

# marriage matters



tony evans

# ETHICS: THE OPERATION OF MARRIAGE

When my son Anthony was younger, I bought him a bike for Christmas. The bike came disassembled with a thick set of instructions. Now, I assumed that I was an intelligent man. I was working on my seminary degree at the time, at one of the most prestigious theological institutions in the nation. I didn't think that I needed to read a set of rules on how to put a simple bike together for my son.

So I set in motion the process of putting the bike together on my own. Eight hours later, with just the handlebars assembled, my wife gave me a suggestion. She said, "Tony, why don't you read the instructions?"

What Lois was saying, even though she didn't say it in these exact words, was that the bicycle maker certainly must know more about how to assemble a bike than I did.

Lois was right. I swallowed my pride, read the instructions, and assembled the bike in just forty-five minutes. What I hadn't been able to do on my own in eight hours was accomplished in less than one simply because the bicycle maker knew more about bikes than I did. The manufacturer had created and designed the bike to begin with, so it only made sense that they would know the rules to follow in putting it together.

### THIRD COVENANT FACET: ETHICS

We've seen in our previous chapters that God is both the creator and designer of the marriage covenant. He is transcendent over the union. He has also set in place a hierarchy—a chain of command—for functionality within the relationship. In this chapter, we are going to look at the final aspect of a covenant: ethics.

I go into greater detail on the subject of this chapter in the companion guides to this one titled *For Married Men Only* and *For Married Women Only*. While we will touch on the basics of this facet of a covenant in this chapter, I want to encourage you to get and read the other two marriage guides. There is too much vital information on this topic to include in the limited space remaining. But for the purpose of understanding and applying the power of a marital covenant in our lives, what I cover now will provide all that we need in order to do that.

Ethics involves three interdependent elements: rules, sanctions, and continuity.

## AUTHORITY AND THE COVENANT

If you were to come over to my house, I would welcome you inside but there would be a set of rules by which to abide. Just like I would need to abide by the rules for your house. For example, in my home, I don't allow smoking. So if you smoke, you would need to put out your cigarette before you came in my home.

I am able to make these rules and enforce them because it is my house. Marriage is God's house. He came up with the idea. And it can only run right when it is run by His rules.

In a covenant, there are always rules. However, please note, you don't get to make the rules—that is, unless you are the authority over the covenant. Since God is transcendent, He is the authority over the marriage covenant. Therefore, God has established the rules for a successful marriage.

What married couples often want to do, though, is to have God's institution of marriage, yet run it by their own rules. They want to get married in the church so that God will bless their marriage, but then they want to leave God standing at the altar. They want to make up their own rules for how a marriage should be run.

Let me tell you a secret: You don't get God's results without operating by God's rules. You don't get God's blessings in your marriage, and in your home, without following God's instructions. You don't enjoy God's provision, protection, and peace in your relationships without abiding by God's policies concerning the covenantal union of marriage.

You can spend eight hours arguing with your spouse and still never resolve the issue when, if you had followed God's rules, the discussion could have been over in a matter of minutes. And both parties could have been satisfied at the end of the process. What we so often try to do is come up with our own rules, and then wonder why it is taking so long to get things right.

As I said earlier, all covenants have rules. But the authority establishes those rules over the covenant, and no one else. In the case of a marriage covenant, that authority is God.

## TWO RULES FOR MARRIAGE

God clearly illustrated the use of covenantal rules when He instituted the Mosaic covenant. In the Mosaic covenant, God told the Israelites to do certain things, and not to do certain other things. He listed these rules in the Ten Commandments.

In the marriage covenant, we also find His set of rules. There aren't ten of them and they aren't carved in stone, but they are just as clearly understandable as the ones given to Moses. In marriage, there are only two rules. God has made it really easy for us. If a couple will simply abide by these two rules, everything in their home will change.

We find these two rules in the book of Ephesians, chapter 5. God boils down the two rules for an enjoyable and functioning marriage into just one verse. We read, "Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it

that she respects her husband" (Ephesians 5:33).

Love and respect. The beginning foundation of what there is to say about the ethics of a marriage can be narrowed down to two simple words: love and respect.

### *Love as Christ Loved*

First, God says that husbands are to love their wives. This is not only a command, it is also a critical piece of the covenant.

