

# THE COVENANT NATURE OF BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

Sunday, November 2, 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 “very good” 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 CONTRACT.

### 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 TO ISRAEL

#### 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. New covenant = new 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, eternal 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 BRIDEGROOM:

### 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 BRIDE:

### 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.'"*

**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 "*Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man*" becomes the everlasting "I do".**

**(Revelation 19:6–9; 21:2–4, 9–11).**