

Chapter Two

The Fine Print

of

The Covenant Of Marriage

Bible Study: pages

Lecture: pages

Post Study Projects: pages

Bible Study

Chapter Two

Scripture Memory Verse –

*Proverbs 2:16 & 17 To deliver you from the strange woman,
From the adulteress who flatters with her words;
That leaves the companion of her youth, And forgets the
covenant of her God;*

Back Review:

Matthew 19:4 - 6

A husband's and wife's covenant needs, are created by God, they are lasting and legitimate needs, for which they have no morale outlet outside of marriage.

“Read the fine Print!”, it is the universal advice given to anyone about to make a decision of any type. I remember vividly an personal experience in this area. I had purchased a cell phone contract. As time went by several other providers began to compete in our area and I decided to switch over. When I called to cancel you can imagine my surprise when I heard, “I will be glad to cancel your contract Rev. Mahon, but you do realize don't you that you will be paying a heavy penalty for early cancellation.” - What! I could not believe my ears. According to this service person there was a one week window each year in which I could cancel my service, otherwise it was automatically renewed. I got out my service contract and sure enough, at the bottom of the back page, in font quite a bit smaller and single spaced was the cancellation clause. You can be sure of two things – first that I circled this date in bold red ink on my calendar and second, that from then on I determined to read the fine print of any contract I was about to purchase.

Yet even with this experience I have not fallen through on my resolve. As I purchase appliances, as I purchase programs for my computer, more and more items come with lines upon lines of service contracts. It is a very daunting thing to wade through the legalese in order to understand just exactly what you and they are agreeing to and on what basis this agreement is being made. Often times as not, the purchase does not warrant the time it takes to read all the fine print of the “limited warranty”. It would be easier just to buy another or to hope that the merchant would not risk the loss of good will from a faithful customer.

This is not always the case though. Sometimes the issue warrants a very careful reading of the fine print. When we bought our house we not only read the fine print but we paid a realtor, a title company and a bank officer hefty surcharges to walk us through the process. The same can be said for our insurance and retirement policies. The stakes were certainly high enough to warrant the time and headache of a careful reading of the fine print.

So there you have it, two extremes. On the one hand is a five dollar travel alarm with a whole page of specs and limited warranty agreements – hardly worth the time and effort. On the other you have the most expensive and important purchase of your life, your home and the pages of fine print which you will initial - all well worth your careful consideration.

Somewhere in this value system of what is and is not worth our time and effort in terms of reading the fine print is our Marriage Covenant – the vows we make to God when we marry. It is amazing to me how often the consideration of the vows that go into the marriage covenant fall closer to the travel alarm. That in fact the research and consideration that goes into the purchase of a house often exceeds that which went into the vows that were to be spoken before God and His people on the wedding day. In fact, often as not the contractual agreements with the photographer, the caterer or the meeting hall receive more consideration, study and interaction than do the actual wedding vows themselves. Mature Christian couples who would never think of saying to the photographer, just write up something, I know we will be happy with it, just tell us where to sign, basically do that with the minister. They accept unstudied and un-discussed the vows in the wedding ceremony and then blithely sign the marriage certificate, something which they are more concerned about its suitability for framing at a later date than its binding

contractual relationship between them and the living God. This then is the core of this introductory study, “The Fine Print of the Marriage Covenant” It is my prayer that your reaction will be less than mine upon reading the fine print of my phone contract and certainly less than the disciples upon being read the fine print of ones marriage covenant with God.

The High View of God Concerning Covenant Vows

God takes any vow very seriously. Man on the other hand is used to promising things and not following through. We promise to work in the church nursery and then it just doesn't work out. We agree to come faithfully to a Bible study and then something just keeps coming up. We agree to teach a children's Bible study but then it turns out to be a lot more work than we had bargained for – better back out. We say we will be at the church work day but then have a chance to go golfing, boating, hunting, you name it and it is a valid excuse – after all, it was only our word, it was not like it was binding.

We are so used to promising to serve God and then not following through that when we stand before God, before His people and take our marriage vows, that in the end, it becomes just one more promise, one more vow, one more time we gave our word to God and it just did not work out.

This is not however true with God. God takes vows made to him very seriously. Since the time of Adam, one of man's fatal mistakes in his relationship with God has been that he has assumed that God is just like him. That God thinks just like him. This is especially true when he sins and does not immediately pay for the sin. “Ha” he says to himself, “I thought so, it is not such a big deal after all. See, God is a reasonable fellow, He understands how things are. I thought we would turn out to be one mind on this issue.” That however is not the case.

In Ps 50:16-17, what is the wicked's problem? How could this problem be directly linked to the issue of not keeping vows? How is the hating of discipline linked to the hating of following through on a promise?

16 But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to tell of My statutes, and to take My covenant in your mouth?"

17 "For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you."

What fatal flaw do the wicked make in their hatred of any form of discipline?

Ps 50:21

21 "These things you have done, and I kept silence; you thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you, and state the case in order before your eyes."

What is God's response to the failure of the wicked to submit to discipline?

Would you call a person who continually fails to follow through on his word someone who loves discipline or hates it?

In each of the passages below, circle the key word or words which you feel define God's view of covenants made with Him.

NUM 30:2 "If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

DEU 23:21 "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God will surely require it of you.

Ps 15:1 & 4

O LORD, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill?... In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change;

PSA 50:14 "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High;

PSA 56:12 Thy vows are binding upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to Thee

PSA 116:14 I shall pay my vows to the Lord, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people.

