

ROYCE WHITE

# COVENANT LOVE

A Christian  
Marriage  
Mentorship  
Manual



ReadnLead  
Publishing







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COVENANT LOVE: A Christian Marriage Mentorship Manual:

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# Dedication

How can I not dedicate this book to the King of Kings? Proverbs 19:14 says, “*House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.*” I call my bride *the most beautiful and wonderful woman in the world* – because she is. There is no man on earth who is more blessed than I am with the bride that He has given me. She embodies all the qualities of an excellent and incredible wife – I only wish I had eyes to see that sooner – she would have faired much better had I been a better leader and not the selfish toad that I have been most of my life (my apologies to toads everywhere). Thanks be to Jesus for opening my eyes – even though slowly! Finally, this is for so many of my dear friends and family who have gone through the pain of infidelity, divorce, abandonment, or irreconcilable differences. My hope is that this will help a new generation get on target and stay on target until *death do us part*. I pray for you all as I write. My heart is with you, always...





# Introduction

Greetings Beloved of the Lord!

Imagine a life where love deepens with every passing season, where challenges are met not with fear but with unwavering unity, and where the bond between you and your spouse becomes a testament to the enduring, transformative power of God's grace. This isn't a distant dream, it is the profound *reality* that awaits when a marriage is *intentionally* built on the unshakeable foundation of *Covenant Love*. Here, within the pages of *Covenant Love: A Marriage Mentorship Manual*, we embark on a sacred journey together, one that promises not just survival, but a vibrant, flourishing union designed by the *Master Architect* Himself.

In every significant aspect of life, mentorship plays a vital role in our growth. Think of the athlete who seeks guidance from a seasoned coach, the student who learns from a wise professor, or the apprentice who hones their craft under the tutelage of a master. These relationships aren't about weakness, they are about recognizing that true excellence, profound understanding, and lasting success are often cultivated through the wisdom and experience of those who have walked the path before us; for wisdom isn't what you know, it's what you do with what you know. Mentorship is a beautiful expression of God's kindness (Romans 2:4), offering us a guiding hand, a listening ear, and a wealth of shared insight that can prevent unnecessary stumbles and accelerate our progress.

Nowhere is this principle more vital, more precious, than in the sacred institution of marriage. In a world that often bombards us with fleeting trends and subjective advice, it is essential to anchor our most intimate earthly relationship to timeless, divine truth. Marriage, in its purest form, is a covenant—a sacred promise made before God, intended to be an unbreakable reflection



of His own unfailing love for us. Yet, the journey of *Covenant Love* is often uncharted territory, filled with both breathtaking beauty and unexpected terrain. This is where mentorship becomes not just helpful, but essential.



*Covenant Love* is born from a deep understanding of this need – a need for guidance, encouragement, and a clear roadmap grounded in God’s unchanging Word. This manual is much more than just a collection of information, it is a carefully crafted discipleship tool, designed to lead you and your spouse into a deeper, richer understanding of the divine blueprint for marriage. It is an invitation to feast, to *truly* feast, on every thought and concept that can transform your relationship from one of mere coexistence to one of profound, Christ-centered unity. We have poured our hearts, prayers, and experience into these pages, driven by the desire to see your marriage not only *thrive* but become a radiant beacon of God’s design.

As you turn these pages, you will discover a journey that begins with the very heart of God’s intention for marriage – understanding its divine origin and purpose. We will explore how your union is meant to be a living picture of Christ’s love for His Church, a testament to His faithfulness and grace. You will delve into the transformative power of biblical communication, learning to speak *truth in love* and listen with empathy, ensuring your conversations build up rather than tear down. We promise to guide you through understanding the unique personalities within your marriage, resolving conflicts with grace, and establishing healthy boundaries that protect your sacred space.

Furthermore, this manual will lead you into the profound depths of intimacy – spiritual, emotional, and physical – and illuminate the sacred gift of self-giving that fuels it. You will learn to build unwavering trust, navigate the painful possibility of betrayal, and partner effectively in raising the next generation. We will walk with you as you face life’s inevitable challenges and transitions, not as individuals battling alone, but as a united front, pressing on together. You will discover the joy of growing in faith, service, and a shared vision, becoming true stewards of your home and your resources.

