

THE COVENANT NATURE OF BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

PART 2

Sunday, November 16, 2025 -- Marriage 2025 series -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

I. FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS ABOUT MARRIAGE FROM GENESIS 1–2

A. Marriage is pre-Fall, pre-sin, and therefore part of the “_____” creation.

GENESIS 1:31 *And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.*

B. Three Covenantal Actions in Genesis 2:24 (all echoed in Eph 5:31):

GENESIS 2:24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother
and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

- LEAVE – radical priority and new allegiance
- CLEAVE – Hebrew דָּבַק (dabaq) = covenant loyalty
(used of Israel’s adherence to Yahweh, Deut 10:20; 11:22)
- ONE FLESH – not just sexual union but real/practical covenant oneness

C. Adam’s first words upon seeing Eve are Covenantal Poetry:

GENESIS 2:23

*Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”*

This is the first human speech in Scripture. It is a confession of covenant union.

II. MARRIAGE AS COVENANT, NOT MERE _____.

A. Biblical marriage language is always covenantal, never contractual.

Proverbs 2:17 *The adulteress forsakes the companion of her youth
and forgets the covenant of her God.”*

Malachi 2:14 *“the wife of your youth...your companion and your wife by covenant.”*

Malachi 2:14–15 *“Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he
not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?”*

B. Four Covenant signs in Old Testament marriages:

- Bride price (*mohar*) – redemption language (Ex 22:16-17; Deut 22:28-29)
- Written document (*ketubah* still used today)
- Cup of wine – blood oath (cf. Ruth 3 with Boaz)
- Public declaration and witnesses

III. THE COVENANT PATTERN: GOD'S MARRIAGES

A. Yahweh repeatedly describes Himself as Israel's husband:

Isaiah 54:5 *"For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name."*

Jeremiah 3:14 *"Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your husband (בְּעֵלְתִּי בָכֶם)."*

Hosea 2:19–20 – the great remarriage promise

"And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD."

B. Adultery = covenant breaking = idolatry

Jeremiah 3:8–9; (Ezekiel 16:30–34; 23:37)

8 She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. 9 Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree.

C. Divorce certificate = covenant termination

(Deuteronomy 24:1–4; Jeremiah 3:8)

Matthew 19:8 Jesus speaking...

He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."

D. _____ covenant = _____ marriage

Jeremiah 31:31–34

*31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

Ezekiel 36:26–27

*26 And I will give you **a new heart**, and **a new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

The New Covenant is the unbreakable, _____ remarriage of God to His redeemed people—where former adulteries are fully forgiven, hearts of stone are replaced with hearts of flesh, and the Bride is made perfectly one with her Husband forever.

Jeremiah 31:31–34; Ezekiel 36:26–27; Hosea 2:19–20

IV. CHRIST AS THE ULTIMATE _____ :

A. John the Baptist's testimony:

John 3:29 *"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice."*

B. Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana

John 2:1–11 – new wine of the new covenant.

C. Parables of the wedding feast:

Matthew 22:2–14; 25:1–13

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son..."

D. Paul's explicit revelation:

Ephesians 5:31–32

*"Therefore a **man** shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his **wife**, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to **Christ and the church**.*

E. Christ's covenant-sealing blood:

Luke 22:20 *"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*

Hebrews 13:20 *"Now may the God of peace...equip you with everything good... through the blood of the eternal covenant."*

V. THE CHURCH AS COVENANT _____ :

A. Present reality: betrothed virgin

2 Corinthians 11:2 *"For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."*

B. Future consummation:

Revelation 19:6–9 *"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready... Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."*

Revelation 21:2, 9–10 *"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband... 'Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.'"*

(the Marriage Supper of the Lamb)

At the consummation of the ages, the Church—perfectly purified, radiant in resurrection glory, and forever one with the Lamb—descends as the New Jerusalem to dwell with God in the eternal, unbreakable marriage where every tear is wiped away and God's words "*Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man*" in effect becomes the everlasting "_____".

(see REVELATION 19:6–9; 21:2–4, 9–11)

PART 2 BEGINS -- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

VI. COVENANTAL _____ FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Every earthly marriage between a husband and a wife is a temporary illustration of God's permanent relationship between Himself and His people.

So, what does this practically mean for our marriages?

What are the covenantal implications for our marriages in this present day?

- A. It means that the ultimate goal of our marriage is to display Christ's _____ - _____ love.

God gave us marriage to display His covenant-keeping love to _____.

God gave us marriage to display His covenant-keeping love to _____.

God gave us marriage to display His covenant-keeping love to the _____.

- B. It means our marriages are intended to be _____.

ROMANS 7:1-3

Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? 2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

MATTHEW 19:5-8 (Jesus speaking)

5 and said, '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.' 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

- C. It means a husband is to _____ **himself** for the welfare of his wife—**continually**.
Jesus did this all the way to _____ – to save and cleanse the church from sin.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Also see: **1 Peter 3:7**; Colossians 3:19; 1 Corinthians 7:3-4; 11:3;

- D. It means a wife is to _____ to her husband's leadership so long as she is not abused or forced to dishonor the Lord.
As Jesus leads and the church is to follow Him, so God's design is that a husband is to lead and his wife is to follow Him.

EPHESIANS 5:22-24

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Also see: **1 PETER 3:1-2**, 5-6; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9

- E. It means that just as Baptism and the Lord's Supper are continual reminders of the church being married to Christ, so covenant marriage between a husband and wife requires constant _____ and _____.

- Baptism -- _____ someone personally coming into covenant with Christ.

ROMANS 6:3-4

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

This is similar to a _____ for a married couple.

- Lord's Supper-- _____ us of our covenant relationship with Jesus.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes..

This is similar to a renewal, a remembrance of your marriage covenant.

It could be a daily _____, a regular _____, a planned TOC, a vow renewal.

- As husband and wife are sinners, they also need to be ' _____ ' and forgivers.
- As Christians are expected to grow and mature in their relationship with Christ, so they must grow and mature in their _____ and _____ to one another.

- F. A 'one flesh' union, by design, is exclusively covenantal, not _____ or ' _____ '.

EXODUS 20:14

You shall not commit adultery.

HEBREWS 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

God's covenant with Israel did not tolerate them _____.

A marriage covenant does not tolerate other lovers _____ or _____.

G. A covenantal marriage displays the gospel of _____,
_____ and _____ to the world that so desperately needs to see it.

EPHESIANS 5:31-33

31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

MARK 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

SO HOW DOES THIS HELP US?

WHAT CAN WE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD?

TO THE NON-CHRISTIAN:

- 1) See that **God's Word** is intricate, cohesive and sensical. It deals very honestly with the greatest issues in life. If you ask Him to, God will speak to you through His Word.
- 2) See that Christ calls you into a covenant relationship with Him through seeing His total self-sacrifice for you on the Cross. He died so you can live... forever.
Come to Him in repentance and faith. Ask Him to cleanse and save you.

TO THE CHRISTIAN:

- 1) See that the really BIG marriage is not between a man and a woman but between God and His people. That is where all this is headed. God gave us earthly marriage because... We are _____' to a _____! Read Revelation chapter 19.
- 2) See that God calls us to a covenant-keeping love relationship with Him that changes our identity. We are no longer merely ourselves... but we are now _____. (see Eph 1).
- 3) Embrace God's _____ for marriage and reject the world's _____ of marriage.
(Stay tuned! 1 Peter 3—and many other passages -- help us with this.)