We often throw the word "love" around loosely, leaving it to be defined in many ways. People say things like, "I love chocolate cake," "I love football," or "I love that show." The words they really mean when they say that are "like" or "enjoy." The definition of love goes much deeper than what we feel emotionally attached to. As I mentioned earlier, to "love" is to passionately and righteously pursue the well-being of another.

The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 that "God is love." Since God *is* love, love must always be defined with God as the standard.

Love involves emotions, sure, but it also includes a conscious pursuit of good for the other person involved. Love's first concern is, How does this action contribute to the recipient of my love's well-being? If it doesn't, or if it does the opposite, then it is not love.

Husbands should not get their cues on how to love their wives from the television, their friends, or the culture. Men, we are to get our example on how to love from God. Christ is our standard.

Let's go back a few verses in the book of Ephesians that we looked at earlier and read it closely. It states,

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. (Ephesians 5:25–31)

THE BEGINNING  
FOUNDATION OF  
WHAT THERE IS TO  
SAY ABOUT THE  
ETHICS OF A  
MARRIAGE CAN BE  
NARROWED DOWN  
TO TWO SIMPLE  
WORDS: LOVE  
AND RESPECT.

As we saw in the previous chapter, from the standpoint of hierarchy, men are aligned underneath Christ. Men are to love their wives just as Christ has done in His

example of loving the church. The question is, How did Christ love the church?

There are three ways that we see how Christ loved the church from this passage. Christ became the church's savior, sanctifier, and satisfier.

### Savior

The first way Christ loved the church was by being the church's savior. We read that He "gave Himself up for her."

Saving involves sacrificing. Christ sacrificed for the church, and men ought to sacrifice for the benefit of their wives. Your wife will know that you love her, men, when you are willing to give up things that are important to you for something that your wife legitimately needs for her well-being. It may cost you something. It may cost you time, energy, money, or a delayed, or reduced, achievement of a goal that you have, but that is because it is a sacrifice.

When King David went to make a sacrifice before God to petition Him to hold back a plague put on his people, he purchased the land on which he was making the sacrifice. He bought it even though it had been offered to him for free.

Why did he purchase it? Because he said, "I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24 NIV). David knew that the nature of a sacrifice meant that you had to give up something in the process. Men, what



are you giving up in order to love your wives?

A man confided in me once, "Tony, my wife is killing me."

I replied, "You told me that you wanted to be like Jesus, didn't you?" Jesus became our Savior because of love, even though it killed Him in the process.

Remember, Adam also had to sacrifice something, a rib, in order to get Eve. He had to give up something too. We have men today who want to be married, but they still want to function as a single. They don't want to sacrifice any strategic time, strategic attention, or resources for the benefit of their wives. These men don't want a wife; they want a maid. They want to marry someone just so they can be served.

The covenantal union of marriage was instituted so that men and women would work together in carrying out their mandate of dominion. But there will be no dominion in your home, workplace, or world if you will not abide by the rules of the covenant. Men are commanded to love. Love involves sacrifice.

### Sanctifier

The second way Christ loved the church was "so that He might sanctify her." Christ not only became the church's Savior, He became the church's Sanctifier. "Sanctify" is a theological term meaning "to take something from where it is, and turn it into what it ought to be." Sanctification is the process of spiritual transformation.

A husband is to be his wife's sanctifier. He is to act as a transforming agent in her life, for good. When a man marries a woman, he not only marries a woman, but he also marries her history. He marries everything that made her the way she is—all of those things that she cleverly hid from him while they were dating.

After he marries her, he may say, "I didn't know she screamed." Well, she has always screamed. She just never let you see it because she wasn't going to do anything to jeopardize that ring. She camouflaged it. Of course, the guys do the same thing.

Becoming your wife's sanctifier means becoming a tool in the hand of God to bring about a positive transformation in your wife. How is this done? We read that Christ did it by "the washing of water with the word." Christ did it through living and teaching Truth. He did it not only by discipling but also by modeling a life fully aligned with the principles in God's Word.

