

# COVENANT

## The Week of October 24, 2021 Covenant Marriage Conversation Guide

### Last Week

- Did you work to provoke others to love and good works? How did it go?
- Have you joined Celebration yet (or the church you attend)? Pray about whether this is the time for you to join and visit [icelebration.org/fresh-start](http://icelebration.org/fresh-start) to learn more.

### This Week's Take Aways

- About God's Design for Marriage and Family: (Ephesians 5:22-6:4) I believe marriage and family are gifts from God and serve as a picture of Christ's relationship with the church. Family is the first environment where I am able to demonstrate my love for God by the way I love others.



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## Intro Questions

- Who can quote the priest's speech from the Princess Bride? Accent required!
- How many states have covenant marriage laws? (Do an internet search!)
- What is a covenant marriage law in the United States? How is it different from covenant marriage in the Bible? How is it the same?



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## Legal & Loving

Ephesians 5:22-33

*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, since we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.*



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*This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.*

- Explain the hierarchy laid out in this passage.
- Write down the husband's responsibilities.
- Write down the wife's responsibilities.

## 1 Peter 3:1-2

*In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live when they observe your pure, reverent lives.*

- How is the wife to act if her husband is not a believer and/or is not living in submission to Christ?



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1 Corinthians 7:32-35

*I want you to be without concerns. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord – how he may please the Lord. But the married man is concerned about the things of the world – how he may please his wife – and his interests are divided. The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the things of the world – how she may please her husband. I am saying this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is proper and so that you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.*

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of marriage according to Paul in this passage?
- An unmarried person is not left out from the covenant! Who is their head?



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## Promise

Proverbs 5:15-18

*Drink water from your own cistern,  
water flowing from your own well.  
Should your springs flow in the streets,  
streams in the public squares?  
They should be for you alone  
and not for you to share with strangers.  
Let your fountain be blessed,  
and take pleasure in the wife of your youth.*

- God has given us covenant marriage for our enjoyment. What do these verses tell us should be our attitude in the marriage relationship?



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Matthew 19:4-6

*“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, and he also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”*

- Summarize what Jesus said about marriage in your own words.



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## Build & Strengthen

Ephesians 6:11-20

*Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession*



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*for all the saints. Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.*

- Prayer is vital to all of our relationship, especially our marriages. How are you praying the Word for your spouse?
- Pray for and with each other this week. Pray for your spouse to have, equip, and use each piece of the Armor of God in this passage.
- Your spouse is your first priority in discipleship. How are you urging each other on to grow in your faith? Take practical steps to grow and learn together this week.



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## Next Steps

- Visit [icelebration.org/sparksfly](https://icelebration.org/sparksfly) and consider joining us for Sparks Fly: A Marriage Weekend, February 4-5, 2022
- If you're married, take some time and read Song of Songs together this week.

## Additional Resources

- [What is covenant marriage?](#)
- [Three important things in Marriage](#)
- The Heritage Foundation / Effects of Marriage on the community-
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhPd0SJByxU&t=48s> (great video on marriage / divorce and effects on community)
  - <https://www.heritage.org/marriage-and-family/heritage-explains/why-the-declining-marriage-rate-affects-everyone>

