

Commitment: a Divine Principle for Harmony in Marriage (2)

Genesis 2:24; Exodus 12:31-33; Joshua 1:1-15; Ephesians 4:22-24; 5:18-33; Colossians 3:4a; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:9-10

Commitment: does this word frighten you? It probably does and maybe it should. Why? To commit in marriage is to let other options go, to forever release any thoughts of "Plan B". To "commit" to one another for life in exclusion of all others is a radical, terminal decision. It is to consciously and deliberately make a permanent, life-time decision even while realizing it could involve the greatest of challenges and the most frightening of unknowns.

In marriage, it is a vow one to another that "I make this choice gladly and thankfully, with my eyes wide open. It is a declaration to the seen and to the unseen, to friends and to enemies, "This is my choice, this is our choice...that with loving hearts inside us and faithful commitment between us, we leave all else to become as one person 'for better or for worse!'"

There seems to be a divine principle of this in the Bible, which brings excellence to human experience when faithful commitment is practiced. Especially in marriage, there needs to be a "leaving" of something before being able to "enter" something more and better. This is why each one needs an intimate relationship with Christ. Only Jesus truly knows what "commitment" is and can supply in us such a Life. Consider this divine principle for commitment in the Bible:

The biblical principle of commitment:

1. To Adam and Eve, a man is to leave his parents and cleave to his wife in marriage.
2. To Moses and Joshua, you must leave Egypt so you can enter the Good Land.
3. To believers, put off the old man (natural) and put on the new man (spiritual).
4. To the Bridegroom and the church as His Bride, leaving all else for eternal union.

Questions for prayer, consideration and fellowship:

1. What keeps you committed to each other, love or covenant? What if love dims?
2. How do you keep commitment fresh? What experiences of this do you have?
3. What does commitment look like in the beginning, and after 20, 25, 50 or 60 years?
4. How deep does your commitment go? Are you afraid of it? What holds you back?
5. What should you do if one of you stays committed and the other does not?

Suggestions:

1. Schedule regular times to talk about how you are doing in your marriage. (I Pet 3:1-7).
2. Talk about repentance for failures and forgiving one another. (Lk 17:3-5; Mt 6:15).
3. Make regular times to enjoy each other, have fun together, pray together.
4. Agree to talk about it when you find yourselves going/growing in different directions.
5. Seek God in His Word together; openly discuss things that affect your commitment.