PRO 20:25 It is a snare for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!" And after the vows to make inquiry.

Prov 25:19 Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble.

Eccl 5:1-6

1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God, and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil.

2 Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

3 For the dream comes through much effort, and the voice of a fool through many words.

4 *When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!*

5 *It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.*

6 *Do not let your speech cause you to sin and do not say in the presence of the messenger of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?*

Mal 1:13-14

13 *"You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery, and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD.*

14 *"But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock, and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."*

GAL 3:15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

Having done this project. Now go back and compare what you thought was important with how your spouse responded to this project. Underline those key words or words your spouse chose. What made them important to your spouse? Why did your spouse key on them? How are they different from your own?

How does this tendency a slippery slope that leads to faithlessness in our marriage vows as well? According to Proverbs 23:27 – 28, unfaithfulness to our marriage vows is not the beginning of unfaithfulness but rather the increase of what is already there. The failure of commitment in wedding vows is not a sudden event, rather it is the culmination of a life style of faithlessness in what we perceived as little commitments to God but what He saw was increasing faithlessness that ultimately culminated in the hatred of the very vows that bind us to our spouse in a mystical and spiritual union created by God Himself.

Prov 23:27-28

27 *For a harlot is a deep pit, and an adulterous woman is a narrow well.*

28 *Surely she lurks as a robber, and increases the faithless among men.*

Reflect now on your own faithfulness to your spiritual commitments to God in regards to your devotion and service to Him. Are you on a slippery slope of faithlessness which will make you susceptible to the sinful influences of society and pagans around you whose attraction “*increases the faithless among men*”?

The Spiritual Tragedy of Divorce and Breaking of the Marriage Vows

One of the tragedies of divorce is that it affects the way others respond to the Word of God. The Word of God consistently uses word pictures associated with marriage and family life to depict the great doctrinal truths of salvation, the church and our eternal state with God in heaven. These are vivid descriptions which are meant to conjure up emotions of joy and celebration, of peace and security, they are important in their emotional impact upon the reader and were chosen by the Holy Spirit because of this. When Christians sin in the area of divorce they negate the positive impact of these word pictures, of these references to marriage and the Christian family, not only for their own children, but for all of those around them. Suddenly terms which should create in the mind of the reader an exalted view of God have just the opposite affect. As a student minister I heard this statement time and time again, "I have a hard time relating to God as Father. You see my own father divorced my mother and moved in with another woman. I just do not respond positively to the association of God with the word Father." Broken homes, broken marriage vows, children shuffled between homes, some children with mom, some with dad, parents who pit their children against each other, children weeping quietly in school because of the anger and fighting in the home, then these children go to the Word of God and read about God the Father, the wedding feast of the lamb, the family of God and how do they respond to these word pictures? How does the world around us respond to them when they see the marriage vows and the marriages of those in the church so easily broken? What a field day satan has. With a single act of infidelity, by a single act of selfishness on the part of the couple, by the single act of divorce, he can ruin in one sweeping blow an entire class of doctrinal truths for the reader. Lets now discover these great truths, theses great illustrations for ourselves and reflect on how our faithfulness to our marriage vows enables our children and those who know us to respond emotionally to the Word of God.

In the project below:

First – read the passage.

Second – record the terms used that are common in the marriage covenant and resulting Christian family.

Third – how would the sin of divorce impact someone's understanding of these terms.

First – read the passage. Matthew 22:2, 8 ; Revelation 19:7, 9; 21:9; 22:17

Second – record the terms used that are common in the marriage covenant and Christian family.

Third – how would the sin of divorce impact someone's understanding of these terms.

First – read the passage. Matthew 25:5,6, & 10

Second – record the terms used that are common in the marriage covenant and Christian family.

Third – how would the sin of divorce impact someone’s understanding of these terms.

First – read the passage. Luke 8:21; John 1:12; I John 3:1

Second – record the terms used that are common in the marriage covenant and Christian family.

Third – how would the sin of divorce impact someone’s understanding of these terms.

First – read the passage. Matthew 6:14, 32; Luke 11:13;

Second – record the terms used that are common in the marriage covenant and resulting Christian family.

Third – how would the sin of divorce impact someone’s understanding of these terms.

First – read the passage. Luke 8:21; Mark 10:30

Second – record the terms used that are common in the marriage covenant and Christian family.

Third – how would the sin of divorce impact someone’s understanding of these terms.

How would the pain of an unhappy home, the breaking of the marriage vows by the earthly parents, the dissolution of the family, effect a child's ability to love and respond positively to the depiction of God as Father and the church as family?

Contrast the response of the reader to the following terms based on his or her experience with the Christian family – one from a happy Christ centered home, the other from an unhappy home where the marriage vows were not kept and the child experienced repeated hurt and pain due to the estrangement of the parents.

	Christ Centered Home	Broken Home
Heavenly Father		
Wedding Feast of the Lamb		
Family of God		
Brothers and Sisters in Christ		

How would a child's deep hurt by his earthly parent's failure to honor his wedding vows affect his ability to trust God?

