

NO ORDINARY MARRIAGE

Week 2: The “Piece Of Paper” Matters

February 8 & 9, 2014

Saying “I DO” to God’s Wisdom in Marriage

Covenantal Marriage

- a long term binding commitment embodied in a legal contract.

“Then Moses took the blood from the basins ... declaring, “Look, this blood **confirms the covenant** the LORD has made with you in giving you these instructions.””

(Exodus 24:8 NLT-SE)

“In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is **the new covenant** between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood...””

(1 Cor. 11:25 NLT-SE)

“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.”

(Ephesians 5:25 NLT-SE)

Consumer vs. “The Piece of Paper”

- **Vendor Relationship:** *My needs are more important than the relationship.*
- **Covenant Relationship:** *The relationship is more important than my needs*

The “Piece of Paper” Creates:

- Security
- Stability
- Freedom

Love and “The Piece of Paper”:

- “I love you enough to marry you.”
- Christian Marriage is defined by God’s Covenant Love.

**“God’s relationship to us is not based
on our ability to meet His needs.””**

Tim Keller, The Meaning of Marriage



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Small Group/Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Without looking at additional resources, how would you define “love”?
2. If someone said to you: “I don’t need a piece of paper to love them...” how would you respond?
3. Marriage is not a political institution, but something created by God Himself. Does this change the way you view marriage in any way? Please explain.
4. In what ways does the commitment of marriage make it the deepest relationship possible you can have with another person? Write down the first few that come to mind.
5. In what ways do spouses today “bargain” with one another? For example, “If you give me _____ then I’ll _____.” List as many as you can.
 - *How do you think bargaining affects the relationship?*
6. Timothy Keller writes, “Whether we are husband or wife, we are not to live for ourselves but for the other. And that is the hardest yet single most important function of being a husband or a wife in marriage.” (p.45, 53)
 - *Do you agree that this is the hardest and most important part of the marriage relationship? Explain.*

* Keller, Timothy J., and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Dutton, 2011.



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