

The Commitment of Marriage
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Introduction: Commitment and courage are cornerstones of the Christian's life

- A. Our relationship with God changes how we think and act! **(Jn 17:3; 2 Pt 1:5)**
 - 1. We now become *centered* on the character of God and learning of His ways.
 - 2. Clearly knowing that *God is with you* gives great courage in all relationships.
- B. Virtue is a mindset that must be pursued! ***What Is Virtue?* (2 Pt 1:5)**
 - 1. It involves *recognition and commitment* to what is right. **(Phil 4:8)**
 - 2. It produces a character that is *filled with courage*. This courage 1st comes by contemplation. The examples of men of faith must fill our thoughts. (Heb 11)
 - 3. There is a resolve to do what is right. It is not "I will try", but rather "*I will do.*"
- C. When two Christians marry, they will keep God's path before them. **(Mal 2:14)**

I. Commitment in marriage must begin before marriage

- A. God has clearly revealed how marriage *must work*. **(Eph 5:23-26, 33)**
 - 1. This is how two Christians should view and act in their marriage relationship.
 - 2. When one has a living faith, they can put to death selfishness and seek to serve.
 - 3. This love is *an act of the will*. If a Christian says: "I don't love my wife anymore" then the right response to that one is "when are you going to repent?"
- B. Marriage should be taught and emphasized *from the youngest age!*
 - 1. One may choose not to marry, but all should be prepared to develop the kind of character to be a good mate. These principles will bless us in all relationships.
 - 2. Boys can easily be caught up in what I call *a "digital dungeon."* **(2 Pt 2:19)**
 - 3. Relationships *are complex and often disappointing*. Computer games are predictable, stimulating and emotionally rewarding. Porn is a major issue.
 - 4. We must lead them *to face and learn the difficult lessons of life*. **(Deut 4:9-10)**
 - 5. Instant gratification in an imaginary digital world *ill prepares our sons for the real world*. Ordinary conversation is impacted by the digital world.
 - 6. Your sons future will be determined by his ability to discern *in forming and keeping the right kind of relationships*. **(Prov 13:20-21)**

II. Commitment to God's Marriage Law must begin before marriage

- A. We need to know and teach *exactly what God wants!* **(Heb 13:4, Mt 19:9)**
 - 1. What has happened? Those who marry and stay married *are becoming a minority*.
 - 2. Standing on God's marriage laws can save marriages!
- B. Who is eligible to marry?
 - 1. One who *has never married*. **(1 Cor 7:2)**
 - 2. One *whose mate has died*. **(Rom 7:3)**
 - 3. One who *has put away their mate for fornication*. **(Matt 19:9)**
- C. God only *accepts a divorce for one reason*. **(Matt 5:32)**
 - 1. It takes *true conviction to stay in a marriage* that has turned bad.
 - 2. A mate who drives another into adultery *is not innocent*.

- D. Knowing these things ahead of time can bring courage and wisdom to live!
1. This should cause one to seek out a faithful Christian to marry. (1 Cor 9:5)
 2. This what one who puts God first does. This makes faith attractive! (Lk 1:6)
 3. It will keep Christians from even considering divorce as an option. We must face hard problems and strengthen our marriages! (Mt 5:32)
 4. It unjustly divorced and abandoned it gives courage to live a joyous unmarried life in the Lord without being in bondage to an ungodly mate! (1 Cor 7:11, 15)
 5. Are these lessons being taught in churches today?

III. Commitment to Purity must begin before marriage

- A. God has provided a place to enjoy and grow in His ways. (Heb 13:4-6)
1. God's ways always put others first for their good.
 2. We are primarily spiritual beings, and the physical desires must not become the basis of how we view ourselves.
 3. When we truly love, we put others first and what they need. (1 Cor 13:4-6)
 4. When Christians marry, you never stop putting the other first. (1 Cor 7:2-5)
- B. What is the fruit of God's ways? (Prov 31:27-30)
1. God's ways builds trust, and a spirit that is strong in God's ways.
 2. God's way build a home that builds, protects and cannot be defeated by Satan.
- C. Satan seeks to fundamentally deny our nature and pervert God's purposes.
1. He wants us to view sex like being hungry and eating a meal. (1 Cor 6:13-14)
 2. It does not hurt anyone!" Is this truth or deceit? (1 Cor 6:9-10)
 3. Satan tries to "dehumanize" sex which cannot be done. How will we treat others? You will remember what you have done in this area with others.
- D. Is it right to live together before marriage? (1 Cor 6:15-19)
1. When God says to "flee" this shows a great urgency. God has designed sex as a binding force to bring two married people close.
 2. It is to be experience in trust and commitment. (1 Pt 3:7)
 3. Men and women are very different in how they approach this relationship.
When a woman submits to a man in dating this is very hurtful to her spirit.
- E. What are the fruits of living together before marriage?
1. The number of unmarried couples living together soared 12-fold from 430,000 in 1960 to 5.4 million in 2005. Now the number is more than 7.5 million. Over 70% of the public now believe this is good.
 2. More than 8 out of 10 couples who live together will break up either before the wedding or later in divorce.
 3. About 45 percent of those who begin cohabiting, do not marry. Another 5-10 percent continue living together.
 4. Couples who do marry after living together are 50% more likely to divorce than those who did not.
 5. Only 12 percent of couples who begin cohabiting end up with a marriage lasting 10 years or more.
 6. Children of cohabiting parents are ten times more likely to be sexually abused by a stepparent than by a parent.
 7. Children of cohabiting parents are three times as likely to be expelled from school or to get pregnant as teenagers than children from an intact home with married parents.
 8. Children of cohabiting parents are 5 times more apt to live in poverty, and 22 times more likely to incarcerated.
 1. The situations I have personally dealt with in the church ended in divorce.
 2. When Christians do this they often pull away from God. (Rev 3:20-21)

Conclusion: God's way works! (Rev 22:14-15)