One can see now how the sin of divorce in the Christian family is one of the greatest coups satan can accomplish in terms of destroying the deep doctrinal meanings of the word pictures of salvation and terms illustrating our relationship with God. Yet it is my experience that when a couple is considering divorce they are considering one thing and one thing only, their own personal pain and hurt, their own unhappiness and how to improve their own life situation in what they see as the easiest and most pain free manner. The thought of working through the pain, of forgiving, of reconciling of starting over, of the changes in their own lives that brought them to this point are far from them. The thought of how this action will spiritually impact their children, the children and the young couples in their church, the non-Christians around them is far from them. The thought that before God they have sworn to their own hurt and should not change is unthinkable. Yet this is the very thing God desires. God desires a miracle in this marriage. The loving Father who vowed His only Son as a sacrifice for the sin that has impacted the marriage, the Son who vowed to offer up Himself on the cross to pay for the sins of all broken marriages, the loving Father and the only Son who swore to Their own hurt and did not change desire this very same thing from us.

Your Vows To God...

In the project below each set of vows has a title. Read the heading, then the passage and then write out what you feel would be the vow or covenant being made with the spouse. Do not get frustrated or bogged down, take the verses as a whole and just write out what seems to come to your mind.

- A. **Shared Vows:** The couples shared vows to God. Those vows which they together make to God and as one, they seek together to fulfill these vows. These are vows which require team work on the part of the husband and wife. They vow together to strive to put these into practice, working together to fulfill the commands of God in each of these areas. As you read each passage reflect specifically how they apply to you as a couple, vowing to seek to apply these as a single unit, as two who have not become one. Besides each write the broad principle as it applies to you as a couple.

Passage	Shared Vows
1. Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:39	_____
2. Hebrews 13:4	_____
3. Matthew 6:33; I Corinthians 11:3	_____
4. Ephesians 6:1 – 4	_____
5. Matthew 5:16; (Use Romans 16:5 and I Corinthians 16:19, to contextualize the principle of Mathew 5:16 in terms of your marriage and home. What shared vow does this imply?)	_____

- B. **Individual Vows:** In addition to shared vows the couple brings to the marriage the couple also bring their individual commitments to the Lordship of Christ. If you married as a Christian, there is the unstated vow to walk with God that predates your relationship with your husband. If you married as a non-Christian, you now commit to a personal relationship with God. Your ability to fulfill the vows of the covenant of marriage is dependent first and foremost on your personal relationship with Christ and His Lordship over every area of your life. These then are vows which concern your relationship and walk with God. Those vows which the couples have made in terms of their personal relationship with God. These vows are shared, in that you share a mutual commitment to see them through, they are though individual in that both the husband and the wife are individually responsible for their pursuit. A husband may not rely on his wife, nor the wife on her husband in terms of their individual accountability in these areas before God.

Passage	Individual Vows
1. Galatians 2:20	_____
2. Joshua 1:8	_____
3. Philippians 4:6 & 7	_____
4. Hebrews 10:24 & 25	_____
5. Acts 1:8	_____

C. Unique Covenant Vows of the Husband: The vows of the husband to God concerning his relationship with his wife. Those vows made exclusively by the husband and for which the husband is personally responsible. These vows cannot be assigned, delegated or “farmed out”. The husband cannot plead that although he did not fulfill them personally, never-the-less he was diligent to see that they were fulfilled – (by his wife, the church, private schools, relatives, friends, etc.). Consider number two in the individual vows - the husband cannot plead, “I am not much on the Bible, my wife does enough for both of us” rather he is held individually responsible before God for obedience in the area of his personal time in the Word of God. It is the same way with the husband’s covenant vows in marriage. The husband cannot assert that he was so busy with work, ministry, etc. that he could not fulfill a particular covenant responsibility, but he was satisfied that someone else was doing it for him. No, these vows are so intimate, so closely intertwined with the mystical union of husband and wife, so specifically suited to fulfillment by that man whom God has gifted, called and molded for the specific purpose of the covenant of marriage with this one woman, his wife, that they absolutely cannot be delegated to another.

Passage	Husband’s Vows
1. Ephesians 5:25 – 27; I Corinthians 14:35	_____
2. Ephesians 5:33; Colossians 3:19	_____
3. Proverbs 31:10, 11	_____
4. Ephesians 5:28 – 31; I Timothy 5:8	_____
5. Ephesians 6:4; I Timothy 3:4 & 5;	_____

D. Unique Covenant Vows of the Wife: The vows of the wife to God concerning her relationship with her husband. Those vows made exclusively by the wife and for which the wife is personally responsible. These vows cannot be assigned, delegated or “farmed out”. The wife cannot plead that although she did not fulfill them personally, never-the-less she was diligent to see that they were fulfilled – (by her husband, the church, private schools, relatives, friends, or even a hireling.). Consider number four in the individual

vows - the wife cannot plead, “I am not much on the church, my wife goes enough for both of us” rather she is held individually responsible before God for obedience in the area of her relationship to the Body of Christ. It is the same way with the wife’s covenant vows in marriage. The wife cannot assert that she was so busy with work, ministry, etc. that she could not fulfill a particular covenant responsibility, but she was satisfied that someone else was doing it for her. No, these vows are so intimate, so closely intertwined with the mystical union of the wife to her husband, so specifically suited to fulfillment by that woman whom God has gifted, called and molded for the specific purpose of the covenant of marriage with this one man, her husband, that one she will give herself to as his one and sole help-mate in life, that they absolutely cannot be delegated to another.

