



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 19, 2023

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
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Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Wedding Vows Are to Be Honored

“Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife...through sickness and health, until death do you part?” “I do.” “Do you take this man...until death do you part?” “I do.” “Before God and these witnesses, I now pronounce you man and wife.”

Of course, you have heard or spoken similar words at your own or someone’s wedding. That moment when someone confirms their vow and intent with “*I do*” is a little tense. It is a big responsibility to take on. That’s the point isn’t it? “*I do*” has to mean something. No one replies “*I think so*” or “*Probably.*” Sadly, people treat those words as if they mean nothing.

“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool’s voice is known by his many words. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—Better not to vow than to vow and not pay” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

Too often, we see a couple, who have taken those vows, going to the courthouse and wanting a divorce. The reason? Irreconcilable differences! Wait a minute. Didn’t you both vow to stay together through the bad and good? Sickness and health, richer or poorer...and you quit because you CAN’T get along. No, you are calling it quits because you are both immature and selfish. If you have kids, they deserve better than that.

The family unit, the societal foundation of this once great country, has been destroyed by selfishness and lack of character. The problems from broken marriages can’t be calculated as there are so many rippling effects. Now, people don’t even bother with the ceremony but shack up. This also causes instability and other problems, especially if kids are involved.

I pray for the day that people will go back to honoring these vows. Our nation and children need it desperately. We all do.

Chris Moore
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The Three R's of a Great Marriage

June is definitely the month for weddings, and this past June I presided over two weddings and attended another one. Weddings are stressful, but exciting times. It's very moving to witness the joining of the lives of a man and a woman in holy matrimony. It brings to mind thoughts of optimism and hope for the future. As far as my advice to newlyweds goes, I usually offer three "**R's**" to a sound, successful, and spectacular marriage.

Romance. Love is a key element to keeping a marriage vibrant. It is because of love that a marriage should take place, and it is love that keeps the heart of a healthy marriage beating soundly (**Song of Sol. 2:4-5; 4:1ff; 8:6-7; 1 Cor. 7:5**).

Relationship. When a marriage takes place, the two become one flesh and they begin a holy, permanent relationship with one another, and with God (**Matt. 19:4-6**). A marriage will only survive when people are dedicated to one another exclusively and intensely (**Eph. 5:25-28; Titus 2:4**). A marriage will only flourish when the relationship in the marriage is one of sharing and caring (**Heb. 13:16**).

Responsibility. When two people are wed, a husband and a wife are created. Each have biblical responsibilities in their respective roles (**1 Pet. 3:1-7; Col. 3:18-19**). For a marriage to make it as God desires, each must take their spousal duties seriously and fully implement them as God has designed.

It would be good for all of us who are married to do an inventory check of these three "**R's**" often to make sure we are doing our part in keeping our marriages active and alive. But there is another application to these: Christians are well aware that they are a part of the church, the bride of Christ (**2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; 21:2**). As a bride to Christ, these should apply spiritually to us, also.

Romance. Christian, are you "*in love*" with Christ? Do you "*keep falling in love with Him over and over and over and over again*?" Does your love for Him grow stronger as time goes by (**Mark 12:30; 1 Cor. 16:22; Eph. 6:24**)?

Relationship. Christian, do you maintain the special relationship and communion you have with Christ? Do you regularly fellowship with Him? Do you deepen your relationship with Him through study and prayer (**2 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 1:3**)?

Responsibility. Christian, do you take your promise to remain faithful in Christ seriously? Do you perform your duties of love and service with joy? Do you honor Him in all you do (**Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 2:10**)?

A great marriage upon the earth is a wonderful blessing. Let us do what we can to make them as good as they can be. But, as Christians we must also remember that we are spiritually wed to Christ, and that "*marriage*" needs to be the best that it can be, also.

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