

## Relationship Goals

- Christ-Centered
- Mission-Driven
- Devil-Kicking
- Covenant-Keeping Marriage

Christ Centered Couples pray together every day!

#2: Mission Driven: The key to a great, godly marriage isn't happiness, it's unity. So the first step to moving towards unity in your marriage is to clearly define your mission as a couple!

Last week we talked about how to become a Devil-Kicking couple, and that first step was to stop saying, I have a right, and start asking what's my responsibility

Today, we are going to tie it all up in a nice little bow!

Married someone opposite?

While Dating: Opposites attract

In Marriage: opposites attack

So cute how laid back they are...stop being such a lazy bum!

Punctual...Flexible

Creative...Organized

Spending...Saving

Flat pancakes...thick.

We're in love—we're in divorce court!

If you have lost a marriage...Stop looking back start looking forward

### **Matthew 19:3-6 NIV**

Some Pharisees came to (Jesus) 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."

This type of question has been around for centuries, they want to go back to what the law says not what God says. It's the same way today, we want to create laws that redefine marriage into

something that fits our desires or our agendas. But, Jesus makes it very clear, “It doesn’t matter what your laws say, here’s what God says...”

Our culture tends to look at marriage as a contract, but God has said it’s something more than that it is a covenant!

- Covenant is between **2 equal parties having equal privileges and equal responsibilities**
- Hebrew word for covenant literally means **to bond or permanently joined together**: Super Glue
- Reason divorce feels horrible, ripping one thing in two, permanent damage (Fingers w/ Super G)
- Don’t un-one what God made one.

Make the intentional move from contract thinking to covenant thinking...First Step:

**Change your mindset from contract to covenant!**

You will never develop a covenant keeping marriage if you keep a contract mindset...

**A Contract is based on mutual distrust**

If you fully trusted the other person you would not need a contract?!

Filled with If/Then statements: If you do this, then I’ll pay you this...If you don’t do this, then I’ll trust you with this...

**A Covenant is based on mutual commitment**

You enter a covenant **not expecting to get, but promising to give!**

Vows, I promise to give to you my love and devotion...as long as she doesn’t gain too much weight...as long as he doesn’t snore too loud...

**A Contract limits my liability and increases my protections**

Rent houses - VRBO, sign a contract includes renters insurance (I don’t have to pay, and owner gets paid)

**A Covenant releases my rights and expands my responsibility**

Permanent relationship—no end date—till death do us part.

**BUT...I’m not happy.**

**I don’t trust him.**

**I don’t love her.**

A covenant mindset challenges you to stop pointing the finger, and start pondering your failures. It’s easy to blame the other person, but how about starting to take accountability for your actions. If you are constantly looking for their faults you will constantly find them...listen to this...

**Galatians 6:7-9 NLT**

Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

## 2 questions for you...

### What are you planting?

If I smile at you...Flip you off.

Show and extend Grace, thoughtfulness—Criticism, Controlling, Complaining

BUT...I don't feel like being nice, feel like forgiving, feel like working.

How many other areas of life does that excuse work?

- Not going to feed my baby—don't feel like it.
- Not work—don't feel like it.
- Not pay taxes—don't feel like it.

### Where are you planting?

Plant a seed over here—should I expect a tree over here?

Invest all my passion in my hobby, my career, my kids should I expect a harvest with my spouse?

**God is my one. My spouse is my two!**  
**Prioritize your marriage above everything but God!**  
**Includes your kids...**

Look at each other, realize your marriage is as good as you decide it's going to be.

Listen...not giving up—doesn't just mean not getting divorced...it means you are not going to stop working on a Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Devil-Kicking, Covenant-Keeping relationship with each other!

Reap a HARVEST—Awesome Intimacy, Amazing Story, Build Integrity

Harvest—if you do not give up!

What could the Harvest look like in your marriage?

...Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal 6:9

Single, divorced...Make a covenant right now with your future spouse (not even in the picture yet). Our society pressures, pushes, and is permeated with the idea that marriage is a social/societal construct, and so as society changes so does marriage...

God created marriage, and if you want a Christ-centered, mission-driven, devil-kicking, covenant-keeping marriage someday, you've got to lay the foundation in your life today! Your someday will never happen if you don't start today!

You cannot build a life of righteousness on a foundation of sinfulness! So, honor yourself, but more importantly honor God!

Don't get involved sexually before marriage, it doesn't lead to happiness...

Refuse the temptation to do a 'trial run' and play marriage by living together, it doesn't make things better...

Don't just look at the outside appearance, but do they love Jesus? And if they don't...have nothing to do with them, because they either aren't the person for you or God's still got more work to do on them before they are ready for you!

Ask every married couple to stand, husbands put your arms around you wife, if you need to move...move! If you are on the team, it's all good we will give you time to get up here.