Passage	Wife’s Vows
1. Ephesians 5:22 – 24; I Peter 3:5	_____
2. Proverbs 31:12 & 27; Titus 2:4 & 5	_____
3. Genesis 2:18; Ecclesiastes 9:9	_____
4. Proverbs 5:15 – 19; Song of So. 8:2,3,10,14	_____
5. Ephesians 5:33; I Peter 3:6	_____

E. **What if your spouse does not hold up their end of the deal?**

Proverbs 17:9 gives us a very important spiritual principle concerning relationships, whether they be friendships, our children or our spouse. If you harp on the past you will end the relationship. It is as clear and simple as that.

Proverbs 17:9

*“He who covers a transgression seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.”*

We will look at how this principle plays out in our marriage in the project below... First read the passage and then record how each father responded, one correctly in covering the offense, the other incorrectly by rubbing the offense in the face of the offender.

“He who Covers A Transgression”

The father and the prodigal son
Luke 15:11 – 32

“He who repeats a matter”

David and Absalom
II Samuel 14:1 – 15:16

Next we will look at specific passages that apply to this principle in marriage. Read each passage and then give God's plan for the marriage where one or the other spouse does not fulfill their end of the marriage covenant.

“Seeks love”
Husband: Ephesians 5:25

“*Separates intimate friends*”
Colossians 3:19

Wife: I Peter 3:1 – 4

Proverbs 7:18-20

Both the husband and the wife are left with only one alternative should their spouse rebels against God and the covenant made with Him. Though the spouse is unfaithful you must remain faithful. If the covenant were between you and your spouse, then the breaking of the covenant by your spouse would free you. This however is not the case, the covenant is with God who has remained faithful, not just to you but to your unfaithful spouse as well.

In the project below, first read the passage and then record how this principle impacts your response to an the unfaithfulness of your spouse to fulfill their marriage covenant. Make your observation/application in the context of the fact that your covenant is with God, not man.

II Timothy 2:13, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny himself.”

James 1:20 “for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

Rom 14:23 “... whatever is not from faith is sin.”

James 4:17 “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

Matthew 19:10
“*The disciples said to Him,*

"If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

It is a startling statement, but it carries with it an awakening on the part of the disciples to the seriousness of the marriage vows. Perhaps something in this study has startled you, or caught you by surprise. Have you discovered something in the "fine print" of your marriage vows that you did not realize existed? Has God taught you something new or brought back to your attention something learned but allowed to drift to the back of your mind? In the space below write your reflections...

Chapter Two

The Fine Print of the Marriage Covenant

A husband's and wife's covenant needs, are created by God, they are lasting and legitimate needs, for which they have no morale outlet outside of marriage.

I. Vows and the God of the Universe.

A. We are used to getting out of things.

1. Parents routinely go back on their threats to children.
2. Teachers routinely, if they feel that their students are not prepared, postpone promised test.
3. Employers rarely if ever prosecute employee misconduct, a letter of recommendation is routinely granted even to the worst employee in exchange for moving on.
4. Severe penalties for murder, rape, kidnapping, pedophilia, vehicular homicide, drug abuse, child abuse are rare. Plea bargaining is common place and criminals are routinely released early without serving out their full terms.
5. Unwanted births are routinely aborted.
6. And marriage, marriages are routinely ended if they are found to be uncomfortable.
7. We are used to getting out of things, to breaking our word, to not having to suffer consequences for our actions, from temper tantrums as a child, to marriage vows as an adult.
8. The concept of honor prescribed by God in Psalm 15 is virtually unimaginable in our world today

Psalm 15 (A Psalm of David.) O Lord, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change... He who does these things will never be shaken.

- a. We live in an age where a man's vow, his oath, his word of honor stand for almost nothing.
- b. If the leagal or social consequences of an action do not equal or exceed the cost of the commitment, then there is not serious consideration of following through on something which turns out to be difficult or inconvenient.
- c. "You can't make me"; "I don't have to" are common statements

B. God takes vows made to Him seriously.

1. The following are a series of statements in the Bible concerning vows. As we read them let us reflect on how they contrast with the current view of modern man and his word
NUM 30:2 "If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

DEU 23:21 "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God will surely require it of you.

JOB 22:27 "You will pray to Him, and He will hear you; And you will pay your vows.

PSA 15:4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change;

PSA 50:14 "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High;

PSA 56:12 Thy vows are binding upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to Thee.

PSA 116:14 I shall pay my vows to the Lord, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people.

PRO 20:25 It is a snare for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!" And after the vows to make inquiry.

ECC 5:4 When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!

ECC 5:5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

MAL 1:14 "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock, and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the Lord of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."

GAL 3:15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

HEB 6:16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute.

2. The concept of oath or covenant is central to our understanding our relationship with God in general and in particular, the nature of our salvation..
3. The failure of modern Christians to be men and women of their word, to stick to binding oaths has done great damage in the cause of Christ, not just in testimony but in the loss of meaning to these terms when read by both Christian and non-Christian.
4. This is no where more true than in the marriage covenant. There are many terms which are linked either directly or indirectly to the marriage relationship which have deep doctrinal symbolism and significance.

a. **The bride** –

*REV 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and **His bride has made herself ready.**" REV 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you **the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**"*

*REV 22:17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come."** And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.*

b. **The bride groom** - Jesus Christ

*MAT 25:5 "Now **while the bridegroom was delaying**, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. MAT 25:6 "But at midnight there was a shout, '**Behold, the bridegroom!** Come out to meet him.'*

*MAT 25:10 "And while they were going away to make the purchase, **the bridegroom came**, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.*

c. **The wedding** – Salvation

*MAT 22:8 "Then he said to his slaves, '**The wedding is ready**, but those who were invited were not worthy. MAT 25:10 "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to **the wedding feast**; and*

d. **Marriage** - The second coming

REV 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, **for the marriage of the Lamb** has come and His bride has made herself ready."

