

May 14, 2017

MARRIAGE: A CONTRACT OR COVENANT?

Genesis 2:18-25; 3:1-7; Malachi 2:10-16

Design. Gen. 2:18-25

- Man's **need** of loneliness and companionship. Gen. 2:18-25; 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:7; Gal. 3:28; Ps. 139:1-11; Matt. 19:3-6
- Man and woman **united** together. Gen. 2:24-25; Matt. 19:1-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-7; Eph. 5:20-33
- Man and woman to place Christ in the **center** of their lives. Gen. 2:25; 3:1-7; Matt. 6:33; Col. 1:18; Ex. 20:1-7; 2 Chr. 7:14-22; Josh. 24:14-15; Deut. 6:4-6; Mark 12:28-31; Eph. 5:20-33; John 15:1-10

Destruction. Gen. 3:1-7; Mal. 2:10-16

- Walked away from the marriage covenant and **vows**. Gen. 3:1-7; Mal. 2:10-16; Matt. 19:1-12; Eccl. 5:4-5; Eph. 5:20-33; 1 Pet. 3:1-7; Ex. 34:11-16; Deut. 7:3-4; Gen. 2:14-17
- Society's **distortion** of marriage. Gen. 18:1-33; 1 Sam. 1:6-7; Deut. 17:17; 1 Kin. 11:1-10; Gen. 3:1-7; 38:6-10; Deut. 22:28-29; 21:11-14; Ex. 21:4
- Satan's **attack** on marriages. Gen. 3:1-24; 1 Pet. 5:8; Matt. 19:1-12; Is. 14:12-15; Eph. 6:10-20; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11

Restoration of our design. Josh. 24:14-15; Ps. 127:1-2

- **Repent** of our sin.
- Realize that our marriage is a covenant before **God** and your spouse.
- Recommit yourself and family to the marriage **covenant**.
- Recommit yourself to growing in Christ with Christ at the **center** of your family.
- **Pray** for your family, our community and nation.

I'M STANDING FOR MY MARRIAGE

I am standing for the healing of my marriage!

I won't give up, give in, give out, or give over till that healing takes place.

I made a vow; I said the words; I gave the pledge; I gave a ring; I took a ring; I gave myself; I trusted God; and said the words and meant the words...in sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in good times and in bad; so I'm standing now, and won't sit down, let down, slow down, calm down, fall down, look down, or be down till the breakdown is torn down!

I refuse to put my eyes on outward circumstances; or listen to prophets of doom, or buy into what's trendy, worldly, popular, convenient, easy, quick, thrifty, or advantageous.

Nor will I settle for a cheap imitation of God's real thing.

Nor will I seek to lower God's standard, twist God's will, rewrite God's Word, violate God's covenant, or accept what God hates, namely divorce.

In a world of filth, I will stay pure.

Surrounded by lies, I will speak the truth.

Where hopelessness abounds, I will hope in God.

Where revenge is easier, I will bless instead of curse, and when the odds are stacked against me, I'll trust in God's faithfulness.

I'm a stander, and I won't acquiesce, compromise, quarrel, or quit.

I have made the choice, set my face, entered the race, believed the Word, and trusted God for all the outcome.

I will allow neither the reaction of my spouse, nor the urging of my friends, nor the advice of my loved ones, nor the economic hardship, nor the prompting of the devil to make me let up, slow up, blow up, or give up till my marriage is healed up. AMEN!

A. Todd Coget