



Message Series Guide

Revive

Part 2 – Covenant Marriage

Malachi 2:13-16

“For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish...” We’ve all heard these words repeated in many wedding ceremonies. If you are married, you have likely repeated them yourself! What does it mean to be in a covenant marriage, and how does it enrich our lives and reflect God’s plan? Throughout history, there have been different cultural definitions of what constitutes a marriage. However, at the heart of biblical marriage is a covenant before God to cherish one another and continue to grow as one. At the heart of a covenant marriage is a desire to not just ‘get through’ life together but to thrive together. It means to love, encourage, and cherish one another while constantly seeking Christ in our relationship.

READ:

Malachi 2:13-16 • Exodus 19:5 • 1 Peter 3:7 • 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 • Ephesians 2:4-5

- Describe the differences between a contract and a covenant. Do you think most people see their marriage as a contract relationship or a covenant relationship? Explain.
- According to Malachi 2:13-16, what was the issue God had with His people marrying pagans? What was the consequence of doing this? Does this apply to believers today? Why or why not?
- Why is spiritual unity (being equally yoked) so important in a marriage? What are some of the possible consequences or struggles of a believer marrying an unbeliever?
- Explain how *covenant* defined God’s relationship with the Israelites? Explain how *covenant* defines God’s plan for the redemption of mankind? How does a covenant marriage reflect Jesus and the Church?
- In Matthew 19:8-9, Jesus gives a very narrow window for divorce. Why should divorce always be the last resort? Are there ever situations where two Christians are simply too incompatible to stay together in marriage? Why or why not?
- How does confrontation and forgiveness fit with covenant marriage? How can Christ’s sacrifice on the cross be reflected in covenant marriage?

DISCUSS:

- Why do you think fewer and fewer people are getting married today?
- What are some ways you have learned or experienced grace and forgiveness in marriage?
- In Malachi 2:15-16 the phrase “be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful” appears twice. In what ways can we guard against possible unfaithfulness in our marriages and in our relationship with God?
- How can we uphold God’s standard of lifelong covenant marriage and yet minister sensitively to those who have experienced divorce? How far can we push Christian marriage standards (i.e., divorce laws) in a pagan culture?
- In what ways can we recommit to our marriage covenant?

PRAY:

Pray for strength in your singleness or unity in your marriage as you commit to Jesus through His covenant of grace.

RESPOND:

REVIVE: Night of Marriage – Friday, May 14th 6pm.

Registration – theridge.cc/events



Sermon Notes

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Many couples take a contract mentality into their marriages. Contracts serve as legally binding agreements which spell out the terms of that agreement. A contract may include terms like, length of time of contract, expectations, method of payment and penalties for breach of contract. We limit the marriage relationship when we view it only as a contract. For a believer in Christ, a more biblical view of marriage is not as a contract, but as a covenant.

Contracts

1. Contracts are good for only a limited period of time.
2. Contracts spell out specific expectations.
3. Contracts use "If..., then...", language.
4. The purpose of a contract is to receive something.

Covenants

Marriage is the highest of covenants that we enter into with others in this life.

1. Covenants focus less on self, and more on others.

“Marriage should be two people attempting to out-submit and out-serve one another.” - Brian McLaughlin

2. Covenants include unconditional promises.
3. Covenants are anchored in steadfast love.
4. Covenants require confrontation and forgiveness.

Covenant marriage binds two people together through conflict, so they have nowhere to go except to Christ for help and back to one another for reconciliation.