

COMMITTED TO MARRIAGE

Hosea 3:1-3

As a church we should be a community of Christians committed to marriage because God expects us to keep our marriage commitments for life.

I. ENDURING A DIFFICULT MARRIAGE

A. ABIGAIL: I Samuel 25

- Committed to a cruel husband

1. Her husband's character
 - a. Wicked (3, 14)
 - b. Careless (17)
2. Her conduct
 - a. Pleading for her husband (23-25)
 - b. Dissuading David's wrath (32-33)
 - c. Communicating with her husband (36-37)
3. God's care
 - a. Causing her husband's death (38)
 - b. Honoring Abigail's commitment unto death

B. HOSEA: Hosea 3:1-3

- Committed to an adulterous wife

1. She cheats (1)
2. He loves
 - a. Obediently (1) > God said "go and love her"
 - b. Sacrificially (2) > Paying a substantial price to redeem her from prostitution
 - c. Devotedly (3) > Promising to have no others beside her
 - d. Faithfully > Staying faithful to an unfaithful wife

C. EUNICE: Acts 16:1-3

- Committed to an unsaved husband

1. The Situation: She is a believer and her husband is not (v.1)
2. Her Surrender
 - a. Submissive to her husband (v.3)
 - b. Instructing her son - II Tim. 3:14-15
 - c. Glorifying God - I Cor. 7:13-14

D. SUMMARY

1. Enduring a difficult marriage can be done
2. You can be a covenant keeper committed to your difficult marriage
3. Enduring can be done through obedience and trust in God
4. God is honored when the marriage covenant is kept
5. Let your church minister to you and pray for you ...

Over please >

II. INSURING A DELIGHTFUL MARRIAGE

A. BE PURE - I Thessalonians 4:3-8

1. Duty (3) Abstain from sexual immorality
2. Discipline (4-5) Knowing how to possess your vessel
3. Discernment (6) No transgression or defrauding
4. Devotion (7-8) Because God has called and equipped us for holiness

B. BE ROMANTIC

1. Isaac and Rebekah - Genesis 26:6-9
 - a. The Situation (6-7) Living in Gerar and lying about his wife
 - b. The Demonstration (8) Isaac was caressing Rebekah
 - c. The Observation (9) She is certainly not your sister!
2. Solomon and the Shulamite - Song of Solomon
 - a. A Spring-time Date (2:8-13)
 - b. A Summer-time Getaway (7:11-13)

C. BE INTIMATE

1. Celebrate Together - Proverbs 5:15-19
 - a. Be exclusive (15-17) Drink from your own well, only your own
 - b. Be joyous (18) Rejoice with the wife of your youth
 - c. Be satisfied (19a) > Drenched, soaked, saturated, filled, bathed!
 - d. Be intoxicated (19b) > Enraptured, ravished, reeling with delight!
2. Affectionate Together - I Corinthians 7:1-5
 - a. Find a special one (2)
 - b. Offer yourselves to each other (3)
 - c. Yield to one another (4-5)

D. BE COMMITTED

1. Committed to Carefulness
 - a. Looking at nothing wicked - Psalm 101:3
 - b. No lustful look - Matt. 5:28
 - c. No playing with fire - Prov. 6:26-29
 - d. Not coveting your neighbor's wife - Ex. 20:18
2. Committed to Faithfulness - I Timothy 3:2
 - a. "A one women man"
 - b. One and only one forever

CONCLUSION: God designed and defined marriage for commitment

Dear Dad: Where is your heart? Do you love your wife superbly?

- If your marriage is difficult, you can endure
- If your marriage is delightful, you must insure that it stays that way

Are you committed to a covenant- keeping marriage?

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