e. **The wedding feast** - Kingdom of Heaven

MAT 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who **gave a wedding feast** for his son.

f. **The vows** - Assurance of Salvation

HEB 6:17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the **heirs of the promise** the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, HEB 6:18 in order that by two unchangeable things, **in which it is impossible for God to lie**, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.

g. **The family, mother, brothers, sisters** - Our relationship with Christ

LUK 8:21 But He answered and said to them, "**My mother and My brothers** are these who hear the word of God and do it."

h. **The children** - Relationship with God

IJO 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be **called children of God**; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

5. In one fell swoop, one thoughtless, careless, casting aside of the vows made to God, all these pictures are effectively destroyed. The beauty of the symbolism of all these high and holy doctrinal terms are abased. The emotional impact of them on the children, the family and all non-Christians who have relationships with the couple are turned from positive witness to bitter and hurt feelings.

C. Your wedding vows.

1. What did you think you were doing when you took your wedding vows.
 - a. A beautiful part of a traditional ceremony.
 - b. An ingenious way of providing a way out.
 - c. An integral part of a big party.
 - d. Something important to the family.
2. Do you even know what your vows are?
 - a. Many can tell me the interest rate on their house, the duration of the loan and the contract details.
 - b. Many can do the same concerning their credit cards or auto loans.
 - c. Many can tell me the particulars on their cell phone or health club contract.
 - d. The same is true for their airline tickets or vacation packet.
 - e. But these same people would often be hard pressed to tell me what they vowed before the God of the Universe on their wedding day.
 - f. But even more important, these same people could not say that they checked the fine print of the Bible to see if what they were so confidently vowing had anything to do with the vows God was extracting from them by their act of marriage.
3. When we stand before God and wed our spouse we enter into a covenant with Him. We are vowing to adhere to this covenant.
4. Do you even know what you vowed?

D. When you vow you are responsible for the details.

1. When you swear in court that something is true, you had better know for sure that it is true.
2. When you sign a contract, you had better make sure you know what your are signing.
3. When you pledge a possession as surety on a loan, you had better know for sure what the details of the loan are.
4. When you enter into the marriage covenant with the God of the Universe, you might want to take a look at what you swore to, what vow you took, if you have never gotten around to doing it.
5. Remember Proverbs 20:25 states, *"It is a snare for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!" And after the vows to make inquiry."* Perhaps it is time now to make inquiry

II. Your Vows To God...

I believe in the marriage covenant there are three sets of vows.

A. The couples shared vows to God...

1. Till death do us part – Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:39;
2. Fidelity in marriage – Hebrews 13:4
3. Individually to put Christ first – Matthew 6:33; I Corinthians 11:3
4. Raise obedient children in the faith – Ephesians 6:1 - 4
5. Present a Christ centered home to the world – Matthew 5:16; Romans 16:5; I Corinthians 16:19

B. The couples mutual vows as a couple to the Lord

1. Christ the center of their lives – Galatians 2:20
2. The Word – Joshua 1:8
3. Prayer – Philippians 4:6 & 7
4. Fellowship – Hebrews 10:24 & 25
5. Evangelism – Acts 1:8

C. The vows of the husband to God concerning his relationship with his wife.

1. Spiritual leadership of the family – Ephesians 5:25 – 27; Proverbs 31:23
2. Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs. – Ephesians 5:25 & 33
3. Trusting and truthful relationship – Proverbs 31:11
4. Providing for your wife's material needs – Ephesians 5:28 – 31; I Timothy 5:8
5. Making the home and family a priority – Ephesians 6:4; I Timothy 3:4 & 5;

D. The vows of the wife to God concerning her relationship with her husband.

1. Submission to her husbands leadership – Ephesians 5:22 - 24
2. Creating a home which is a refuge for her husband – Proverbs 31:12 & 27
3. Being a helpmate and companion in his life's pursuits – Genesis 2:18
4. Insuring that the marriage is a sexually fulfilling one – Proverbs 5:15 – 19; Song of Solomon 8:2,3,10,14
5. Giving her husband respect in both the public and private realms of his life – Ephesians 5:33

III. What if your spouse does not hold up their end of the deal?

Proverbs 17:9

*“He who covers a transgression seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.”*

“He who Covers A Transgression”

The father and the prodigal son

Luke 15:11 – 32

“Seeks love”

Ephesians 5:25

I Peter 3:1 – 4

“He who repeats a matter”

David and Absalom

II Samuel 14:1 – 15:16

“Separates intimate friends”

Colossians 3:19

Proverbs 7:18-20

- A. Both the husband and the wife are left with only one alternative should their spouse rebels against God and the covenant made with Him
- B. Though the spouse is unfaithful you must remain faithful
 1. The covenant is with God, who has remained faithful
 - a. He has remained faithful in the face of your unfaithfulness to Him.
 - b. II Timothy 2:13, *“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny himself.”*
 2. To break the covenant is to sin
 - a. We do not accomplish God’s goals through sin
 - b. Anger: To respond in anger will not accomplish God’s goal for our marriage.
James 1:20 *“for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”*
 - c. Faith: If our response is not based on faith, but rather our own fleshly connivances, then it is sin
Rom 14:23 *“But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.”*
 - d. Obedience: God has made His covenant clear to us, if we do not follow through it is sin.
James 4:17 *“Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”*
 - e. Therefore, we in our covenant vow to our spouse, as Christ in His covenant vow to us, remain faithful in the face of faithlessness.

