

Biblical Covenant in the Home

Covenant Order and Personal Accountability

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 5 - Chapter 01 – Study 01

Marriage as Covenant, Not Convenience

Revised April 2026

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

Published by:

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Bixby, Oklahoma

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READ THIS FIRST

This study is not a surface-level teaching or a collection of opinions about marriage.

It is built on Scripture, developed through years of preparation, prayer, experience, and careful examination of the Word of God. Every part has been placed deliberately to establish a clear and accurate understanding of marriage as a covenant before YHWH.

Because of this, the order of these studies matters.

They are to be followed in sequence, not approached casually or out of order. Do not skip ahead. Do not rearrange what has been set in place.

What is established first is meant to shape how what follows is understood.

This is especially important in a subject like marriage, where misunderstanding leads not only to confusion, but to conflict, disorder, and broken unity.

Do not move forward carelessly.

Do not continue until what you have learned has been examined and confirmed in Scripture. Do not rely on what you have always believed, what you have experienced, or what you have seen in others.

No guessing.

No assuming.

No rushing.

What is written here must be tested and understood clearly, because marriage is not defined by feelings, culture, or personal expectation, but by the standard set by God.

If the foundation is not correct, everything built on it will be unstable.

Truth received out of order produces conviction without stability, and in marriage, that often turns into correction of others instead of obedience in oneself.

For that reason, the order must be respected.

This study is written for anyone, regardless of background or prior belief.

The question is not what you already know about marriage.

The question is whether you are willing to submit what you believe to the Word of God.

If you are, then what is true will become clear, and what is not will be corrected.

This is not just something to understand. It is something that will require you to examine yourself honestly before YHWH.

WHY ARE SOME MARRIAGES BLESSED?

Why are some marriages blessed by faith, hope, and love?

Why are other marriages filled with friction, fighting, and feuds about money, sex, work, children, and chores?

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

Genesis 2:18 (KJV) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:23-24 (KJV) And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

YHWH created man and then made woman to complement him. Marriage was not only given to meet a need, but to establish responsibility before YHWH in how two lives are joined and lived.

THE UNIQUENESS OF MARRIAGE

This union of a man and woman into Biblical marriage is different than any other relationship. The woman was taken out of the man by the creative hand of YHWH. This union is the result of YHWH creating a helper to be fitting, suitable, and adapted to him.

Genesis 2:20 (KJV) And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

The word “helper” means to aid, to assist, to help. This is not weakness, but strength. It is better understood as a strong helper. Proverbs 18:22 (KJV) Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

THE ONE FLESH DOCTRINE

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Mark 10:7-9 (KJV) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Ephesians 5:31 (KJV) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

The word “cleave” means to join, bond, and stick together like skin and bone.

This unity is established by covenant, but it is not automatically lived out. It must be walked in through obedience, or it will remain a truth that is known but not experienced.

LEAVING AND CLEAVING

When a husband and wife come together in marriage, this new relationship must take precedence over all others.

Psalm 45:10 (KJV) Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

Marriage becomes the primary earthly relationship.

This shift is not only outward, but inward. Loyalty, priority, and decision-making must now reflect the covenant, not previous attachments.

THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF UNITY

Scripture shows three realities:

“They shall be one flesh”

“They are no more two, but one flesh”

“What God has joined together, let not man put asunder”

From the moment of covenant, they are one. Over time, they are to become one more and more.

Galatians 5:25 (KJV) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

In the same way, marriage teaches; You are one, so become one.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE COVENANT

Matthew 19:6 (KJV) Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Matthew 5:32 (KJV) But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Marriage is a covenant that must be guarded. YHWH is not a fan of divorce nor sexual immorality.

What is done within that covenant is not hidden from YHWH, and each person will answer to Him for how they have walked in it.

A covenant is not sustained by feelings. Feelings change, but the covenant remains. Obedience to what was established before YHWH is not based on emotion, but on faithfulness.

SEXUAL UNION IN MARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 7:2-5 (KJV) Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

Sexual union is part of becoming one flesh and is intended to strengthen the bond and guard against temptation.

BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK FOR MARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 7:1-40 (KJV) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.

Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.

Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.

So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.

The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God."

Ephesians 5:14-33 (KJV) Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Christ;

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

This passage does not give either husband or wife permission to control the other. It calls both to submit themselves to the order established by YHWH, each being accountable for their own obedience within it.

THE CORE PRINCIPLE

Ephesians 5:33 (KJV) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The husband is called to love.

The wife is called to respect.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR A STRONG MARRIAGE

Commitment, communication, patience, and shared beliefs are essential. Marriage requires intentional effort, growth, and unity over time.

THE THREE-PART STUDY STRUCTURE

This study is designed to work in three parts.

First, the husband and wife are to read this booklet together so they can receive the same foundation regarding Biblical marriage, unity, roles, and responsibility.

After completing this booklet:

The husband is to read and study “A Godly Husband” privately.

The wife is to read and study “A Godly Wife” privately.

These two personal studies are meant to be read separately and studied individually, not so that each spouse can learn what to correct in the other, but so that each one may focus fully on what YHWH is requiring of them personally.

The purpose is to remove unnecessary expectations from each other and to keep both husband and wife from turning these studies into tools of correction, accusation, pressure, or disappointment.

In other words, the husband should focus on becoming the husband YHWH has called him to be, and the wife should focus on becoming the wife YHWH has called her to be. Instead of watching for what the other has not yet changed, each one should search their own heart, repent where needed, and apply the truth to themselves.

For this reason, it is wise that both keep these personal studies private while they are reading and working through them. This can help prevent broken expectations, arguments, discouragement, resentment, or the temptation to use truth as a weapon against one another.

The goal is not secrecy for its own sake, but humility, self-examination, and personal obedience before God.

So, do not focus on your spouse's responsibility. Focus on your own.

Once you have completed your individual studies, you may choose to share what you personally are working on, but not to correct or pressure one another.

CONSIDER YOUR MARRIAGE HONESTLY

Before you move any further, take a moment and look at your marriage as it truly is, not as you present it to others, and not as you wish it were in your mind. This is not a moment for appearance, but for honesty.

Do not rush through what follows. If needed, stop here, step away, and return with a clear and honest mind. What you are about to consider will only help you if you are willing to face it truthfully.

Think about the way you and your spouse communicate. Are there conversations you avoid because they always seem to lead to tension? Are there things that have been said in the past that were never truly resolved, but only pushed aside so that things could move forward on the surface? Many marriages continue outwardly while carrying unresolved issues inwardly, and over time those things do not disappear, they settle deeper.

Consider also the patterns that repeat themselves. Do you find that the same arguments return again and again, even if the details change? Do small disagreements quickly turn into frustration, or does frustration quietly turn into distance? Sometimes the issue is not what is being argued about, but the fact that nothing is actually being corrected.

Look at the condition of your connection with one another. Is there a sense of closeness, or has there been a gradual drift that is hard to explain? Do you feel heard when you speak, or have you learned to hold things in because it seems easier than trying to be understood? In many cases, silence is not peace, it is avoidance.

Be honest about what is taking place beneath the surface. Has irritation begun to replace patience? Has disappointment slowly turned into coldness? Do you feel respected, valued, and understood, or do you feel overlooked, dismissed, or misunderstood? And if something is lacking, have you addressed it

in a way that leads to truth, or in a way that only deepens the divide?

When you look at your marriage in this light, ask yourself whether you are truly building unity, or simply maintaining a kind of outward peace while something underneath is not right. It is possible for a marriage to appear stable while quietly weakening within.

You do not need to answer these out loud. What matters is that you answer them honestly before YHWH.

BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

What you have just read shows what marriage is before YHWH, but understanding what marriage is and actually walking in it are not the same thing. A person can agree with everything that has been written here and still remain unchanged. It is possible to recognize truth, even to appreciate it, and yet carry the same patterns, the same reactions, and the same hidden thoughts back into the marriage without anything truly shifting.

