

## John Dockendorf – The Christian Man – Chapter 4 MARRIAGE - MOH Group 190810

190804 Today there is available a new visibility & clarity of knowing & declaring truth. For you shall walk with greater revelation of My wisdom & truth. Speak truth. Live truth. Know truth. Let My truth set you free. Enter into the My presence, for I am truth. **John 8:32** know truth & be set free...

**Proverbs 23:23** Get the truth and never sell it... NLT – John D.

190808 You can be a successful man without a woman, however there are no great men without a woman... - Steve Harvey

**The Big Idea:** For those God calls to marry or remarry, marriage is the Eiffel Tower of human relationships.

- How big of an issue is being married (or not) for you and why?
- What are the questions you would like answered about marriage relationships?
- Read Ephesians 5:25–33 man about his role as a husband...
- “In reality, no human marriage gets a rating of more than 70%.”<sup>2</sup> That’s five out of seven days.

Do you have realistic marriage expectations, or have you expected too much?

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**Pray for Your Wife:** Here’s a sixty-eight-word prayer that captures the essence of what the Bible teaches about marriage (Commit to pray the **Marriage Prayer** every day):

*Father, I said, “‘til death do us part”—I want to mean it. Help me love You more than her, and her more than anyone or anything else. Help me bring her into Your presence today. Make us one, like You are three in one. I want to hear her, cherish her, and serve her— so she would love you more and we can bring You glory. Amen.*

What would change in your marriage or future marriage if you pray the Marriage Prayer for her daily?

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What does “Fill Her Emotional Bank Account” look like?

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What emotional deposits do you think will be most meaningful to her?

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Are there any other calls to action you believe God wants implemented in your marriage?

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**Meet in groups of 3, as a peer, mentor & mentee role, answering the above questions.**

***Difference between a Contract and a Covenant*** (provided by Keith Carroll)

The problem arises when you view your marriage only as a contract or as a series of contracts. When this happens, you will have become secular in your thinking and have abandoned the biblical view of marriage. The Bible views marriage ultimately as a covenant. although contracts may be an important

part of carrying out your covenant. There are **four general characteristics of contracts**:

**1. Contracts are often made for a limited period of time.** Although most marriage ceremonies involve the phrase, "till death do us part," many couples interpret that as, "We're committed to each other if this relationship is mutually beneficial."

**2. Contracts often deal with specific actions.** Most informal contracts made in a marriage also deal with specific actions. Such informal agreements can be a positive way of living out a covenant marriage.

**3. Contracts are based on an "If..., then..., " mentality.** Couples with this mentality where one spouse relies on the other spouse for happiness may struggle deeply in the first several years of marriage.

**4. Contracts are motivated by the desire to get something.** People sign a lease contract because they want to have a car. The salesman signs the contract because he wants the commission. Many conversations in marriage are motivated to get something.

### **Covenant Characteristics**

A covenant, like a contract, is an agreement between two or more persons, but the nature of the agreement is different. The biblical pattern reveals five characteristics of covenants.

**1. Covenants are initiated for the benefit of the other person.** Many of us can honestly say that we entered marriage motivated by the deep desire to benefit the person we were about to marry. Our intention was to make them happy. However, when needs aren't met, spouses can revert to a contract mentality.

**2. In covenant relationships people make unconditional promises.** Covenant marriages are characterized by unconditional promises, such as those spoken in traditional wedding vows.

**3. Covenant relationships are based on steadfast love.** In a marriage, steadfast love refuses to focus on the negative aspects of one's spouse. Steadfast love is a choice.

**4. Covenant relationships view commitments as permanent.** Unquestionably the biblical ideal is one man and one woman married to each other for life. As Christians, we must not lower the ideal. This standard can only be attained if we practice the fifth characteristic of covenants.

**5. Covenant relationships require confrontation and forgiveness.** These two responses are essential in a covenant marriage. Confrontation means holding the other person responsible for his or her actions. Forgiving means a willingness to lift the penalty and continue a loving, growing relationship. Ignoring the failures of your spouse isn't the road to marital growth.

Covenant marriage is God's plan. There may be contracts within the framework of covenant marriage, but for the Christian, marriage is a covenant. God's best in marriage will never be accomplished without His power. *This article is courtesy of [HomeLife Magazine](#).*

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**Gary Chapman, Ph.D.**, hosts two national radio programs: A Love Language Minute and Building Relationships — both are on the Moody Broadcasting network and can be downloaded at [fivelovelanguages.com](http://fivelovelanguages.com). Gary is an author & marriage conf leader. He & Karolyn, have 2 children.