

The Covenant of Marriage

Genesis 2:24-25

Context: After the creation of the Woman, God's word gives us clear blueprints for the Covenant relationship of marriage.

Within the covenant of marriage...

A. _____ **firm in commitment ("Hold Fast")**

1. The term "hold fast" is used elsewhere in the Bible for practicing covenant faithfulness (See Deuteronomy 10:20).
2. The marriage covenant is when a man and a woman make a solemn oath before God to honor, esteem and care for their spouse until death.

B. _____ **your desire for intimacy ("One Flesh")**

1. There are two nuances to the "one flesh" union. One emphasizes the sexual union within marriage - note that this consummation of the relationship is to happen after the couple "holds fast" in a covenant commitment. The second emphasis implied is that the "one flesh" is also referring to a child or children born from the union.
2. Proverbs 5:18–19 (ESV) Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

C. _____ **your preparations to meet God ("Not Ashamed")**

1. "If Christians are to advance in marriage toward the unashamed intimacy experienced by Adam and Eve in their naked innocence, we must allow Christ to cover our sins by his grace." Richard Phillips.
2. Where there was no sin in the garden of Eden, and the couple were not ashamed, Christ died for our sin and our shame and makes us fully presentable to God the Father. We will not be ashamed or condemned now in the presence of the Father through the perfect work of Jesus Christ.