- c. The “fine print” of the Marriage Covenant
- i. Whether viewed as the fine print of the Marriage Covenant or the bold print of the Bible – either way it is still your responsibility.
 - ii. Remember, the covenant of marriage, as both conceived and defined by God, is made with God on the basis of legitimate needs of both the husband and wife to which both the husband and wife are held equally responsible.

III. The “Fine Print” of the Marriage Covenant

- a. The Husband
 - i. Overview
 - 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)
- 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