There will be some redundancy within the book – some chapters can use a few of the same points to help understanding – let that be a sign to really let that point sink in. It’s been proven that we need to hear things several times

before they can take affect – especially if we’re not actively listening...

This is not a superficial guide; it is an intricate tapestry woven with biblical wisdom and practical application. Our promise to you is that every thought, every concept, every exercise has been designed with the deepest care to draw you closer to God and to each other. We desire for you to hang on every word, not because of our own wisdom, but because these words point to the ultimate source of wisdom and love – our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the kindness of God, revealed through His Word and His design for marriage, will lead you into a repentance that transforms, a turning towards a love that is deeper, stronger, and more joyful than you ever imagined.

Also, remember as you’re reading through this book, it is written mostly for preweds and young married couples. Wherein, it is of great value for *all* married couples, the tone is more *prescriptive* than *restorative*, meaning that the tone is directed more toward putting into place good practices. Having said that, *everything* in here can *also* be used as *restorative* practice because they are biblical, godly concepts. So, in short, though made for teaching how to, it’s also good for applying to a current problem.

*Covenant Love* is not an uber-detailed, all encompassing exposé on every facet of marriage! It is a practical guide to help you navigate the biggest potential problems within marriage and biblical methodologies, godly strategies and tactics, to press on in love with your covenant. It is also to give helpful guidance during mentorship to delight in your marriage. Scripture is full of ways we can and should do things. The more we are in tune with God’s word, the easier it is to know what we should do.

Common sense is no longer common, Fortunately, we have scripture to tell us truth and challenge our selfishness, arrogance, and avoidance.

This book is ultimately about preparation and resilience within your marriage. It’s designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of the realities that can surface in a lifelong covenant, not to sow fear, but to foster preparedness. By exploring the biblical foundations of covenant love and practical strategies for navigating challenges – from intimacy and communication to the profound crisis of betrayal and addiction – we aim to help you face potential difficulties with wisdom, courage, and a steadfast reliance on God.

Our hope is that by understanding these things beforehand and learning how to address problems as they arise, you can build a marriage that is not only enduring but also rich in grace, trust, and a love that truly honors God.



*Covenant Love* is an invitation to embrace the most beautiful love story ever conceived – the story of two individuals, joined by God, reflecting His divine love to the world. It is a promise to equip you, to encourage you, and to walk alongside you as you build a marriage that is resilient, purposeful, and gloriously Christ-centered. Dive in, explore, and prepare to feast. Your covenant journey awaits.

Much love and blessings while straining forward, I remain your servant,

Royce White, Author  
November 2025

*P.S. – As we embark on this exploration of marriage and Covenant Love, it's important for you to know my perspective. I approach life, and therefore this book, through the lens of a Biblical Christian worldview, which I often think of as the “Physics of God.” My belief is that this framework, rooted in the timeless truths of Christianity, offers a foundational understanding of reality that has proven its enduring strength. Just as the laws of physics govern the tangible world with predictable outcomes, I believe the principles of God’s truth provide a reliable pathway – in fact, the only pathway – toward the most fulfilling and robust outcomes in our lives and relationships. This perspective will infuse the entirety of “Covenant Love,” shaping how we discuss challenges, explore solutions, and ultimately, how we build a marriage that honors God and stands the test of time. My aim is to present these concepts in a way that resonates logically, even to the most discerning mind, demonstrating that aligning with timeless truth is the most profound investment we can make in our unions – and in everything else.*



"Marriage is more than just a feeling; it's a covenant. And covenants require honest conversation about the realities, not just the dreams."

