

THE MATURING OF MARRIAGE

In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.³⁰ And we are members of his body.³¹ As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Ephesians 5:28-33

- **There is a difference between a CONSUMER relationship and a COVENANT relationship.**

Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?” “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’”⁵ And he said, “‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’⁶ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

Matthew 19:3-6

- **Marriage is a COVENANT, not a CONTRACT.**
 - Covenant is based on MUTUAL COMMITMENT.
 - Contract is based on MUTUAL DISTRUST
 - Covenant has the INTEREST OF THE OTHER in mind.
 - Contract has PERSONAL CONVENIENCE in mind.

“It is not merely love that sustains the marriage, but rather it is your marriage that sustains your love.” -**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

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.

Malachi 2:16

- **Steps to Mature in Marriage**

- **We will MAKE THE CHOICE to love.**

Each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:33

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:13

- **We will PRIORITIZE our relationship.**

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:33

- **We will TRUST God.**

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.

Psalms 127:1