

## Vision of Love

Matthew 19:5-6 - 5 *'Therefore a man shall **leave** his father and his mother and **hold fast to his wife**, and the **two shall become one flesh**'?* 6 *So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.***

**The enemy's plan is to divide and conquer. God's plan is to unite and conquer.**

God's vision and plan for your marriage was that once you're joined...that nothing separates. The only way that happens is if your marriage is a covenant marriage.

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COVENANT AND CONTRACT

- People treat marriage like just a piece of paper...or a contract.
- **Contract:** *a written agreement between two or more persons or parties - a business agreement for the exchange of goods or services.*
- **A contract is based on mutual distrust**
- **Covenant:** *cutting, a **binding agreement**, a blood covenant. - an agreement that cannot be broken*
- **A covenant is based on mutual commitment.**
- Old testament covenant - shedding of blood by animal sacrifice. New Covenant - shedding of blood by Jesus dying on the cross
- **Covenant doesn't say I'm in as long as you're in, it says I'm in forever.** - This is why we say "until death do us part."
- If we live by our feelings...we will fail. When we live by design or a plan...we will succeed.
- **Marriage isn't measured by feelings, it's measured by commitment.**
- **Covenant moves you from ME to WE.**
- Marriage is 2 funerals and a birth. Two people dying to themselves and becoming one.
- **You're making a promise for the future, not for the present.**

If you don't have a plan for your marriage...the enemy does.

**Proverbs 29:18** - *Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

**Without vision for your marriage you cannot succeed in the present.**

**Habakkuk 2:2** - *Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.*

### 4 ELEMENTS TO HEALTHY VISION FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

#### 1. UNITY

- **Amos 3:3** - *Can two walk together unless they are in agreement?*
- **The foundation of a healthy marriage is unity. - It's the base to build everything on**

- **The problem is many marriages are 2 people headed in 2 directions and there's the tension of feeling held together...gets frustrating** - *You'll view the other person as keeping you from what you really want*
- **Matthew 12:25** - *"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."*

## 2. CLARITY

- **Why did God put you together?**
- If you don't have clarity you will have confusion. Confusion is the opposite of clarity.
- **If you're single...and want to be married one day.** Remember what we talked about in week 1...that God has to be your #1 priority and your #1 pursuit.
- What purpose has God put you together for? It's not just to have a good life...not just to be happy...it's to make a kingdom impact...to make a difference.
- **Examples**
  - *You have a passion for healthy marriages - maybe you mentor couples. Or you use past mistakes and hurts in marriage to help others.*
  - *You have a passion to help kids but either you can't have kids or your kids are already grown...maybe you're supposed to foster or adopt together.*
  - *You were saved in college and you want to help college students together*
  - *Passion for business: God wants to use you to teach others how to have a godly marriage and business together.*
- **Provision means "for the vision"** - when you have a vision God will provide when there's a vision. When you have clarity and God's vision...he will provide for it.

## 3. PURITY

- **Where there is no vision people cast-off restraint.**
- When you don't have a vision for your marriage, your eyes will wander - **"Shopper mentality"** - Jimmy Evans.
- **Men wander with their eyes, women wander with their emotions.** - *Look but don't touch worldly mentality. Shopper mentality brings destruction to marriages.*
- **Matthew 5:27-28** - 27 *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'*  
28 *But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- **Genesis 2:25** - *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*
- Shame comes when we are hiding things. God cannot bless a marriage with hidden sin.
- We were meant to **confide** in our spouse **not hide** from our spouse.
- **Proverbs 28:13 NLT** - *People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.*

- **Practical ways** - *Don't go somewhere alone with someone of the opposite sex, don't DM or private message (social media listed on many divorces), avoid travel alone if possible, give your spouse access to your phone/social media/email/texts, everything at all times.*
- **Purity in your marriage determines the future of your marriage.**
- **Ephesians 5:3 NIV** - *But among you **there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality**, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

#### 4. VICTORY

- **Where there is VISION there will be VICTORY**
- In fact the purpose of your marriage is to be victorious. Even from the beginning.
- **Genesis 1:27-28** - *27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*
- **You have a 100% chance of success in your marriage if you will get God's vision for your marriage!**
- **Proverbs 29:18 MSG** - *If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; **But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.***

**Your love story is being written to give God glory.**