Mihi

# One



## The Divine Design for Marriage

*“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”  
~Genesis 1:26*

Major Scripture References: Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:31-33; Malachi 2:14-16; Hebrews 13:4

The engagement ring sparkled on Chloe’s finger, a dazzling symbol of the whirlwind romance that had swept her and Evan off their feet. They were the picture of young love, a vibrant splash of color against the mundane, lost in the intoxicating glow of shared laughter, stolen glances, and the dizzying promise of forever. Every moment felt like a scene from a movie, destined for a happily ever after. Evan adored Chloe’s infectious energy, her boundless optimism, and the way she made even the most mundane grocery run



feel like an adventure. Chloe, in turn, was captivated by Evan's easy charm, his adventurous spirit, and the way he seemed to see the world through the same rose-tinted glasses she did.



As the wedding date loomed, the air buzzed with excited chatter about venues, guest lists, and the perfect shade of blush for the bridesmaids' dresses. They were so consumed by the planning, the dreaming, and the sheer exhilaration of it all, that the deeper realities of marriage seemed like distant, almost irrelevant, details. Chloe, caught up in the infatuation, brushed aside a tiny whisper of unease about Evan's vague answers when the topic of finances arose. He'd always managed to smooth things over with a charming smile and a promise to handle it, and she, blinded by love, had been happy to let him. Similarly, Evan, so smitten with Chloe's zest for life, didn't probe too deeply into her seemingly casual comments about "maybe having kids someday" – a statement that, in his mind, simply meant "later," not "never."

Their mentors, a wise couple in their fifties named Mark and Emily, watched with gentle concern. They had seen this before – the dizzying heights of infatuation that could obscure crucial foundations. During one of their premarital sessions, Mark, with a kind but firm tone, gently steered the conversation away from floral arrangements and towards the bedrock issues. "Chloe, Evan," he began, his voice calm, "falling in love is a beautiful gift. But marriage is more than just a feeling; it's a covenant. And covenants require honest conversation about the realities, not just the dreams."

Emily added, "The 'honeymoon phase' is wonderful, but it doesn't last forever, usually only around 18 months. What happens when the excitement fades and the everyday challenges of life set in? We need to talk about the things that matter most, the things that can make or break a marriage."

Hesitantly at first, then with a dawning realization, Chloe and Evan began to peel back the layers of their infatuation. The conversation about finances revealed Evan's significant student loan debt, a burden he had been hoping would somehow resolve itself. Then came the discussion about children, where Chloe's lighthearted "someday" translated into a deeply held personal conviction that she wasn't sure she wanted to be a mother. Evan, who had always envisioned a bustling family life, felt a knot tighten in his stomach.

It was a stark awakening. The carefully constructed fantasy of their wedding day suddenly felt fragile, threatened by the looming reality of these profound differences. But instead of letting it shatter their dreams, this difficult conversation became a turning point. They paused, truly looked at each other, and began to understand that love wasn't just about shared excitement; it was about shared commitment, about navigating complexities together. The realization settled in that marriage was far deeper than they had imagined – a lifelong journey requiring not just devotion, but a commitment to learn, to grow, and to truly invest in God and each other, because it wouldn't always be easy, and it certainly wouldn't always be roses. The path ahead was clearer, harder, but ultimately, *infinitely* more hopeful...

\* \* \* \* \*

Welcome to *Covenant Love: A Christian Marriage Mentorship Manual!* Whether you're just starting to dream about "I do," navigating those exciting (and sometimes wild!) early years of marriage, or you're a seasoned couple ready to share (and receive) wisdom, this manual is for you. Think of it as a roadmap, a conversation starter, and a wellspring of encouragement, all rolled into one. Our hope is that this workbook will shine a light on the incredible beauty and lasting strength found in a marriage built on *original intent* – on enduring biblical principles. You may have totally different perspectives than our Chloe and Evan story above, but we all have potential for struggle. Considering opposites typically attract in love relationships (about 85% of the time), there's a good chance you will wake up sooner or later next to someone you don't understand.

So, where do we begin? Right at the source. It's vital to remember that marriage isn't just some good idea cooked up by humans; it's a divine masterpiece, God's design, and His incredible gift. Understanding this foundational truth is like laying the concrete for a skyscraper – it's what everything else rests upon and goes way down deep! If you're a *seasoned professional* (married a while), don't think this is too basic – all the points are worth remembering. Plus, the chapter on *Personality* is incredibly invaluable and the questions in each of the Workbook sections are revealing and healing.



