



Genesis 2:24-25 | SCRIPTURE

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More Than a Piece of Paper | SERMON

### 1. Cohabitation stage - *I don't love you enough to be loyal to you.*

In the 1970s, 0.2% couples cohabited. Today, it's 15% in the 18-34 age bracket. Putting this into context, nearly 2/3 of women today (64%) have cohabitated at some point, with some evidence suggesting the total is as high as 70%. (Psychology Today)

78% of those ages 18 to 29 say it's acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together, even if they don't plan to get married. (Pew Research)

41% of Christians find the idea of living together a good idea. In 2019, Pew Research found that 58% of white evangelicals approve of cohabitation if the couple plans to marry.

### From the beginning being naked was reserved for a man and his wife.

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:24-25*

### Cohabitation is a sin of fornication.

Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 1 Corinthians 7:2

### Living together doesn't constitute marriage.

*The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." John 4:17-18*

### Marriage is a very pro-woman institution. Cohabitation is devalues women.

If you are cohabitating:

- A. Continue to shake up but Scripture and statistics are not in your favor.
- B. Find separate living quarters and stop having sex until you're married.
- C. Get married quickly and have a formal wedding later.

### 2. Contract stage - *I love you if you love me.*

*"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. Luke 6:32*

Contract type of marriage:

- Protecting my rights
- Limiting my responsibilities
- Safeguarding my interests

Covenant type of marriage:

- Laying down my rights
- Increasing my responsibilities
- Safeguarding the interests of your mate

# NOTES



*His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry." Matthew 19:10*

### **3. Covenant stage - I love you as Christ loved me.**

*Yet you say, "For what reason?" because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Malachi 2:14*

The marriage covenant is different from a marriage contract:

1. Contract involves promises; covenant involves oaths.
2. A contract involves part of your life; a covenant involves your whole life.
3. A contract has an expiration; a covenant is for life.
4. The contract is written in ink, and the covenant is written in blood.
5. Contracts are enforced by courts; covenants are enforced by character.
6. In the contract you sign your name; in the covenant, you bind your heart.

### **The marriage covenant demands the death of two wills to birth one.**

*Who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God. Proverbs 2:17*

### **Marriage is not just a covenant with your spouse, it's the covenant with God.**

*Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12*

### **Covenant marriage means we are glued to each other through a joint commitment to God first.**

*"Christian marriage is a triangle—it takes three for two to become one." Dr. Tim Clinton, Dr. John Trent*

### **In contractual marriage, my actions are reactions to yours; in covenantal marriage, my actions are in response to Christ.**

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, Ephesians 5:25*

*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

*Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 1 John 4:17*

*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18*