

Notes

Divorce Proof Your Marriage (Part 1)

I believe marriage is so vital to your spiritual walk – the miracle you are believing for is because your marriage and or home is well.

God wants to work through and heal your marriage.

This is my premise

- America has given up on marriage.
- Couples have given up on a term called: agreement

Jesus hasn't given up on marriage – the very reason He came was to marry you.

- The institution of marriage pre-dated the Church and will post-date the Church.
 1. The first attack of the enemy was the relationship between men and women.
 2. From the very beginning, God has designed Church to be an overflow of your marriage.
 - The very reason God has blessed us in our church is because we have many healthy marriages.
 - Valley Community Church is the overflow of what is happening in your homes behind closed doors.
 - Healthy churches don't flow back into the home, healthy homes flow back into the church.

3. For Valley Community to be a model or a world changer, it must start in our homes.

61% of women between 18-49 years consider having a child on their own → saying it's no longer necessary for a marriage and marriage is not the atmosphere a child should be raised in.

67% of first-time marriages will end by the fourth year.

- Satan, from the beginning, is a strategist.
- Satan is working on a plan to destroy your marriage.

Today: we will raise up a standard and expose lies that many of us are believing.

The first lie most of us are believing is:

A. When will it all end

- Today: God is here to heal your marriage.
 - It's never too late!
- Even if your marriage in your eyes is perfect:

God wants you to know He wants to take your marriage to a greater place!

- A new understanding
- A new commitment
- A new passion for one another

4 keys that will divorce proof your marriage.

A. Keep the marriage covenant sacred.

Matthew 19:3-6

³The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?" ⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

- Jesus said: When this marriage covenant takes place

The difference between a covenant and a contract:

Most are in a contract-marriage:

What is a covenant marriage?

- A covenant-marriage is a pre-arranged set of conditions that are designed to create a healthy marriage.

Important:

4. A covenant-marriage, both spouses rescind all their rights and accept all the responsibility for their marriage. A contract-marriage, both spouses keep as many rights as possible and accept if very few responsibilities for the marriage.
- Many believers are contract-Christians.

Matthew 16:24

²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

5. Take up his cross – or shoulder the burden that Jesus died to all His rights

- Example: Do you know why I don't get offended at people?

- Now, I might get upset with someone
- Let's get real – I might momentarily get upset or get my feelings hurt for a short time.

I am offended at no one – why, I gave up my rights when I was born again. Jesus took my offense.

6. I cannot keep or harbor bitterness against my wife or anyone else because Jesus took all of that on the cross.

The result of understanding covenant:

- I've given up my rights
- I've accepted responsibility to live my life before my children, to live my life before my wife.
- I accept my responsibility to live my life before you as a Pastor → why: I live in covenant relationships.

Do you see the difference?

- Are you a contract-Christian or a covenant-Christian?

7. You cannot become a covenant marriage spouse until you have become a covenant believer.

It's easy for my marriage to be healthy because I am in covenant with the Lord.

I, in turn say to my wife: I am in covenant relationship with you because I am in covenant relationship with the Lord.

Question: How important is your marriage?

Do you want a bumper sticker (show) marriage or go to great lengths to tattoo it on your heart?

- A bumper sticker can be removed with a little effort or buying another car.
- What must you decide is that nothing can remove your love for your spouse

Write it on your heart.