



February 25, 2018

“So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate”
Matthew 19:6

I. A Covenant vs. A Contract

- A. Covenant (313x) = (HB berith/GK diatheke) = An oath/relationship between parties and God transferring authority with blessings and cursings.
- B. Contract = negotiated agreement considered to fulfill specific purposes with legal remedy
- C. Contrasts:

<u>Covenant</u>	<u>Contracts</u>
1. Unconditional Promises	1. Conditional Promises
2. Expectation of success	2. Expectation of failure
3. Unlimited time	3. Limited time periods
4. Accountable to God	4. Accountable to human courts

II. A Covenant Making God (vs. 4,5)

- A. This is a key to the Torah – “Haven’t you read this?”
- B. God is a covenant making God s
- C. Christ brings up the original design for marriage (Gen 1:27; 2:24)
- D. Leave and cleave – “United” = become “one flesh”
 - 1. “Leave” = to make a break with the influence/authority of the parents
 - 2. “United” = Kallo = to “glue together” – yoked together
 - 3. “One flesh” = cooperation, compassion, and commitment

III. A Covenant Commitment (vs. 6 – 9)

- A. “they are no longer two – but one” (vs. 6a)
 - 1. We give up our right to be ourselves.
 - 2. We choose to stand upon the oath we made.
 - 3. We choose to stand together and work together
- B. “...what God has joined together” (vs. 6b)
 - 1. Marriage is divine work and therefore is a covenant between us and God
 - 2. God knows what we need and what we will need in the future
 - 3. We choose to trust God even though we don’t know the future
- C. Covenant Fighting “Let no man separate” (vs. 6c)
 - 1. Fighting FOR the marriage instead of for ourselves.
 - 2. Confronting to heal and bring peace where there has been chaos/hurt
 - 3. The mindset of eternity – the words of covenant –
The testimony of God’s word
- D. Divorce becomes a “heart” issue (vs. 7-9)
 - 1. Why did divorce come into being?
 - 2. Moses allowed it - your heart was “hard” = sklerokardia = no spiritual awareness
 - 3. “This was not from the beginning” – How God desired for you
 - 4. Strict guidelines for divorce – porneia – lifestyle of sexual deviance or idol worship