## Marriage as God's Covenant Idea



At its heart, Christian marriage is all about covenant. Long before there were wedding contracts, God was making covenants with His people – deep, relational agreements marked by faithfulness, commitment, and a yearning for connection. Think about God's promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), or the profound new covenant established through Jesus (Luke 22:20). These covenants reveal God's character: steadfast loyalty, boundless love, and an unbreakable commitment to relationship. Isn't that where you want to begin?

Marriage is meant to *mirror* this *divine covenant*. It's far more than a transaction where you exchange vows based on what you get. Instead, it's a *sacred promise*, a deeply personal oath made before God and your community to love, honor, and cherish each other through thick and thin (it's taken me a lifetime to determine what *cherish* means!). This *covenant* perspective gives marriage a resilience and depth that can weather any storm, reminding us that our commitment is rooted in something far greater than our fleeting feelings. It calls us to a love that's steadfast, enduring, and truly reflects the faithfulness of God Himself.

## Straight from the Garden: God's Original Marriage Blueprint (Genesis 1-2)

The very beginning of the Bible gives us the original blueprint for marriage. In Genesis 1:26-28, we learn that God created us male and female in His own image. This means we both carry a piece of God's likeness, and that we are uniquely designed to complement each other. We are made with God's stuff. To be sure, we are *not* God, but we're supposed to resemble our Father!

Then, in Genesis 2:18-25, God says something *incredibly* significant: "It is *not good* for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." He then forms woman from man's very being, his very flesh. This beautiful, poetic account highlights some crucial purposes for marriage:

*Companionship:* God saw that being alone wasn't the best for us. Marriage offers a unique, intimate companionship you won't find anywhere else. It's about having your 'person,' your ultimate teammate.

*Mutual Help and Complementarity:* The “helper suitable” (in Hebrew, *ēzer kenegdo* – עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ) isn’t just someone to assist; it’s a counterpart, a complement. Men and women bring different, yet equally valuable, strengths and perspectives. Together, you’re meant to support *each other*, fill in each other’s gaps, and function as a stronger, more complete unit.

*Procreation:* God’s first command to Adam and Eve was, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28). Marriage is the intended context for building a family and continuing God’s creation.

*Unity:* The declaration, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and cling to his wife, and they shall become *one flesh*” (Genesis 2:24 my *emphasis*), paints a picture of profound, *sacred* unity. Primary loyalties shift in your life, and a new, singular entity – the married couple – is formed. This “one flesh” idea isn’t just physical; it weaves together your spiritual, emotional, and physical lives – every part of your being.

So, from the very beginning, marriage was God’s idea, designed for goodness and purpose.

## **Marriage as a Love Story: A Picture of Christ and the Church** (Ephesians 5)

The Apostle Paul really takes our understanding of marriage to a deeper level in Ephesians 5:31-33. He connects the Genesis idea of becoming “one flesh” to something even grander: the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church. He says, “This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

This means that when marriage works the way God designed it, it’s meant to be a living, breathing picture of the incredible relationship between Christ and His people! How does it do this?

*Sacrificial Love:* Christ gave Himself for the Church (not only in life but through His death). Likewise, husbands are called to love their wives in a sacrificial way, putting their wives’ well-being above their own. It’s not about being the boss, but about embodying Christ’s *servant leadership*.



*Devotion and Transformation:* Christ's love cleanses and transforms the Church. A husband's love should aim to help his wife grow in her walk with God, sanctifying her – setting her apart for God's purpose.



*Respect and Partnership:* Wives are called to respect and submit to their husbands “as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22). This isn't about being a doormat, but about a willing, honoring response to *godly leadership*, reflecting the Church's devotion to Christ. For husbands, this means loving their wives as their own bodies – nourishing and cherishing them, just as Christ does the Church.

