

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE - PT. 4

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT



BIBLICAL COVENANTS

TYPES OF COVENANTS

- Covenant: compact, league, alliance, pledge, agreement/binding contract between two parties
- Parity Covenant – two equal parties vow to fulfill the covenant agreed upon – 1 Sam. 18:1-3; 20:8
- Suzerainty Covenant – covenant imposed by the superior on the inferior – Deut. 4:13; Psa. 111:9

CHARACTERISTICS OF BINDING COVENANTS

- **Terms**: specific obligations/requirements of a covenant – Ex. 19:3-8
- **Agreement**: vows, promises made by parties of the covenant to fulfill its terms – Gen. 22:15-18; Heb. 6:13-18; Ex. 24:7
- **Formal Ratification**: the official verifying of the covenant between the parties – Gen. 15:9ff.; 17:11

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT

- Between a man and woman – Mal. 2:13-16
- Made with God – Prov. 2:16-17
- Allowed to be regulated by civil government – Rom. 13:1-2; Acts 5:29

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

- Combination of a suzerainty and parity covenant.
- **Terms** – established by God at the beginning – Matt. 19:4-6, 9
 - Male and female humans
 - Leave father and mother and be joined together
 - Become one flesh
 - Commitment for life
- **Vows** – oaths taken to be faithful to terms of the marriage covenant established by God

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

- **Ratification** of the covenant: (two views)
- Ratified by sexual relationship
 - Definitely involved in becoming “one flesh” – 1 Cor. 6:16
 - Jesus seems to imply that the “one flesh” relationship is part of God joining them together – Matt. 19:5-6
- Ratified upon completion of ceremony and legalities
 - Definitely involved – Rom. 13:1-2
 - Is marriage not marriage without sexual aspect?
 - Yet, such a marriage would be the exception, not the rule – 1 Cor. 7:3-4

BINDING NATURE OF THE
MARRIAGE COVENANT

COVENANTS AND THEIR LASTING CONSEQUENCES

- Business contracts can be broken because of failure of one party to do their part.
 - Violation and ending of a contract may free one party while restricting and penalizing the guilty party.
 - The guilty party may be held by law to the restrictions/penalties of the contract.
- God holds both mates to the terms of the marriage contract – Rom. 7:2-3; Matt. 19:9
 - This is why divorce for wrong reasons and remarriage causes sin of an unlawful marriage with adulterous consequences.
 - This is why innocent party may remarry, while guilty party may not.

CONCLUSION

- Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and God.
- This covenant is entered into by meeting legal requirements, stating of vows before God, leaving father and mother and being joined to one another, and becoming one flesh.
- When God binds these two together, they are not to seek a relationship with another unless their mate dies or is put away for sexual immorality.