

# From This Day Forward

## Part 5: Never Give Up

Matthew 19:3-6

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

**Marriage is a covenant not a contract.**

Covenant – Hebrew word literally means to cut, a covenant was formed with blood

(Luke 22:20)

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

**Covenant is based on mutual commitment.**

**Contract is based on mutual distrust.**

**Covenant surrenders rights and assumes responsibility.**

**Contract protects rights and shirks responsibility.**

**Covenant has the interest of the other in mind.**

**Contract has personal convenience in mind.**

**From This Day Forward**

(Malachi 2:16)

So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth. "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

Three ways to "be on your guard" in a covenant relationship.

### **1. We will make the choice to love.**

(Colossians 3:14)

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

### **2. We will prioritize our relationship.**

(Matthew 6:33)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

(Galatians 6:7-9)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows... Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

### **3. We will trust God.**

(Psalm 127:1)

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.