"THE COMMITMENT OF MARRIAGE"

INTRODUCTION:

Commitment is a rare commodity today.

The bottom-line, bedrock foundation of a home is commitment.

In order to have a stable and secure home -

***Both husband and wife must have a conviction that their marriage is permanent!**

In God's Word, the Bible, -
The permanence of marriage is evidenced by:

I. The Meaning of a "COVENANT" (Malachi 2:14)

(Marriage is a Covenant)

--Definition of a "Covenant"

--Examples of "Covenants" in the Bible

1. Gen. 15:6-18 - Abrahamic Covenant (cp. Jer. 34:18-19)

2. Matt. 26:28 - The New Covenant

A. The marriage covenant is an irrevocable Vow

Observe the nature of vows:

1. Numbers 30:2 - Your words are extremely important

2. Deuteronomy 23:21 - God holds you accountable

3. Example: Jephthah's vow - Judges 11:30-39

B. The marriage covenant is an unconditional Vow

"For better or for worse, for richer or for poorer"

II. The Bonding of "WEDLOCK" (Gen. 2:24)
(Marriage is an inseparable union)

A. The Cleaving of Marriage (v. 24a)

B. The Oneness of Marriage (v. 24b)

C. "Till death do we part" (Romans 7:2-3)

III. Christ's Relationship to His BRIDE (Eph. 5:22-32)
(Jesus will never forsake His wife, the Church)

A. The Church is one with Christ (Eph. 5:30; I Cor. 6:17)

B. The Church is the "Bride of Christ" (Rev. 19:7-9)

C. The Church has the promise of eternal security (Mt. 16:18; Jn. 10:28-29; Titus 1:2; Heb. 13:5)

IV. God's Attitude about <u>DIVORCE</u> (Malachi 2:16)
(God hates divorce)

A. "He may not put her away all his days"
(Deut. 22:19, 29)

B. "Whosoever shall put away his wife. . . and marry another, committeth adultery against her" (Mark 10:11; Luke 16:18).

CONCLUSION:

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