*A Gospel Reflection:* When a marriage *truly* reflects Christ's love and the Church's response, it becomes a powerful, visible testimony to the Gospel itself – God's immense love, His unwavering faithfulness, and the transformative power of His grace. It speaks volumes to the world about God's redemptive plan. Isn't that why we're here?

## **The Purpose of Marriage: A Symphony of Glorifying God and Living in Love**

When we put all these pieces together, the purpose of marriage shines brightly:

*To Glorify God:* First and foremost, our marriages are meant to point to our Creator. When couples live in covenant faithfulness, reflect Christ's love, and navigate life with His grace, their union becomes a witness to His amazing power and goodness.

*Companionship:* As Genesis showed us, marriage is designed for deep partnership and intimacy, a constant companion through life's journey.

*Procreation:* This includes both the biological continuation of the human family and the spiritual continuation of God's people through discipleship within the home.

*Mutual Support:* Spouses are called to be *each other's* biggest cheerleaders, bearing burdens together, celebrating joys, and spurring each other on in their faith.

*A Picture of the Gospel:* As we've seen, marriage is intended to be a living, breathing illustration of Christ's profound love for His Church.

### **The Essential Ingredient: Grace**

Let's be real for a moment. No marriage will ever perfectly hit every single mark without a crucial ingredient: God's grace. We are all human, and that means we're prone to selfishness, misunderstandings, and plain old mistakes. Not to mention sin. Grace – God's free, unmerited favor and His empowering presence – isn't just a *nice-to-have* in marriage; it's the essential oxygen it needs to survive and truly thrive.

Grace allows us to:

*Forgive Freely:* To let go of offenses and extend forgiveness to our spouse, just as Christ has forgiven us (Colossians 3:13). It's a hard but necessary discipline. How many times has Christ forgiven you?

*Be Patient:* To bear with our spouse's quirks and imperfections, understanding that they, like us, are on a journey.

*Love Actively:* To *choose* actions that benefit our spouse, even when our feelings aren't perfectly aligned. It's love as a verb, not just a feeling.

*Receive Love:* To accept our spouse's love and forgiveness, recognizing our own desperate need for it.

Without grace, the inevitable bumps and bruises of human relationships would quickly fracture a marriage. But with grace, even the toughest times can become opportunities for deeper connection and growth.

### **Marriage as a Sacred Covenant Oath**

We've talked about marriage as a covenant, and it's worth emphasizing that this covenant is *sealed* by an oath – often declared publicly during a wedding ceremony. This isn't just tradition, it's a solemn promise made before God. Malachi 2:14-16 speaks about covenant-breaking in marriage with



serious weight, reminding us of its *sacred* nature. And Hebrews 13:4 calls us to “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”



This covenant oath means:

*Lifelong Commitment:* The vows you exchange are intended for life. It’s a commitment to stick together through... *everything*.

*Exclusive Fidelity:* The promise of being ‘one’ – emotionally and physically – is the *heart* of the marital covenant.

*God as Witness:* God isn’t just present; He’s the ultimate witness and, in a sense, the *guarantor* of your covenant vows.

Understanding this covenant framework is the first step in building a marriage that’s not only strong and faithful but also deeply pleasing to God.

## **Introducing Marriage Mentorship: A Lifelong Journey of Mutual Growth**

While this workbook offers a wealth of biblical wisdom and practical tools, the journey of marriage is best navigated *with a guide*. We believe that true growth and resilience are often fostered through intentional mentorship.

*The Vision:* Imagine a journey of marriage, ideally beginning even before the wedding bells ring. This journey is not meant to be walked alone. Marriage mentorship offers a seasoned guide, or mentor – an older, wiser couple, typically 20 years or more into their own covenant walk, who can walk alongside a newly engaged or newly married couple or a couple that is younger than they are! This isn’t about rescuing a sinking ship – although that is a possibility – but about *equipping* adventurers before they even set sail, or offering experienced navigation as they encounter the open seas. As the author of this workbook, my vision is for couples to *pro-actively* build strong foundations rather than *re-actively* address crises.