**A HUSBAND IS TO  
BE HIS WIFE'S  
SANCTIFIER. HE IS  
TO ACT AS A  
TRANSFORMING  
AGENT IN HER LIFE,  
FOR GOOD.**

### Satisfier

The third way Christ loved the church was by becoming its Satisfier. The Bible passage we looked at earlier said, "He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as

Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body."

Men ought to become their wives' satisfier. You do this by valuing your wife in the same degree that you value yourself. Whatever you would do for your own well-being, you ought to be willing to do for her.

The wife must be viewed as what 1 Peter 3:7 calls a "fellow heir"—an equal partner. Her opinion matters. Her authority matters. Her thoughts matter. Her perspective matters. Her presence matters. Yes, men, you are the head, and you get to make the final decision, but her viewpoint must be fully heard, and fully valued, before you make that decision.

If you will become your wife's satisfier, she will respond to you the way you want her to. She will respond because she will feel cherished and valued.

You say, "But Tony, my wife has become hardened and calloused. She is as cold as ice." My answer is simple: Warm her up, and watch her melt. Ice only stays ice in a cold environment. What we often do is complain about our wife without being willing to change the environment in an effort to evoke a change in her.

It starts with the men. The man is the thermostat in the marriage. The wife is the thermometer. Don't expect a summer wife if you bring home winter weather. A wife must experience love. She must know that her husband is her savior, sanctifier, and satisfier in a covenantal commitment to her, just like Christ is to the church.

### *Respect Your Man*

While it may start with the man, ladies, you need to realize that a bad wife can ruin a good husband. So what makes a woman a bad wife? A bad wife is a woman who does not respect her husband. We read about this second rule in the covenantal union of marriage in Ephesians, as we saw earlier, where it said,

Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)

The first thing I want us to see from this passage is a little word with a lot of meaning. The word is "must." This word "must" means that this is a command. The command for a woman to respect her husband is not an option. It is a rule of the covenant.

What is interesting here is that it doesn't say that women must "love" their husbands—although the overarching rule of love given in the Scripture that we "love one another" (1 John 4:7) applies. What a woman is commanded to do, as a rule of the marriage covenant, is to *respect* her husband.

Ladies, your husband doesn't need you to love him as much as he needs you to respect him. To respect your husband is to hold him in high esteem and honor. What a woman needs from a man is located in her heart. What a man needs from a woman is located in his head. It is called his ego.

Women will often say to a man, "I'm not going to feed your ego." But that is sort of like him saying to her, "I am not going to feed your heart." Men long to have their egos fed. They want their egos fed so badly that they will often feed it themselves, even if it means lying to feed it.

A wife is able to feed a man's ego in a legitimate manner when she respects and honors him. There is nothing more dangerous to a marriage relationship than disrespect. When a man does not feel like he is respected, he will rebel against the woman, remove himself from her, or become passive.

It reminds me of the story of Winston Churchill and

LADIES, YOUR  
HUSBAND DOESN'T  
NEED YOU TO  
LOVE HIM AS MUCH  
AS HE NEEDS YOU  
TO RESPECT HIM.  
TO RESPECT YOUR  
HUSBAND IS TO  
HOLD HIM IN  
HIGH ESTEEM  
AND HONOR.

Lady Astor in the British Parliament. These two individuals despised each other. One day, Lady Astor said to Winston Churchill, "Winston, if you were my husband, I would put poison in your tea."

Winston replied, "Lady Astor, if you were my wife, I would drink it."

But, seriously, when the rules of a relational covenant are broken, all parties suffer. A wife "must see to it that she respects her husband."

This is a rule of the covenant.

In the Old Testament covenants, as we will see shortly, obedience to the terms of the covenant brought blessing. And disobedience to the terms of the covenant brought chaos. Wives, to show respect to your husband is not an option. It is a command.

If a policeman pulls you over and you think he was wrong, you will not jump, scream, and call him names all the while telling him that he is a fool. You will get yourself locked up if you do something like that, because even if the policeman is wrong, he still holds a position of authority and expects your respect.

Many wives are out of order in the marriage union because of the way that they are behaving. Whether your husband has earned—or in your mind deserves—your respect is beside the point. God has commanded wives to respect their husbands by virtue of their position.

There are only two rules in a marital covenant. But those two rules can either produce life or bring about an early death—death in harmony, purpose, and productivity, and especially death in the areas of dominion, blessing, and continuity (more on this in a moment).

