

**Reading:** I Peter 3:1-12

**Topic:** Married Life &  
Spiritual Understanding

**INTRODUCTION:** Many people enter marriage with ideas of a \_\_\_\_\_ life of continual romantic Heaven on earth, but when confronted with the reality of life, some want to \_\_\_\_\_ up and leave.

## I. COVENANT OR CONTRACT:

### A. A Contract:

1. Lawyers define a contract as a \_\_\_\_\_ document between two parties based on distrust of each other and where each party is primarily concerned only with his or her \_\_\_\_\_ interests.
2. When people are married under a contract, the document is already preparing the \_\_\_\_\_ for an adversarial relationship as selfishness is the basis of the marriage – \_\_\_\_\_ rather than giving.

### B. A Covenant:

1. A covenant is defined as an agreement which is \_\_\_\_\_ on a relationship of commitment between two parties or individuals who \_\_\_\_\_ on the best interests of each other, not just themselves.
2. God designed marriage to be a covenant relationship, not a contract relationship, a union \_\_\_\_\_ a man and a \_\_\_\_\_, in which both are benefited and blessed. Gen. 1:27,28

## II. COMMITMENT OR FEELINGS:

### A. Feelings:

1. Romantic attraction which draws a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ to each other is often based on feelings which can cause \_\_\_\_\_ to do things that they would not ordinarily do for each other.
2. Feelings are great as long as they are \_\_\_\_\_ feelings, but it is important to realize that feelings are fickle and they can fluctuate between \_\_\_\_\_ feelings and \_\_\_\_\_ feelings, depending on circumstances and situations.
3. People often use the expression – “I \_\_\_\_\_ I in love” but if all you do is “\_\_\_\_\_ in love,” you might also \_\_\_\_\_ out of love because that idea is based on feelings.

### B. Commitment:

1. Commitment is defined as the state or quality of being dedicated to a \_\_\_\_\_, activity or a person, and is not based on \_\_\_\_\_ but loyalty and devotion.
2. Commitment is based on \_\_\_\_\_, not on feelings and is the necessary ingredient to keeping a marriage together in whatever situations that may \_\_\_\_\_ in the cycle of life.
3. The strength of any marriage is based on the commitment \_\_\_\_\_ by the two individuals that say their vows to each other before God and the \_\_\_\_\_.

### C. For Better Or Worse:

1. The phrase, “for better or for worse” which is stated in the marriage \_\_\_\_\_, is an acknowledgement That there will be \_\_\_\_\_ times and also \_\_\_\_\_ times to pass through together.
2. It is commitments, not feelings that keep a husband and wife \_\_\_\_\_ through the good times and the difficult times.

### III. SPIRITUAL WARFARE & MARRIAGE:

#### A. *The Devil –The Destroyer:*

1. Not everything that goes wrong in a marriage can be \_\_\_\_\_ directly on the devil – sometimes it is just the carnal nature of the two \_\_\_\_\_ that are involved.
2. However, it is important to remember that the devil is a \_\_\_\_\_ and he seeks to pull down and ruin every good thing that \_\_\_\_\_ has made, including marriage. Jn. 10:10

#### B. *Warfare is Real:*

1. It is important for both husband and wife to be people of \_\_\_\_\_ and also to know the Word of God so that they may be aware and able to recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of satan trying to work against the unity of the marriage relationship.
2. Be aware that the adversary will always try to stir up trouble, especially getting \_\_\_\_\_ for church, on the \_\_\_\_\_ to church or even as you \_\_\_\_\_ at church.
3. When a husband and wife get upset with each other, especially at church, it is very \_\_\_\_\_ to enter into the Presence of God and have the \_\_\_\_\_ to worship. I Peter 3:7

#### C. *Fighting Together – Not Against Each Other:*

1. Once a couple become aware that the adversary is using his \_\_\_\_\_ to try to drive a wedge between them, they must stop fighting against \_\_\_\_\_ other and join forces to fight against the devil.
2. Praying together with each other and for each other is a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ against the forces of darkness that seek to harm and destroy your marriage. 2 Cor. 10:3,4

**CONCLUSION:** Great marriages do not happen by \_\_\_\_\_ or by accident, but they happen as the result of consistent investment of time and \_\_\_\_\_, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, affection, prayer and mutual respect, which all together produces solid commitment between husband and wife.