

# TRUST and Commitment in Covenant Relationships

## Scripture References

And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and crying;  
So He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring.  
Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

“For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence,” says the Lord of hosts.  
“Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.” **Malachi 2:13-16 NKJV**

When you make a vow to the Lord your God, be prompt in fulfilling whatever you promised him. For the Lord your God demands that you promptly fulfill all your vows, or you will be guilty of sin. However, it is not a sin to refrain from making a vow. But once you have voluntarily made a vow, be careful to fulfill your promise to the Lord your God.

**Deuteronomy 23:21-23 NLT**

I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. **Genesis 9:13 NKJV**

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **Hebrews 13:5 NKJV**

...and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. **Mark 10:8 NKJV**

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” **1 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV**

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” **Matthew 11:28 NLT**

## Notes and Highlights

### What is a covenant?

#### *Foundation: God’s perspective of relationships*

- We have a creator. At the get-go, we are in a relationship with our creator from the moment of our conception.
- For common ground, some people think of God as Master Designer or Higher Power.
- God Himself is the God of Relationships, since the triune Godhead – the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit – are in intimate relationship with each other, being three persons yet One God.
- God has expectations for how our relationships with Him, with our family, and our fellow human beings, as well as with the one we love, are to unfold in a proper, organized and healthy manner.
- God created us to have and enjoy fellowship with Him and with others.

### *Covenant is a relationship built and based on a promise*

- Symbolism of the rainbow as a visual reminder of God's Promise or Covenant with creation.
- Covenant goes beyond just a simple agreement to spend time together, it is a contractual obligation.
- Covenant is more than just staying together "for the kids," or for whatever reason. Covenant must be anchored on vows declared before God, and not just based on empty promises.
- Covenant is a deep commitment such that even when the couple seemingly can't stand each other, they will still have each other's backs, and will continue to honor and respect each other.
- Covenant relationships involve truth, integrity, commitment, steadfastness, and unwavering trust. When the going gets tough, it does not mean that the covenant ceases to exist.
- The covenant is an agreement and promise in both directions. Both parties to the covenant mutually agree to fulfill the terms of the agreement.
- Covenant is life-bearing and God takes it very seriously. His covenant with us is binding and eternal, even when we fail to keep His terms at times.

### *Parameters of a Covenant*

- Binding, contractual, an agreement that has been made with oaths/vows.
- In business, there is a specified time during which the contract applies: the "life of the contract". In a biblical marriage, we consider the life of the covenant to be "till death do you part."
- God is a covenant maker; He recognizes covenants and enforces them.
- God has laid out in the bible what the parameters or standards of covenant relationships are so that we can enjoy healthy, vibrant, quality, satisfying, peaceful relationships which reflect God's nature. God is good, He has always been good and He will always be good. And that is what He wants for His children.
- Just as God made a commitment to us that He would never leave us nor forsake us, this same promise should bind the two people who enter into a covenant relationship. This is the standard we operate from – uphold the promise even when things gets tough, when you are hurting and lashing out at each other; when you get older, or change.

### *"One Flesh" Covenant*

- When two people engage in a sexual relationship they have entered into a covenant, even if they are not married, because sexual union goes beyond the physical and binds them together as "one flesh" (see Mark 10:8 and 1 Corinthians 6:16).
- Having sex with someone causes you to become "one with" them, which is what a covenant is.

### *Foundation of TRUST and 100% commitment for a true covenant relationship*

- God's covenant with us is binding. God made a commitment to us that He would never leave us nor forsake us (see *Hebrews 13:5*). In the same way, spouses have vowed to never forsake each other, even when things get hard.
- Healthy relationships are founded on commitment, with the mindset of "playing for keeps".
- 100% commitment means you will honor your vows no matter what: no matter the changes, the challenges, you will keep those vows.
- When we are secure in this mutual commitment, this allows us to trust each other.
- To have that true commitment, we need to TRUST God, first and foremost, and then trust the one we love.

### NOT 50-50

- Both parties should have a 100% commitment to the relationship. Realistically speaking, however, sometimes one or the other will not always be able to give 100% all of the time. This is when the other partner will be supportive and cover that gap, and vice versa.

### Stepping Outside of God's Covenant

- In our society, we have thrown off many things that God has said and instead have chosen to go our own way. Unfortunately, whenever we choose a path contradictory to God's way, that will not work in the long run.
- What God does not bless will not work, not in the long run.
- Adam and Eve, in listening to Satan and disobeying God, stepped outside of His covenant.
- People who walk outside of God's covenant, their life disintegrates like a blanket unraveling.
- RESTORATION: as soon as we say, "God, I need You!", then our covenant with God is back in force.
- In Malachi 2, we see that our loving God has overview of our covenant relationships, and He is a witness both when we do good by our spouses or partners, as well as when we do them wrong. We have a responsibility to interact with and respond, react appropriately and without treachery to the one we love, knowing that we have a loving, but also just, Father who is a witness.

### God's Purpose for Covenant Relationships

- God is our creator and He knows exactly how we are wired. God knows what makes the best sense for us individually, as well as for us in relation to other people, particularly in a family unit.
- God instituted covenant relationship for our protection, for our own good as this gives structure and stability.
- When covenant relationships give birth to children, they will thrive the most in a secure and stable family environment with both parents present.
- When we fail to honor covenant relationships, this threatens the core family unit, and eventually can lead to the downfall of our whole society.
- *Gender Differences in Thinking about Sex*: Men may just view sex as only a physical act, without emotional involvement. However, for women, physical intimacy involves more than just their bodies. There is a deeper involvement in the "union," which is why God designed for this intimacy to occur within the stable framework of a godly marriage.

### Struggles in Relationships

- Too often we focus only on what we think our loved one is doing wrong or failing to do, without also examining what our own shortcomings might be, or how we are contributing to the problem.
- Sometimes, even when couples "stay together," one or both may have emotionally left the relationship.

### True Fix for Struggling Relationships

- The true fix for struggling relationships is for both parties to first have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and then to grow in that relationship. Once our vertical relationship with God is fixed, this will help our horizontal relationships with other people.
- God is not only our Creator, but also the One who designed covenant relationships. Thus, He is the one who can truly fix broken relationships. God is in the business of resurrecting the dead, and He can resurrect even dead relationships.

- We can have hope for our relationships, but we must come to God. As Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28). We need to get back to the basics – **going back to the Word of God**. With God, nothing is impossible.
- KEY THOUGHT: We need to have God fix our own individual hearts first, get ourselves right individually first, and then that will positively impact our relationship.
- When we seek God out first and foremost, and remember all that Jesus has done for us, then that enlivens His covenant in us through Jesus Christ. Which will then allow God’s life to flow into your covenant relationships.
- Remember your promises to each other. Remember what made you enter the relationship.
- Treat your loved one as you would want to be treated.

## Resources

### Primary resource

the Holy Bible – as the ultimate source of 100% God’s Truth.

### Other resources

[Hillsong Worship - Touch of Heaven Official Lyrics | Lyrics](https://hillsong.com/lyrics/touch-of-heaven/) <https://hillsong.com/lyrics/touch-of-heaven/>