

Always & Forever

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.***

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COVENANT AND 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:** *a binding agreement, a blood covenant. - agreement that cannot be broken*
- **A covenant is based on mutual commitment.**
- Covenant doesn't say I'm in as long as you're in - it says I'm in forever.

Strong marriages aren't measured by feelings, they're measured by commitment.

Anything worth having in life is worth working for. A great marriage requires work.

Song of Solomon - 4:16-5:1 - 16...*Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits. 1 I came to my garden, my sister, my bride...*

NEEDS VS WANTS

Supply what your spouse needs in spite of what you need, want or understand.

Ephesians 5:22-24 - MSG - *Wives, **understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ.** The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. **So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.***

MEN NEED

HONOR & RESPECT

- **Pursue him with words of AFFIRMATION.**
 - Speak who you see them to be, not who they are right now. Who you see them becoming.
 - **If you're always pointing out their failures they will remain a failure.**
 - Men want to know...**do you believe in me?**

SEX

- Read 1 Corinthians 7 for principles of marriage
- When you reject him in this area...he takes it as you rejecting him.
- Schedule Romance.

FRIENDSHIP WITH HIS WIFE

- **Pursue him with SHOULDER TIME**
 - Fishing, golf, watching sports, watching a movie. - Do what he does with friends.

DOMESTIC SUPPORT

- Support within the home. This is a joint effort but creates a place where he wants to be.
- “A man’s home is his castle” saying - It’s where he goes to find refuge and sanctuary

Ephesians 5:25-28 - MSG - Husbands, *go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ’s love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They’re really doing themselves a favor—since they’re already “one” in marriage.*

WOMEN NEED

SECURITY

- This is more than just financial. Security of Priority and Emotional Security.

NONSEXUAL AFFECTION

- Pursue her with **WORDS of AFFECTION**
 - Not **acts** of affection, **words** of affection.
 - Women want to know - **Do you love me?**

OPEN COMMUNICATION

- Pursue her with **FACE TIME**

LEADERSHIP

When we don’t make the investment into fulfilling the needs of our spouse...our love will “grow cold”

When things become routine. When you abandon the work you once did to tend to the garden of love...the garden dries up. The fruit stops. Then you become disinterested.

The soil still has potential...but you have to do the work.

Revelation 2:4-5 - 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned *the love you had at first.* 5 **Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and **do the works** you did at first.**

Remember - Repent - Do the works.