IV. These vows are not in any order. The are presented in fact on purpose in a random way, as the Bible presents them, as a package. God wants all to be fulfilled and purposefully, I believe does not quantify them that we might say, “Well I got the top three down, the rest will just have to ride.” No I believe these vows are all equally important to God and it is His desire that we fulfill them all. I do not have the confidence at this point to say that they are exhaustive in nature. It seems a little too tidy to have three sets of five. As a result I present them to you as my very best effort but encourage you to think through on this issue on your own and hope you will send my any marriage covenant vows you find in scripture that I may have left out.

V. Reflection: Who do you want to meet this need if you do not?

- A. If you decide that you are not individually responsible for any of the covenants mentioned. Who do you want to step in and do it in your place?

- B. Who do you want to model these responsibilities for your spouse? Who do you want to step in to fill the void which your negligence has created?
 - C. If you are unwilling to respond responsibly to your vows, to the covenant you have made with God, who do you want to take your place?
- V. **Conclusion: Our wedding vows are made to God and with God. No human, human institution or spiritual authority can override these vows. They are binding upon us irrespective of our own awareness of them or our agreement with them. They are not dependent upon the behavior of others but rather are our responsibility before God.**

POST STUDY PROJECTS CHAPTER TWO

Remember: You do not have to do what I do but you have to do something. In terms of your application of Scripture, you do not have to do it my way. My applications are in no way inspired by God, they are simply given to you as a service. Perhaps you will find them helpful, perhaps they will stimulate your thinking as creative ideas and you will use them as a stepping stone to your own creative applications. You do however have to do something. If you respond, “Rev. Mahon, that is your way, it reflects your age, gifts and calling, that is just not me.” That is perfectly OK, I have no problem with that, as long as I when I ask you, “Fine, what is ‘your way’?” that you do not respond, “nothing”. You do not have to do what I do but you have to do something, “nothing” is not an acceptable answer, the Word of God demands an application. You do not have to use my application but you have to do something.

Scripture Memory Verse -

Malachi 2:14 "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant."

Back Review:

- Matthew 19:4 - 6
- Proverbs 2:16 & 17

A husband's and wife's covenant needs, are created by God, they are lasting and legitimate needs, for which they have no morale outlet outside of marriage.

Trapping Your Spouse... With Their Walk With God

In many marriages, one spouse or the other, or in some cases both, are held captive by their mate by the faithfulness and conscientiousness of their own walks with God. Slowly it has dawned upon their partner that they have married someone who is indeed taking this thing seriously, they are indeed functioning as if the vows were binding in their relationship with God. It is then that they notice that irrespective of their personal behavior, their spouse will seek to do the right thing based on a deep and abiding love and reverence for God. That is when the fun really begins. Of course if their spouse were less spiritual, he or she would not put up with this nonsense, they would leave, divorce their mate, or react in such an angry and fleshly manner that it would not be worth the risk, but because of the spouses walk with God they do not react in this way. There you have it, they are trapped, they are held captive by their spouse by their own commitment to Christ. What a terrible way to repay your spouses devotion to God, by trapping your spouse.

“Ha, ha, ha, I can behave anyway I want and you have to love me! You can't divorce me. You can't run to another for comfort. You can't get even by having an affair. You poor sap, who would have thought I would luck out and marry a committed Christian – the stupid jerk.”

Course words indeed and ones you no doubt shrink from at their very reading. Think though, will any of this ring true in your spouses heart as he or she reads these words. Has your commitment to your marriage in terms of a Christian spouse been less than equitable? Have you taken advantage of your spouses spiritual nature, knowing that your friends, married to a carnal mate could never take such liberties and still have the happy home you have come to accept as the norm?”

If you are fulfilling your individual vow to God in terms of the Lordship of Christ, this will never be the case. Yet the world, the flesh and the devil all are pushing and tugging us in this direction. We must be ever vigilant to ensure that our behavior rewards the faithfulness of our spouse rather than punishes it.

We must be ever vigilant that we do not develop a bitter judgmental spirit, constantly evaluating our spouses commitment to the marriage vows while allowing ours to lie fallow and uncared for. There are indeed two extremes – trapping our spouse by taking advantage of their commitment to Christ and constantly judging our spouse without exerting the same hash light of criticism on our own behavior.

We are however first and foremost married by covenant oath by God. Our oath is binding to God without respect to the behavior of our spouse. If your spouse is faithful, praise God, now out do your spouse in your own efforts to fulfill your covenant vows. Is your spouse unfaithful, then do not allow the unfaithfulness of another drag you into bitterness and sin. Seek the Lord with all your heart and bring glory to His holy name by your faithfulness to your covenant vows

to Him. Let your behavior not be one of the suffering spouse who drips with pity and martyrdom as they show by every action and word how sacrificial they are being through their faithfulness but rather let every action you

**“If not you, then who?
If not now, then when?”**

President Ronald Reagan

President Reagan was asking the country a compelling question. It is one worth thinking over in terms of taking personal responsibility for the preservation of democracy. I believe God is asking us a similar question. Again, it is one worth thinking over in terms of taking personal responsibility for the preservation of our marriages.