*The Model:* This mentorship typically involves monthly meetings between the two couples (initially six months of premarital and then monthly for the first year after marriage). A key element is the intentionality of break-

ing into separate conversations within the mentorship context – the men speaking together alone and the women speaking together alone. In these smaller settings, the mentor couple asks probing, honest questions: “How is it going, *really*? Is there anything you’re doing that you feel you shouldn’t be, or something you’re not doing that you should be? How are you seeing your relationship succeed, and where are the areas of struggle? What needs to change for your relationship to grow stronger in Christ? What are your ‘deal-breakers’ in marriage, and which ones are still in play for discussion or re-evaluation?” This provides a safe space for open dialogue about successes and struggles. It’s an opportunity for mentors to share relatable experiences, perhaps a time when Dave almost forgot Emily’s birthday for the third time, or when Sarah learned the hard way that interrupting Michael mid-sentence never ended well. Sharing these “real life” moments makes the wisdom accessible and the journey feel less daunting.

*The Process:* After the individual discussions, all four come back together. Issues that surfaced are discussed openly, and the mentor couple offers biblical wisdom, practical experience, and gentle guidance. Often, “homework” is assigned – specific actions or discussions for the younger couple to undertake before the next meeting. This might involve practicing a new communication technique, praying about a specific financial concern, or simply scheduling dedicated time together. This structured approach ensures consistent progress and active engagement.

*The Goal:* The aim is to equip the engaged, newly married, or even older couple with invaluable insights from those who have navigated the waters of marriage for decades. This proactive approach helps address potential problems before they become overwhelming, fostering growth and preventing relational damage. Think of it as preventative maintenance for the most important relationship in their lives. As one wise counselor put it, “The greatest marriages are not those without conflict, but those with the skills and commitment to navigate conflict constructively.” The goal is to learn to deal with problems and then to put in action methodologies to solve them in a day – not wait a week, month, year, decade, or life long, so you can move on from an issue before it becomes a habit, building a vaccination against future problems so situations are handled and communication becomes a natural function.

*Ongoing Support:* This mentorship isn't just for the engagement period. It's recommended to continue quarterly after the first year of monthly meetings, ensuring that significant issues are addressed promptly, preventing them from festering and becoming insurmountable. Couples can also establish their own regular meeting rhythm to continue these essential conversations. This system of ideas, concepts, and questions develops a powerful, proactive approach to strengthening marriages, mirroring the principles of leadership development but applied within the intimate context of marriage. It's about building a culture of ongoing support and learning, fostering resilience one conversation at a time.



## Chapter Summary

Marriage is God's idea, rooted in His covenant nature and His redemptive plan for humanity. It's meant to reflect His relationship with us and serve specific purposes, grounded in a sacred oath. Crucially, this journey is best undertaken with the support and wisdom of experienced mentors, forming a lifelong commitment to mutual growth and proactive problem-solving.

- God created humanity (male and female) in His image, declaring it “very good.”
- God established the marital union as a foundational element of human society, instituting the “one flesh” principle.
- The creation of Eve from Adam's rib is presented not as a deficiency but as a demonstration of unity, complementarity, and mutual interdependence.
- The concept of “ēzer kenegdo” (helper suitable/corresponding to him) highlights the distinct yet complementary nature of male and female in marriage.
- Marriage is presented as a divinely ordained covenant, reflecting God's own covenantal faithfulness and love.
- The initial state of aloneness for Adam, before Eve's creation, points to the inherent human need for deep, relational connection and partnership.

- The creation narrative sets the stage for understanding human identity, purpose, and the sacredness of marital commitment within God’s overarching plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the end of each chapter, there are 10 questions to pour over and answer alone and together – you can also answer them with your Mentor who will help you move toward unison in all these areas. Turn to the next page to see the list of 10 questions and begin really, really, really moving toward understanding God’s purpose and your role.

Take your time on these answers both from your mind and from the gut – it will help you come to a total answer. Typically, our prefrontal cortex gives us the academic or thought/mind answer from our main brain and answering from the gut gives us our subconscious and experiential answers/feelings from our second brain – the endocrine system). They make a powerful pair in making decisions.

