

The Core Commitments of a Committed Marriage

2015 Maximum Marriage Seminar
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We all have learned from experience that marriage does magnify our sinfulness—or at least our awareness of it. Dave Harvey says wisely, “marriage is the union of two people who arrive toting the luggage of life.” (15)

What we believe about God every day determines the quality of our Marriage, particularly as life and time advance.

Let’s look at three foundational **Commitments** that we must have in order to show our commitment to Christ by having a committed marriage.

I. A Committed Marriage is Founded on the Word of God.

A. All we build upon must be based on the foundation of God’s Word (2 Tim 3:16-17)

1. Teaching—building up the foundations
2. Reproof—repelling harmful and sinful influences
3. Correction---because we are imperfect sinners who need to make things right
4. Training—strengthening and shoring up what is established so it will continue to remain strong against pressures and attacks from within and without.
5. Purpose—so we may be mature and equipped for every good work—especially applicable to our closest of relationships.

B. Our understanding of God must come from His Word—flowing from the Word is our understanding of His sovereignty, His design, and His providence.

C. Our understanding of marriage—its plan, purpose and prospects—are given in His Word

1. Your understanding of marriage does not need to be in doubt.
2. Your commitment to marriage is a goal God endorses.
3. Your goals in marriage are not self-made, but God-given

Conclusion—A marriage founded on the word of God will gain its insight, information, influence and ultimately its integrity from God’s Word.

II. A Committed Marriage is Focused on the Glory of God.

A. Why did God create marriage? Gen 2:20-24

1. Marriage was given by God for man--to complete man in his role to worship God, work for God and walk with God—in essence, to glorify Him in all things

- a) v20- For Companionship
- b) V. 24 For Covenant (Mal 2:14)

(1) Mack, "In the bible, a covenant is a formal, binding, and irrevocable arrangement involving promises and obligations. It commits two or more people to certain actions." (16)

- c) For Children (Gen 1:28; Ps 127:3-5)

2. Marriage was given by God for God's glory

- a) For Contribution to what God is doing in the world- (Gen 1:28)

- b) For Christ-reflecting- (Eph 5:22-33). Christ is the reference point for all we do in marriage.

(1) *Our marriages are to reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church.*

(2) *Our marriage is not just about us. It is about servicing God and reflecting Christ.*

B. Why did God create us? (1 Cor 10:31)

- 1. How many people think- how can I better glorify God in my marriage?
- 2. How do we fulfill our God-given roles in marriage? This glorifies God.
- 3. How do we endure and work through problems in our marriage?

III. A Committed Marriage is Graced by the Gospel of Christ

A. As in the original marriage—so in all our marriages—sin enters the relationship as a very real part of marriage.

1. It is easy for us to blame Adam, but when given the choice, even as redeemed people, how often do we choose sin over righteousness?

2. "It's the underside of marriage, the reality of living with someone day in and day out in a fallen world." (Harvey 35)

B. As in history—so in our marriage, the gospel and the grace of God in the gospel enters our lives and enables us to glorify God.

1. 1 Tim 1:15- Paul reminds us of the two sides of the gospel necessary for our marriages to be graced—

- a) Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners- the good news
- b) Of whom I am chief –because of the bad news

C. How is “the Gospel Gracing our Marriages” done practically?

1. Think biblically of Desert- what we deserve we do not get.
2. Be reminded of the Grace you have experienced- what we get we do not deserve
3. Give what you have gotten from God:
 - a) Forgiveness- what we have gotten we often are not willing to give
 - b) Compassion and Love- Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. We expect others to be perfect. (Rom 5:8)
4. Don't seek vengeance, rather trust in God (1 Pet 2:23)
5. Lean over, look at your spouse, and say- “I am a really big sinner and so are you, but God is saving us both, and we need to be patient”

Sources:

Dave Harvey, *When Sinners Say I Do.* ; Wayne Mack, *Sweethearts for a Lifetime; Strengthening Your Marriage.*