God is looking at how the fundamentals of a covenant are being honored in your marriage in order to respond to you accordingly. He is looking at the husband to see how he displays his love for his wife through his actions. He is looking at the wife to see how she respects her husband.

He is looking because He is going to respond to you based on your actions to deliver what we are going to look at in the remainder of this chapter—either blessings

or curses. So many of us are blocking our blessings today because we are defying God's order. So many of us are living broken, tired lives today because we are defaulting on the terms of the covenant.

God has enabled each of us to enjoy His abundance on earth, but it must be done within the structure of a covenant. God is transcendent, and in His transcendence, He has given us a code of ethics that must be followed. If we do, we will experience benefits. If we don't, we will experience the loss that comes as a result.

## SANCTIONS

These benefits and losses that are found within the aspect of ethics in a covenant are very important. In fact, they are dangerously important. It is essential that they be understood because when they are not understood there is little dominion and enjoyment from the marriage, and much pain.

We call these benefits and losses *sanctions*. It is the term used to describe the blessings and the curses that accompany the covenant. All covenants have blessings and curses attached to them. One contemporary way we often phrase it, without realizing that we are describing an aspect of sanctions, is by using the terminology "cause and effect."

Cause and effect, of which the effect is blessings and curses, simply means that attached to the covenant are certain effects set in place to occur when the other aspects of the covenant are either adhered to or not adhered to.

God told Moses, as we read in chapters 28 and 29 of the book of Deuteronomy, the various blessings and curses that would fall on the Israelites if they either obeyed or did not obey Him. He said, in essence, that if they followed His covenant, they could expect to receive all of these different blessings. It wasn't that they *might* receive them, He promised them.

Conversely, God was saying, if they did not follow the terms of His covenant, then they could expect to receive the different curses that He outlined as well. God gave the cause: obedience or disobedience. Then He gave the effect: blessing or curse. It was up to them to choose, once again reinforcing our mandate to exercise dominion in our lives.

After detailing the many blessings and curses to the Israelites, God said something else that is an important thing to note for our study together on the marriage covenant. In verse 9 of chapter 29 we read, "So keep the words of this covenant to do them, that you may prosper in all that you do."

In other words, God is saying to them that He is making this covenant for them so that they can benefit. When a man is interested in making a marriage covenant with a woman, he will often make promises attached to the covenant. He will tell her all of the ways that she is going to benefit by aligning herself with him. What he is doing is letting her know the benefits, or blessings, that will accrue by entering into that relationship.

In the verse we just looked at, God is letting them



know that if they will simply adhere to their part of the covenant, He promises to carry out the things that He said He would do in response. Marriage has been designed as a tool by God to bring about good in your life. Unfortunately, because we so often do not understand the true nature and purpose of marriage, we lose sight of that truth and end up living lives characterized by chaos.

A lot of the stuff that we fight about as couples has nothing to do with the stuff that we are fighting about. It has to do with the curses and demonic realm working within those curses. One little thing can easily turn into an argument that puts a couple on the path to the divorce court. And you end up wondering how one little thing could do that.

It can do that because it's not the one little thing. It is the breaking of the marriage covenant either through a lack of submission under the transcendence of God, a lack of alignment, or a breaking of the covenantal rules of love and respect within the code of ethics.

It's like asking how one small piece of fruit in the garden of Eden could have caused so much pain. It caused so much pain for all generations to come because it wasn't just about a piece of fruit. It was about the effect: the curse, which came from the cause—disobedience to God's rule.

Couples, if we cannot grasp the seriousness of making a spiritual connection in everything that goes on in our marriages, we will continue to rant and rave about the fruit, or whatever the current issue is. We will continue

to focus on the thing that is happening without realizing that we must align ourselves under the fundamentals of a covenant in order to be in a position to receive the blessings that God has promised.

Family counseling that gives advice on relational techniques is good and I recommend it when marriages have reached an impasse in communication. But in order to reverse the effects of curses in your home and lives, and in order to evoke a blessing in your sphere of dominion, you will need more than that. You will need to address the spiritual issue, and a spiritual issue can only be addressed spiritually.