***General question to always ask yourself...***

Based on what you now have learned from this chapter, what do you *specifically* and *immediately* need to do or want to do to change for the better? Will you commit to doing it? Be specific and give a date and time when you will start to implement. Who is your Positive Accountability partner? Inform them so they can keep you on target.

(More questions on the next page.)

**Action: Crafting Your Covenant Affirmation**

Read Appendix F: *The Vows of Covenant Love*. Carefully read through the traditional marriage vows presented there. Consider the language, the promises, and the depth of commitment they represent. Reflect on Your Understanding. Now, take some time to write your own personal “Covenant Affirmation.” This isn’t a legal document, but a heartfelt expression of what covenant means to you in the context of your relationship



## Workbook Questions for Deeper Growth and Homework



1. What does it mean to view marriage as a “covenant” rather than just a contract? How does this covenant perspective affect your commitment?

*Explanation sought: We want you to understand the depth of commitment inherent in a covenant. A contract is conditional; a covenant is an unconditional promise. How does this distinction impact your view of the vows you will make or have made? Consider how this covenant outlook might influence your response to conflict or unmet expectations.*

2. How does the creation account in Genesis (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:18-25) inform your understanding of marriage’s purpose?

*Explanation sought: Reflect on the specific details in Genesis – God’s image, companionship, complementarity, procreation, and the “one flesh” union. How do these foundational purposes shape your expectations for marriage, and how might they influence your roles within it?*

3. Ephesians 5:31-33 speaks of marriage as a picture of Christ and the Church. What are some initial thoughts on what this means for your marriage?

*Explanation sought: This is a profound theological concept. What does it mean for your marriage to visibly represent the love, sacrifice, and devotion between Christ and His Church? Don’t worry about having all the answers; initial thoughts are welcome, and we will explore this more deeply. How might this symbolic representation influence your daily interactions?*

4. In what ways can your marriage serve to glorify God?

*Explanation sought: Beyond personal happiness, how can your union be a witness to God’s character and purposes in the world? Think about how your unity, love, and faithfulness can reflect Him. Consider how even mundane aspects of your life together can become acts of worship.*

5. How does the concept of “grace” apply to the challenges and joys of married life?

*Explanation sought: Grace is God’s unmerited favor and empowering presence. How does receiving and extending grace impact how you handle imperfections, conflicts, and celebrate blessings in marriage? Think of specific instances where grace was needed or extended.*

6. What are the key differences between viewing marriage as a covenant and viewing it as a societal contract?

*Explanation sought: This revisits the covenant concept. Elaborate on the practical differences in commitment, expectations, and dissolution if marriage is seen as a covenant versus a contract. How might this affect your approach to disagreements?*

7. What are some practical ways you can intentionally build a marriage that reflects God's glory?

*Explanation sought: Move from understanding to action. What concrete steps can you take, individually and together, to make your marriage a more visible reflection of God's presence and character? Consider small, daily actions as well as larger intentional efforts.*

8. How can your marriage contribute to the "pro-creation" (both biological and spiritual) purpose God has for His people?

*Explanation sought: Consider both the physical aspect of raising children and the spiritual aspect of raising them in faith, or contributing to the spiritual growth of others through your union. How can your marriage be a "launchpad" for God's kingdom work?*

9. What does it mean to find "complementary help" in your spouse, as described in Genesis 2?

*Explanation sought: Reflect on how you and your spouse uniquely complement each other. How do your differences (when aligned with God's purposes) strengthen your partnership? Think of specific areas where you "fill in the gaps" for each other.*

10. What are your initial thoughts on the concept of marriage mentorship, and how might seeking guidance from a more experienced couple benefit your journey?

*Explanation sought: This question invites reflection on the mentorship model introduced in the teaching section. What are your personal thoughts, hopes, or concerns about being mentored or perhaps one day being mentors? How do you envision this impacting your marriage?*

11. Pray together: Ask God to help you understand and live out His design for your marriage.

