

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### "A New Pledge"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

While doing research for my "Topical Illustrative Commentary" on "Biblical Marriage," I discovered that there are many books full of sloppy love. These teachings are like chocolate covered treats, they satisfy the lust and sweet to the taste, but after digested they only clog the arteries to the spiritual heart (the source for true union). Thus leaving couples unequipped to handle the trials, conflicts and temptations thrown at them in a sin cursed world. According to many researchers, the chances of a marriage lasting, "Til Death Do They Part" is becoming less likely every decade.

The great news is, for those who truly seek the Lord and have spiritual ears to hear God's plan for marriage, there is power from on high that enables couples to fulfill that vow made before God, "Til Death Do They Part."

While change is certain in a changing world, the marriage that thrives in uncertain times has a man and wife who set their spiritual hearts on unchanging truths. These truths are, **One:** the heart of humanity has not changed. **Two:** the Lord's will for marriage hasn't changed. **Three:** the marriage dedicated to Jesus Christ enjoys God's faithfulness and compassions. **Four:** God's truths revealed in the Word of God will always remain unchanged.

God's truths for marriage is clearly spelled out in the Old and New Testament with one of the earliest found in Genesis 2:24, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24-25) It is important to note - before a

couple can enjoy the three truths found in this passage of Scripture, they must have a conviction that marriage is God's plan, not man's idea. A true understanding of this will lead couples to seek high quality ministries who are equipped to teach them differences between "eros" love,

"storge" love, "phileo" love, and the truths of "Agape" love.

Once a couple understands God's love and allows Him to place His love within them, they can properly apply the truths of Genesis 2:24. The first begins with grasping the language, "leave" as it is used

in regard to marriage. The significance of this language in marriage involves a new pledge to a spouse in which all former commitments are superseded by commitments to each other. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit of Christ married couples can learn how to effectively leave their parents' home while at the same time honor their parents by listening to their Godly wise counsel. They can place hobbies, careers, work, friends, civil responsibilities and self-fulfillment under meeting the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of their spouse. The first consideration of the day is, "Will this or that be seen and enjoyed by my loving spouse as coming from a heart of true servanthood?"

Note: "For this reason a man will leave..." The key reason (however, not always) so many marriages are failing is because the man of the household is not seeking the counsel of the Word of God on how to "leave" or place all other commitments under his pledge made before God. That pledge of Holy Covenant (Malachi 2:14), to be a Biblical husband to his wife, to love her, comfort her, and keep her in sickness and in health - forsaking all others and being faithful to her as long as both of them shall live.

Many husbands have produced the fruit of repentance of overseeing their marriages from a worldly perspective and are now enjoying the blessings of God on their marriages. It must start with the man - then a repentant wife can fulfill her Holy Covenant made before God.

## Stormy Weather

We all need dependable shelter when the tragedies of life rain down upon us. Yet, like the pedestrian who didn't replace his battered umbrella with a stronger one, many of us wait until our situation is desperate before we start looking for protection.

Don't wait until the pelting storms of your life turn your spirit inside out; come to know the love of the Creator of the Universe. In Psalm 57:1, it is proclaimed, "I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed."

You can meet God in His sanctuary as you worship each week. He will give you shelter from the storms in your life.



Sunday Luke 24.1-12	Monday Luke 24.13-35	Tuesday Luke 24.36-53	Wednesday Romans 3.19-31	Thursday Romans 4.1-12	Friday Romans 4.13-25	Saturday Romans 5.1-11
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