Husband, if you do not want to take the time to fulfill your covenant vows to your wife, then just who do you want God to send in your place. If you do not like to take walks with your wife, if you do not want to take her out on dates, if you do not want to hold her hand as she pours out her heart to you and then cover her with your prayers, then just who do you want to do this? To which of your buddies at work or church do you want to take over this responsibility.

As you sit watching the football game or head out the door to the golf course or deer lease, or prepare to leave for yet another out of town trip, or call for the hundredth time to say you will be working late, would you be happy and content for your wife, rather than responding with the usual gloomy disappointed expression or edge of resentment in her voice to instead with a smile and a cheery disposition say...

“Oh don’t worry honey, Jim from church heard me mention that we were not able to work out a time for family devotionals so he is now my prayer partner. We are going out for Italian food, then a long walk so I can talk things out and then over to his house for dessert and a prayer time. Oh yes, and don’t worry about little Jimmy’s homework. Those nights you haven’t been able to make it home Jim has been over helping him – he just loves Uncle Jim, that’s what he calls him you know, and you won’t believe this but he was able to fix that creaky door in our bedroom closet that you said was not worth the time or trouble, imagine that. Not only that but he noticed that I was still wearing that old winter coat from years back so last time he was over he brought me this new one. Isn’t he just the sweetest thing. Now don’t you worry a bit I will be just fine.”

Then in her nice dress and smelling of fresh perfume, her hair all done up so nice, she hears the doorbell ring, assures you it is just fine, carry on as you usually do and then heads out the door to spend the rest of the day and into the evening with Jim.

Wife, if you do not want to take time to fulfill your covenant vows to your husband, then just who do you want God to send in your place. If you do not want to lose that weight, if you do not want to wear your hair for him, if you do not want to have the home as a refuge, if you do not want to join in the pleasures of his life’s pursuits and meet his sexual fantasies, then just who do you want to step in and fill this void?

Jim walks through the door with that winsome knowing smile you have come to recognize. “I am sorry honey, not tonight, I have a splitting headache. I know it’s been a while but you know

between the ladies club and that new contract I am working on and the church committees, I am at the end of my rope. I know the house is a mess, I have been busy at the ladies group all afternoon, dinners not even ready, there are left overs in the fridge, I hate to do this to you but I just need some down time. Maybe another night, but I just want to fix a cup of tea and watch TV by myself. I feel terrible because it seems you spend a lot of nights watching TV by yourself or playing that silly golf game on the computer but I am sure I will find my equilibrium before too long and then we can come to a more equitable understanding of our schedules.” Jim does not react negatively at all, in fact you are surprised, as usually this deflates him, instead he says with a big grin that you haven’t seen for a while...

“That’s all right honey. Sarah from church has had a lot of questions from the Bible. She has invited me over to her apartment for dinner. Her mom has taken the kids. She thought we could have a quiet dinner together, spend some time in the Word and then I could give her some spiritual direction. She seems really excited about learning from me. Some time we get off track though, she has so many questions about my job and I don’t know what I say that keeps cracking her up, she says I could do stand up comedy. A lot of those nights you have been at church she has been emailing me with really deep Bible questions and I seem to really be meeting a need in her life spiritually. She seems to eager to learn from me. You know what, she loves football. In fact when she heard that you wanted to go to the crafts fair Sunday afternoon with me taking the kids, she taped the big game. She thought it would be fun to watch it together. I wonder how she knew what my favorite dessert was? You know about those golf lessons we were going to take together, you wont believe this but she has always wanted to learn to play so she is going to take them with me instead. And golly, who would have thought someone with her education and interest in football would take a massage therapy course at the community college. I haven’t had a stiff neck in weeks! She can do the most amazing things with her hands. Well anyway, don’t worry. You just take the night off and don’t wait up for me. I will be just fine.”

Then he drops his brief case off, picks up his Bible gives you a kiss and is out the door. As he leaves you hear his cell phone ring, it is Sarah asking him what his favorite salad is and if he wants caffeinated or decaff for dessert. You see it makes no difference to her, just whatever he wants is fine.

What do you think. Are you willing to turn these responsibilities over to another? No, then are you willing to master them and meet these covenant needs yourself? No, then in to what precarious position have you put your spouse? Covenant needs, crying out to be met and satan standing in the wings. No doubt should your spouse stumble you would feel yourself grievously used. No doubt should your spouse press you to meet these needs you would feel yourself grievously used. Isn’t it great being the center of the universe!

In the projects below think over the vow and then answer the three questions...

I. The vows of the husband to God concerning his relationship with his wife.

A. Spiritual leadership of the family

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the men in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these men would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your wife’s day to day life?”

B. Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs.

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the men in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these men would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your wife’s day to day life?”

C. Trusting and truthful relationship

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the men in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these men would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your wife’s day to day life?”

D. Providing for your wife's material needs

Many men feel a perfect ease at not caring for their wife's material needs, but would they be happy if someone else filled this role. "The new coat? Oh, Larry noticed that you did not have money for a new winter coat for me since you had to renew the dear lease so he picked me up during his lunch break and we went out to get this, he is so sensitive." Will you be happy with this?

"If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?"

"If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?"

"Think of the men in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these men would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your wife's day to day life?"

