



Love is a verb (expressed by mutual submission)
The power of words (expressed by meaningful communication)

TODAY: The influence of _____
(expressed thru _____)

What does *covenant* mean?

Write some notes from our texts today ...

Ephesians 5:22-33 (NIV & The Message)

Covenant Marriages ...

1. seek to _____ your spouse
2. attempt to _____ your spouse
3. thrive in _____ your spouse
4. value _____ as the vehicle of enduring commitment

How can my current/future marriage reflect the relationship between **Christ** (*the groom*) and **His Church** (*the bride*)?



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Encounter these verses today:

circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side

Malachi 2:10-16 NIV

¹⁰ Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?

¹¹ Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. ¹² As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings offerings to the LORD Almighty.

¹³ Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴ **You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.**

¹⁵ Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty.

So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (NIV)

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Digging Deeper this week ...

*If you would like to take today's teaching to the next level, then start digging!
Take the following steps ...*

- 1) Rent or purchase the movie "Fireproof" and watch it with a couple. Take some time to explore what "hit close to home" and any applications you can make from it's message.
- 2) Read 1 Peter 3:1-7 and consider how true beauty is experienced. Husbands, how can you treat your wife as the beautiful creature that she is this week?
- 3) Read Ephesians 5. How can a greater degree of submission to God influence your marriage? Commit to memory verses 1-2 (as a couple if that applies).