This happens because there are things within each person that this kind of shared study will not bring to the surface. There are areas of the heart that do not reveal themselves when both husband and wife are sitting together. In fact, if certain truths are confronted in that setting, they often do not lead to repentance, but to comparison, quiet accusation, or inward defense. A person begins to focus on what the other is doing wrong instead of dealing with what is being exposed in themselves.

For that reason, before you move any further, you must settle something clearly within your own heart. You are not only part of a marriage, you are an individual standing before YHWH, and you will answer to Him for your part in it. He will not measure you by your spouse's obedience, nor will He excuse you because of their failure. What has been given to you is yours to respond to, and yours alone to answer for.

Take a moment, if needed, and bring this before YHWH in prayer. Ask Him to show you what you may not be seeing clearly, and to give you the willingness to receive correction where it is needed.

So consider this honestly. When something is wrong in your marriage, where does your mind go first? Do you begin by examining yourself, or do you immediately begin to identify what your spouse is doing wrong? Have you quietly begun to build a case in your heart against them? Do you find yourself thinking that things would improve if they would just change? And if

YHWH were to put His finger on something in your life right now, would you receive that correction even if your spouse never changed at all?

Pride will always look for a way to shift the focus away from itself. Guard against that.

These are not small questions, and they are not meant to be ignored. If something in them unsettles you, do not push it aside. If you move forward without dealing honestly with what is already being revealed, then everything you have read so far will remain as knowledge without becoming obedience, and knowledge without obedience will not restore what is broken.

Up to this point, you have looked at marriage together. From here, that must change. What comes next is not meant to be done side by side, because before anything can be corrected between you, something must be dealt with within you. Each of you has a responsibility that cannot be examined properly while focusing on the other.

So from this point forward, you must separate for a time and allow YHWH to deal with you individually. The husband must face what has been entrusted to him, and the wife must face what has been entrusted to her. This is not a time for comparison or discussion. It is a time for honesty before God.

If you are ready and willing to search the Scriptures and examine your part in this covenant before YHWH, then go forward and request the study that has been prepared for you. The husband should continue with the study written for him, and the wife with the study written for her.

Do not read your spouse's study, and do not ask them what is written in it. Do not use what follows as a way to measure them or confirm your own thoughts. If you do, you will turn this into

something it was never meant to be, and instead of correction, it will produce division.

This is not something to be rushed through in one sitting if your heart has not yet been dealt with.

Go through what follows alone. Take your time. Be honest. Allow correction where it is needed. Then, when that has been done, come back together again, not as two people defending themselves, but as two people who have allowed YHWH to deal with them personally.

That is where real change begins, and that is where the covenant you have just studied can actually begin to be lived out as it was intended.

CONTINUE CAREFULLY

What you have just read is not meant to be accepted lightly.

It is meant to be tested before God.

Marriage is not built on opinion, tradition, or personal preference.
It is established by YHWH, defined by His Word, and sustained
through obedience to Him.

If what you have learned is true, it will stand when measured
against Scripture.

If it is not, it must be corrected without hesitation.

So, stop and examine yourself:

What do I truly believe about marriage right now?
And why do I believe it?

Is it because it is written in the Word of God?
Or because it is what I have been taught, seen, or experienced?

Covenant truth does not bend to culture, emotion, or
convenience.

If something in this study has exposed an area of error, resistance,
or discomfort, do not ignore it. That conviction is not the
problem, it is the doorway to correction.

Return to the Scriptures.
Test every instruction.
Confirm every principle.

Then respond, not by correcting your spouse, but by correcting
yourself before God.

Only then continue.

NEXT STEP

The next study builds directly on this foundation of covenant, roles, and personal responsibility.

Each step is intentional.
Each step must be followed in order.

Do not skip ahead.

Continue forward only after what you have learned has been examined, understood, and accepted as truth before God.

NEED HELP?

You were not meant to figure this out alone.

If you have questions, need clarification, or want to go through these studies with someone, reach out.

We will study the Scriptures with you, step by step, so that what you learn is clear, proven, and grounded in truth.

**If what you believe is true, it will stand.
If it is not, it must fall.**

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.