If you want to get back on the blessing side of things and away from the cursing side of things in your home, you must change the way you function in accordance with the covenant. Understanding and owning the truth concerning sanctions can save more than your marriage; it can save your life.

## OATHS AND SEXUAL INTIMACY

In the Bible, sanctions are often attached to oaths. An oath is a spiritually binding declaration. When a couple gets married, they make a spiritually and legally binding oath to each other. This legally binding oath includes sanctions that can involve the level at which God actively participates in their lives, as well as other sanctions reaching down into the lives of their children. We read about this in Malachi chapter 2 where it says,

This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. (Malachi 2:13–15)

In this passage, we see that God has positioned Himself to no longer receive the worship of those who have dishonored the marriage oath. Not only that, but the passage goes on to disclose the connection between seeking a "godly offspring" and honoring the terms of the marital agreement.

The words that were exchanged on your wedding day to promise to love, cherish, and honor each other were not just part of the ceremony. They were said in the process of making your relationship a legally binding covenant under the principle of two becoming one flesh (Mark 10:6–8). The ceremonial oath you made to each other is the public display of your marriage covenant before God, just as the act of baptism is your public demonstration of entering into the new covenant with Christ.

In the same way, communion is a symbol of a renewal

—or remembrance—of the oath you made at baptism. Sexual intimacy, like communion, is the revisiting of the oath made at the time of marriage—the oath declaring two individuals to now be united as one flesh.

Now, I know you've been waiting for this, because what good is a marriage guide without something to say about one of the best parts of marriage—sex. I'm glad you held on because this will be worth the wait. Sexual intimacy is far more important and far more powerful than many of us realize. Sexual intimacy is to marriage what communion is to the cross—it is a revisiting of the foundational oath of the covenant.

When a couple gets married and they become sexually intimate, there is a sharing of life that is different from the ordinary, everyday aspects of life. The sexual union takes place at a greater spiritual level.

Typically, couples share their lives together, talk together, eat together, and all of the other things that they do together when they get married. But in sexual bonding, there is a sharing and partaking that goes deeper than just the ordinary living together. God crafted it this way and even initiated that the first act of sexual intimacy

SEXUAL INTIMACY,  
LIKE COMMUNION,  
IS THE REVISITING  
OF THE OATH MADE  
AT THE TIME OF  
MARRIAGE—THE  
OATH DECLARING  
TWO INDIVIDUALS  
TO NOW BE UNITED  
AS ONE FLESH.

would serve as a testimony of the marital covenant.

This is because, most often, covenants required the shedding of blood: God would kill an animal, Christ died on the cross—a sacrifice was made somehow to enter into the relationship. God fashioned a woman the way He did so that if a woman is a virgin on her wedding night, it is normal for her to bleed—because a covenant is being established.

Sexual intimacy in marriage is usually understood only in terms of its physical dimension. Not that the physical part of sex isn't wonderful. It is. But why stop there? Sexual intimacy is a powerful force to enrich your life not only in the physical, but also in the spiritual. In fact, we learn from Paul in his letter to the Corinthians that marital sexual intimacy is a powerful tool to evoke blessings in a marriage. Married couples can even choose to abstain from sexual intimacy for a time, through a mutual agreement, in order to seek blessings from God through prayer. "Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. . . . Then come together again" (1 Corinthians 7:5 NIV).

Sexual intimacy not only revisits the oath in a marriage relationship, but it is the ongoing expression of commitment, tenderness, and passion. One of the worst things you can do is to make ritual what is supposed to be sacred. Don't ever allow sexual intimacy, something so completely profound, to turn into something ordinary.

## CONTINUITY

Underneath the overarching area of ethics and flowing out of the area of sanctions, we find what is called "continuity." Continuity refers to the transfer of an inheritance. It was God's intent when He started in the garden with Adam and Eve that the results of the marriage covenant would be passed down generationally through their offspring.

The sanctions of the covenant, blessings and curses, were not to terminate with the parents. The Bible tells us clearly in Exodus chapter 20, that the decisions of the parents can have repercussions down to the third and fourth generations. We read,

You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me. (Exodus 20:5)

The decisions we make in our marriages can have generational repercussions, either for good or for bad, not only for our families, but also for our society. For several decades we have experienced the beginning tremors of this with the increasing number of divorces as well as the explosion of single-parent households due to couples choosing not to get married. These decisions have left us with a generation of fatherless children who display tremendous behavioral and emotional problems. Not only that, these conditions have also paved the way for

the redefinition of the family unit through the call for legalization of gay marriages.

