

Holy Matrimony: Celebration of the Covenant

Genesis 2:18-25

Psalms 127

Hebrew 13:1-6

Matthew 19:3-6

Matthew 19: 4-6

Once a King decided to get his princess married to a brave man. He announced a big competition. So many princes and people gathered at the event. At last the King announced the competition “The princess is waiting on the other side of this river, which has crocodiles. The one who swims across and reaches will win the hand of the princess.”

Princes from many countries were hesitant to encounter those crocodiles, and were not willing to swim. Suddenly the water splashed and a man jumped into the river.

Everyone was screaming in excitement. He swam across so fast and reached the other bank. The princess was delighted to see such a brave man, and immediately put the garland on him. The King was so happy and asked the brave man how he got the nerve to take that risk.

The man said, “First I would like to know who had pushed me into the river?”

People might jump into a marriage wilfully or accidentally.

Crocodile: Realities and Problems

- Jesus facing conflict with the religious teachers.
- Jesus’ teaching about marriage and divorce.

Four noticeable facts:

1. Creator making human as male and female

Not to be lonely – companion – made by God – always initiated by God. It is an exclusive companion given by God – a woman from the rib of Adam.

Man speaks the words – Genesis 2: 23, 24

2. Leave the parents

Change in priority: not only obeying the parents, but sharing life with the spouse.

We need to obey and care for the parents. We have to become mature enough to share life with parents even after marriage. We need to balance the responsibility. It is not the opposite of the 5th law. We gain generations through marriage.

3. Union with one-another

In marriage, man and woman are united; they become one flesh, no longer two but one. There should be harmony between them. With one accord, having like-mindedness, they should bridge the gap and move together.

Sunday Sermons – CSI Church, Toronto
 Sunday, August 10, 2014

Let's look at 3 couples in the Bible.

- a. Nabal & Abigail – pure opposites
- b. Ananias & Sapphira – negatively like-minded
- c. Aquilas & Priscilla – positively like-minded

Every aspect should carry the oneness. E.g.: the way Kunjumol took care of her husband, late Varghese Jacob for 20 years, without complaining; the way M.V. Issac took care of his wife, who was completely paralysed below the shoulders, for more than 20 years are just glowing examples of caring one another, based on the holiness of marriage vows.

God given spouse: we need to be responsible for life.

4. Not to be separated

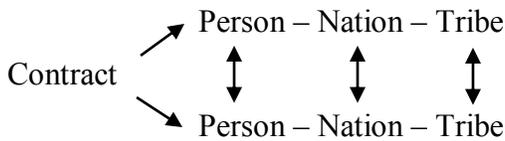
Separation can be permanent or temporary. Jesus mentions permanent separation as a problem. There may be people going in different directions, not willing even to look at each other. Problems can happen in a marriage. But how we handle them is important.

The CONTEXT may be: different personality, family, culture, social status and community

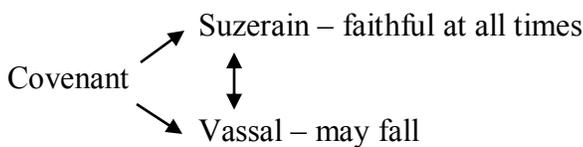
We need the TEXT to deal with the CONTEXT: Word of God, Prayer, and trust in the Holy Spirit

If the TEXT precedes our intellect, ego, emotions and wishes...

Marriage is a covenant in the CSI tradition, but sacrament in the Eastern tradition.

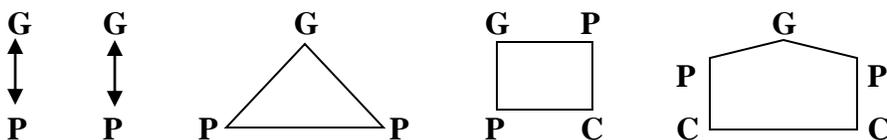


One fall may cancel the contract.



Hebrew: *berith* = to cut – sacrifice, circumcision

Greek: *diatheke* = testament



G – God
 P – Person
 C – Child

Submission before God only can make the celebration (living in fullness) of the covenant.

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Marriage:

- a. Starting point of family life
- b. Becoming more responsible
- c. Providing right model for generations
- d. Moving along God's path

An illustration from FB about a missing wife:

Husband: I lost my wife. She went shopping & still hasn't arrived home yet.

Inspector: What is her height?

Husband: I never noticed.

Inspector: Slim or healthy?

Husband: Not slim, can be healthy.

Inspector: Color of eyes?

Husband: Never noticed.

Inspector: Color of hair?

Husband: Changes according to the season.

Inspector: What was she wearing?

Husband: Pants and shirt, maybe a dress or something..... I don't remember exactly.

Inspector: Did she go in a car???

Husband: Yes!!!

Inspector: Can you tell me the number, name & color of the car?

Husband: NLH-638 Black Audi A8 with supercharged 3.0 liter V6 engine generating 333 horse power teamed with an eight-speed tiptronic automatic transmission with manual mode....and it has full LED headlights, which use light emitting diodes for all light functions and has a very thin scratch on the front left door. At this point the husband started crying...

Inspector: Don't worry sir, we will find your car.....

A Prayer for a Married Couple

O God, our Heavenly Father, protect and bless us. Deepen and strengthen our love for each other day by day. Grant that by Thy mercy neither of us ever say one unkind word to the other.

Forgive and correct our faults, and make us constantly to forgive one another should one of us unconsciously hurt the other. Make us and keep us sound and well in body, alert in mind, tender in heart, devout in spirit. O Lord, grant us each to rise to the other's best. Then we pray Thee add to our common life such virtues as only Thou canst give. And so, O Father, consecrate our life and our love completely to Thy worship, and to the service of all about us, especially those whom Thou has appointed us to serve, that we may always stand before Thee in happiness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(This beautiful prayer was written by Bishop Slattery, soon after his marriage, to be used each day in their family devotions at home in Boston, Massachusetts.)
