



**Christian Life Fellowship**  
*Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ*



## **Essentials of Marriage**

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*Rev. David Koch*

### **Introduction:**

Today and next Sunday I would like to focus with you on the essentials of a great marriage. This morning we'll explore one of those essentials – commitment.

In aviation, when a pilot is going down the runway, there comes a moment when he must make a commitment to fly. The moment arrives when the wheels must leave the runway and the plane become airborne. The pilot has made the commitment to fly and there is no turning back.

Even though commitment is not a huge buzz word today, it still is the glue that holds relationships together. You will find the principles of commitment in any relationship. There is a commitment that exists between friends, relatives, a husband and wife, a parent and child, a teacher and student, an employer and employee and between Christ and His followers.

Commitment is an essential element for a great marriage. If a husband and wife are not committed to the marriage, there will be little else that can hold it together. Without a commitment any relationship will flounder, but with a commitment a relationship can endure economic distress, great sorrow, changes in location, in jobs, mistakes and failures and even joys and prosperity. This morning we are going to talk about some of the elements that strengthen the commitment to one another. For those of you who are single, let me encourage you that God can help you in your singleness. He will be there for you in the same way a spouse is there for you.

Marriage is not a union where husbands and wives should hurt and reject each other. Marriage according to scripture is a commitment to love, to protect, to honor, to serve and to fulfill. In a great marriage it is essential that both husband and wife are committed to the success of that home and the Biblical concepts that make a marriage strong. In my years of ministry, I have counseled people who want their marriage to work but one of the partners is not interested. Friends, marriage cannot be one-sided! If it is going to work, both people have to make the commitment to work at it all the time.

God's word makes it very clear that marriage is a covenant made between one man, one woman and God. If you look back to Genesis, you will see that God was the one who created Adam and he saw that it was not good for man to be alone. So He made Eve to be a helper; one who would complete Adam. Remember, God took a rib

from Adam and made Eve. Woman was created to complete the man. The Bible is pretty clear about intimate relationships between two men or two women. God never created man or woman as homosexuals. Are there people in our world that fit the definition of being homosexual? Yes, there are but God did not make them that way. Are they human beings that God loves? Yes, they are. Can God change them? Yes, He can. Do they have the right to choose and go against God's word and sin? Yes, they do. Sin is a choice. Whenever you are tempted to do something that God's word clearly says is wrong and you give into that temptation, you have chosen to sin. RESIST the tempter and he will flee from you.

As a minister, I am responsible to sound an alarm and speak out for the truth of God's word. I want to take a moment and address our President and leaders this morning: Do not legitimize and legalize what God says is evil and wrong. When it comes to marriage between one man and one woman, or civil rights of the unborn and the issues that surround abortion, we cannot legislate evil. Just because we make something legal does not mean it is right. Our nation is at risk by leading people away from God when we call good evil and evil good. **Isaiah 5:20-24 - Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.**

Consider with me the word of the Lord concerning marriage from **Ephes. 5:31 - For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.**

### **I. Commitment includes leaving.**

An important part of the commitment that is essential to a strong and lasting marriage is to leave the parents. The word here "leave" indicates a forsaking, to abandon oneself for another. Men, when you take that lady that God gives you to be your wife, according to scripture it's time to leave father and mother. You will no longer look at your parents the way you did before marriage. Likewise, they will look at you in a different way as well.

You assume the responsibility for your wife and the home that you establish. The older I get the more deeply I realize that our decisions have consequences, not only for ourselves but for others also. No decision you make will only impact you; it impacts many other people as well. The decision and commitment to marry requires a change in the position of authority and responsibility between the parent and son and the parent and daughter. No longer is the parent responsible to care for that son or daughter. It now becomes their responsibility for them to care for themselves.

Over my years of ministry, I have observed situations where the commitment to leave father and

mother was unclear and it brought great distress and eventually interfered with the fabric of that home. There are marriages that end in shambles because the child didn't abandon the parental – child relationship, thereby beginning the commitment to each other in a weakened state. The journey of a marriage through life is one that has great joys but many challenges. If a commitment is not made from the start of the marriage and revisited throughout the marriage, that relationship will be weak and puts the entire family unit in jeopardy.

### **II. Commitment includes cleaving – joining – becoming one.**

Have any of you ever seen commercials for superglue? The word used here in regard to being joined to his wife conveys the same meaning as "to be stuck together like glue". The relationship that Christ has with His church is modeled for us so we can pattern our relationship with our spouse on the same plane as Christ and His church. When Paul writes this letter to the Ephesian believers, we read that the union between a man and wife is a great mystery but Paul goes on to say, I am talking about Christ and the church. **Ephes. 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the**

**church.** The mystery that Paul refers to here is the mystery of two becoming one. Whenever you combine two into one, there are changes, there are reactions and usually the result is something different than what you started with.

If you take two compounds in chemistry and mix them together, you come out with a different compound with a different molecular structure. The chemical changes that take place cause a reaction giving you a very different compound at the end. So it is with marriage. You start with a man and a woman who are very different. The uniting of their lives as one brings changes to both of them. If they are both committed to the institution of marriage and committed to the changes marriage will bring them, both will benefit and they will be better suited to weather whatever struggles might come to them throughout their years of marriage.

When Jesus left His Heavenly father, His plan was to be one with us and He made the commitment to cling to the church and become one with her. Jesus wanted to bring His presence, personality and provision into the relationship that He has with the church. The prayer that Jesus prayed in [John 17](#) is very telling as to how He looked at being one with the Father and how He wanted to be one with the church.

**[John 17:15-21](#) - I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They are not part of this world any more than I am. Make them pure and holy by**

### **Conclusion:**

My challenge to you this morning is this: Over the next seven days, put the Bible verse above into practice in your marriage. Let it be part of a renewed commitment to God and to your spouse. Don't do something to serve your own ambitions or feed your conceitedness but whatever you do, do it humbly in consideration of your spouse. I believe if you truly do this, it will fortify your relationship in marriage. This can be applied to any relationship. Try it – see what happens. What if we all did this? Our homes would be stronger.

**teaching them your words of truth. As you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself entirely to you so they also might be entirely yours. I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony. My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.**

The determined attitude of commitment will stabilize you through the grind of every day as well as the distressing times when we may find ourselves in grief, the loss of a job, the evaporation of retirement funds, the devaluation of a home, the death of a child, parent or spouse. The feeling of love will come and go and will never hold the relationship together very long. A weak marital commitment will inevitably end in divorce. Two people are not compatible simply because they love each other and are both professing Christians. Abraham Lincoln said it well, “A house divided against itself can not stand.”

### **III. Commitment means to put someone else before ourselves.**

If we could apply the advice Paul gave us in [Philippians 2:3](#) to every relationship we encountered on our journey of life, it would virtually eliminate every divorce. [Phil 2:3](#) - **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.**