



Together - Part 3 Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening thought

Most people begin their marriage in front of a church at an altar. If not in a church usually they have an ordained minister lead them in the following vows as they begin their life together.

_____, wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband (wife), to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him (her), comfort him (her), honor, and keep and keep him (her) in sickness and in health; and forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him (her), so long as ye both shall live?

The woman or the man shall answer

I will.

I, _____, take thee, _____, to my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my trust.

Discussion Questions

1. The definition of a **vow** in Dictionary.com is: " - noun 1) a solemn promise, pledge, or personal commitment: *marriage vows; a vow of secrecy*. 2) a solemn promise made to a deity or saint committing oneself to an act, service, or condition. 3) a solemn or earnest declaration. In your own words how would you define a vow? What does it mean to you to make a verbal promise to another?
2. In the wedding vows how long is the commitment for? Do the vows offer certain conditions where one may decide not to say married?
3. Why do you think people in our culture are more likely to pay more attention to having the right wedding cake than taking the vows seriously in our society? Compare our commitment to paying our mortgage and fearing the consequences to how seriously we take being accountable to God for breaking our marriage vows?

4. Discuss the following scriptures regarding what the Bible says about keeping your vows.

Psalm 76:11

11 Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them; let all the neighboring lands bring gifts to the One to be feared. NIV

Psalm 116:14

14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. NIV

Psalm 116:18

18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, NIV

5. Look at the passage in Genesis 15:8-21 and review how promises were confirmed in the Old Testament and how serious they were.
6. Read the following passages and discuss the fact that we are accountable before God for the vows we make. Hebrews 13:4-5, Malachi 2:13-16
7. If two people have a resolve to not consider divorce as an option do you think that they are more likely or less likely to work on their problems and become stronger and healthier married couple? If they are unsure if they are committed to stay together why does it produce more instability? See James 1:8
8. Read Ruth 1:16-18 (see below) out loud as a group and share a story about some couple you admire that has been married for a long time?
9. If you are married what do you remember most about your wedding? (have fun with this question)
10. Abraham wept as his wife was being buried in Genesis 23:1-2. Deep love for another is only obtained by spending many years together and tears at the end of your spouse's life represent a level of love people miss if they don't stay together. Discuss some of the benefits of a long life together.

Final Thought

Ruth 1:16-18

16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." NIV