

**THE ATTACK ON MARRIAGE**  
Part Two: Marriage God's Way  
Scripture: Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-33  
**SUNDAY JULY 18, 2010**

**DEFINITION**

Covenant: 1. *A formal, solemn and binding agreement entered into by two or more parties; a compact.*  
2. *A formal sealed agreement or contract.*

**GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE TO BE:**

1. INTIMATE. (Matthew 19:5)
2. PERMANENT. (Matthew 19:6)
3. HARMONIOUS. (1 Peter 3:7)
4. ENJOYABLE. (Proverbs 5:18)
5. REWARDING. (Proverbs 18:22; 31:10-12,23,28-31)

**MARRIAGE IS:**

1. A COVENANT. Malachi 2:13-16; Isaiah 54:4-10
2. A COMMITMENT. Matthew 19:3-9
3. A PARTNERSHIP. Genesis 2:18,20b-25; 1 Peter 3:7

**BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE:**

1. PREPARE early.
2. PRAY earnestly.
3. CHOOSE wisely.
4. COMMIT fully.
5. MAINTAIN faithfully.
6. REAFFIRM daily.
7. CELEBRATE frequently.
8. TREASURE always.

## RESPONSIVE READING

Scriptures: Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-33

Some Pharisees came to him to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

**"Haven't you read," He replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."**

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

**Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."**

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of His body.

**"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**