E. Making the home and family a priority

This is vow is easily recognizable and easy to relate to in almost all periods of our history. So easy in fact that it is a common subplot in many movies and plays. A husband is away from home for a long period. Many times this is a result of war. He returns home to find a "handyman" has attached himself to his family. Perhaps a neighbor, perhaps a friend, someone his wife met at work or church, perhaps just someone who offered to help out around the house. In any case, in the husband's absence he has become indispensable to the family in general and the wife in particular. Now the husband has returned and as the situation plays out there is tension as the husband demands "handyman Joe" be on his way and the wife realizes that a real attachment has resulted from the service that Joe has provided to the family. She never meant for this to happen but it just did. Joe has created a place for himself in her heart simply by caring for the home on a regular basis. The sad thing is that many men neglect the home as if they were away at war even though they are around every day. Never-the-less, they would be equally resentful should "Joe the handyman" suddenly appear on the scene. It's all right honey, you take off for the day, Joe is coming over to help around the house", "It's all right honey, you work as late as you want, Joe is coming straight from work to help me around the house with those 'honey do's'. How would you feel about this?

"If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?"

"If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?"

“Think of the men in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these men would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your wife’s day to day life?”

II. The vows of the wife to God concerning her relationship with her husband.

A. Submission to her husbands leadership

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the women in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these women would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your husband’s day to day life?”

B. Creating a home which is a refuge for her husband

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the women in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these women would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your husband’s day to day life?”

C. Being a helpmate and companion in his life’s pursuits

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the women in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these women would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your husband’s day to day life?”

D. Insuring that the marriage is a sexually fulfilling one

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the women in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these women would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your husband’s day to day life?”

E. Giving her husband respect in both the public and private realms of his life

“If I do not fulfill this vow to meet my spouses need in this area, can this need be legitimately met in the context of the home and day to day married life?”

“If I do not fulfill my marriage vows to meet this need, what are my spouses alternatives in the context of home and day to day married life?”

“Think of the women in your life who are about your age and comparatively similar to you in social standing and appearance. Should you decide not to meet this covenant need, which of these women would you like to step in to fill the gap in the context of your home and your husband’s day to day life?”

It's Mirror Time!

James 1:23 – 25

“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.”

James tells us that the Word of God is like a mirror, that by looking intently into the Word of God we see ourselves as we really are. Below are listed the vows of marriage. Rate yourself in terms of your effort and commitment to fulfill your vows. Husbands omit the wife's vows, wives omit the husband's vows, you are only evaluating yourself and not your spouse.

Rate yourself on a scale of 0 – 5; 0 being nonfunctional and 5 being perfect.

Your shared vows to God...

Husband

Wife

_____ Till death do us part	_____ Till death do us part
_____ Fidelity in marriage	_____ Fidelity in marriage
_____ As a couple to put Christ first	_____ As a couple to put Christ first
_____ Raise obedient children in the faith	_____ Raise obedient children in the faith
_____ Present a Christ centered home to the world	_____ Present a Christ centered home to the world

Your individual vows as a couple to the Lord

Husband

Wife

_____ Christ the center of your life	_____ Christ the center of your life
_____ The Word	_____ The Word
_____ Prayer	_____ Prayer
_____ Fellowship	_____ Fellowship
_____ Witnessing	_____ Witnessing

The vows of the husband to God concerning his relationship with his wife.**Husband****Wife**

<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual leadership of the family	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual leadership of the family
<input type="checkbox"/> Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Trusting and truthful relationship	<input type="checkbox"/> Trusting and truthful relationship
<input type="checkbox"/> Providing for your wife's material needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Providing for your wife's material needs
<input type="checkbox"/> Making the home and family a priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Making the home and family a priority

The vows of the wife to God concerning her relationship with her husband.**Husband****Wife**

<input type="checkbox"/> Submission to her husbands leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission to her husbands leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Creating a home which is a refuge for her husband	<input type="checkbox"/> Creating a home which is a refuge for her husband
<input type="checkbox"/> Being a helpmate and companion in his life's pursuits	<input type="checkbox"/> Being a helpmate and companion in his life's pursuits
<input type="checkbox"/> Insuring that the marriage is a sexually fulfilling one	<input type="checkbox"/> Insuring that the marriage is a sexually fulfilling one
<input type="checkbox"/> Giving her husband respect in both the public and private realms of his life	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving her husband respect in both the public and private realms of his life

Personal Evaluation

In Doing This Evaluation Consider The Key Points Of This Chapter

Husband:

If you decide that you are not individually responsible for any of the covenants mentioned, who do you want to step in and do it in your place?

If you are unwilling to personally fulfill your responsibilities towards your covenant vow what alternatives does that leave your wife with in terms of a man meeting these needs in her life?

If you are unwilling to respond responsibly to your vows, to the covenant you have made with God, are you willing for another Christian woman, who is your age and equally compatible with your spouse, to step in and to take your place?

Wife:

If you decide that you are not individually responsible for any of the covenants mentioned, who do you want to step in and do it in your place?

If you are unwilling to personally fulfill your responsibilities towards your covenant vow what alternatives does that leave your husband with in terms of a woman meeting these needs in his life?

If you are unwilling to respond responsibly to your vows, to the covenant you have made with God, are you willing for another Christian man, who is your age and equally compatible with your husband, to step in and to take your place?

If you are doing this study as part of a small group it may be several days before you get together and discuss this chapter. In the space below write any questions or observations which you want to be sure to bring up when you get together in your home group or Bible study.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: The Seriousness Of Vows To God

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Numbers 30:2

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Deuteronomy 23:21

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 56:12

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16**THEME: The Seriousness Of Vows To God****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ecclesiastes 5:4 & 5**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 2:16 - 19

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Malachi 2:13 & 14

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?