Introduction: How do you view marriage?

A) Marriage is a relationship between two people and God**, Malachi 2.14**

B) Marriage has deteriorated in a godless institution. One in which God is left out.

1. Society --- a time of celebration, centers on the and .

2. "Christianity" -- has reduced marriage to something that enables us to have children, keep us from sexual immorality, and from being lonely.

C) A marriage that is strong and long-lasting is a marriage that is first based upon the commitment to .

**I) Our Commitment To God Says That Our Marriage Will**

**A) God intended marriage to be a permanent relationship, Genesis 2.24.**

1. Jesus maintained that it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason, **Matthew 19.4-6.**

2. God is the One who does the joining together; husband and wife are (a binding contract), **v. 6.**

3. . Another way of saying this is that we are bound by law on marriage, **Romans 7.2; Malachi 2.14b**.

**B) It is our duty to keep our marriage covenant before God**

1. Why do you keep your marriage together?

2. The first reason is because it is our to do so.

a. Husband and wife are to to each other**, Matthew 19.5.**

b. What God has joined together, let not separate.

**II) Our Commitment To God Means That We Will Want To Please Him In Our Marriage**

**A) Is your goal in your marriage to please God? 2 Corinthians 5.16, 9**

**B) How do we please God in our marriage?**

1. By your spouse, you are loving , **1 John 4.20-21; 1 Cor. 13.4-7**

2. By or your spouse, **1 Peter 3.7; Ephesians 5.33b**.

3. By meeting the l needs of your spouse, **1 Corinthians 7.3-5; Hebrews 13.4**

4. By fulfilling all the other responsibilities you have in the marriage.

5. By not giving up or quitting on your marriage, **Malachi 2.16; Hebrews 10.36.**

**III) Our Commitment To Our Marriage Shows The World Our Commitment To Christ**

**A) Commitment to Christ is related to your commitment to your .**

1. Can a person be committed to Christ and not be committed to their marriage?

2. The covenant relationship between God and the people of Israel was compared to a **, Isaiah 54.5a; 62.5b.**

3. The covenant relationship between Christ and the church is also described as a , **Revelation 19.7**

4. Our entire outlook on our marriage will be transformed once we understand that commitment to our marriage is commitment to Christ, **Ephesians 5.22-33.**

**B) Commitment to your marriage shows your commitment to Christ to the**

1. When people see a good marriage they appreciate it.

2. The light of Christ is to be seen in our marriages. **Matthew 5.16.**

Conclusion: When the husband and wife are committed to God, they will have a happy marriage.