Our society reflects the stability and health of our families. Most of the negative issues facing our society can be directly traced to this breakdown of the family. Because of the discontinuity in the garden, chaos replaced calm, death replaced life, and pressure replaced peace.

When, however, we function properly under God's covenant, God transfers through us to others the blessings of the covenant promises. Continuity creates a bond between God and those who come after the immediate participants in the covenant, allowing them to take advantage of its provisions.

Marriage is a sacred covenant and not just a social contract. God promised to bless the offspring of the male and female if they faithfully functioned in accordance with His rule. Just as He committed to keep His covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—transferring the promised inheritance through the family line—God has sanctions to transfer through us to future generations as well.

Marriage is more than just a relationship arranged for procreation or fellowship; it is a covenantal union created with the unique opportunity to allow each partner to carry out dominion not only in the current realm of influence, but also throughout history. Continuity offers the potential of leaving a lasting legacy of good throughout time, or for handing down havoc that others will have to either live in, or learn how to overcome.

## A CORD OF THREE STRANDS

It is said that a "cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). In marriage, we will find the ability to maintain a healthy, functioning relationship that is not headed to divorce court by recognizing this summary principle.

In a covenantal marriage, there are more than just two people entering the covenant. A husband and a wife enter into a covenant when they get married, but they enter into that covenant along with God. Just like the Trinity is made up of three coequal Persons who are One—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—marriage is an earthly replica of this divine Trinity.

It is important to point out that when God calls couples to oneness with each other, He is not calling them to lose their uniqueness. As revealed in the Trinity, oneness is not sameness. It is not one spouse being just like the other spouse. God's creative variety is bountiful. Each spouse has been designed with his or her distinct personality. What makes true oneness is unity of purpose—when a couple uses their differences and unique qualities

**OUR SOCIETY  
REFLECTS THE  
STABILITY AND  
HEALTH OF OUR  
FAMILIES. MOST OF  
THE NEGATIVE  
ISSUES FACING OUR  
SOCIETY CAN BE  
DIRECTLY TRACED  
TO THIS  
BREAKDOWN OF  
THE FAMILY.**



in such a way as to propel them toward a common end, purpose, and vision. It is the sense that the goal that they are headed toward is bigger than their own individual preferences.

However, this depth of unity—that which creates true oneness—can only be accomplished by the Spirit of God. We are made up of body, soul, and spirit. The physical attraction, our bodies, that might have drawn two people together, if it hasn't already, will eventually fade. Our souls, because they have been distorted through our history, background, personal sin, and other people's influence on our lives, often lead to conflict at worst and relational management at best—but not oneness. But when the Holy Spirit unites with our spirits as we align ourselves under the purposes and direction of God, He makes us one. Consequently, if we are not seeking oneness through His Spirit, we limit the active role of God in our lives.

You cannot leave God at the altar and expect to have a thriving marriage. God must join you in your home, according to the aspects He has set up in His covenant: transcendence, hierarchy, and ethics. When He does, and when you abide by His authority, He can make your house a real home. You cannot do it alone. You cannot even do it as husband and wife. God must be the cord that keeps you together.

His power operating in your life is the only power that can save your life, your marriage, and your home. When Christ arose from the dead, He gave mankind

access to the power of His resurrection (Romans 6:4; Philippians 3:10) and the presence of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16–18). That power and presence can enable you and your mate to live together, love each other, trust each other, and share life with each other until death parts you. God alone has given mankind the ability to do that.

God made marriage, and because He did, marriage matters. I challenge you to commit yourselves to God and function within the parameters of His divinely orchestrated covenant of marriage. Let Him remake your marriage into something that He can use not only to glorify Himself, but to enable you to exercise dominion and experience enjoyment in your life.



Interested in the whole book?  
Select your preferred book seller:

MOODY PUBLISHERS



AMAZON



APPLE BOOKS



GOOGLE PLAY



WALMART



BARNES & NOBLE



CHRISTIANBOOK.COM

