



COME ONE

COME ALL

FAMILY CIRCUS

-A SERMON SERIES ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY-





“MAWWIAGE.
mawwiage is what bwings us
TOGEWAH TODAY.
mawwiage, that bwessed awangement,
that dweam wiffin a dweam...
AND WUV,
TWOO WUV
will fowow you foweva...
so tweasure your wuv.”

—THE IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN, THE PRINCESS BRIDE

CAROLINE & MATT | 12.28.13





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**FAMILY
CIRCUS**

-A SERMON SERIES ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY-

Expressive Individualism

**God has designed marriage to
be a covenantal relationship.**

What is a covenant relationship?

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Union founded on promise and oath, before God and one another. A union that is designed to be binding and to create a security for mutual love, for families to grow, and to put the good of the relationship ahead of the individual.

What is a covenant relationship?

A covenant allows you to enter into a relationship that is more personal than a contract and way more permanent than any other normal relationships.

- Timothy Keller

Genesis 2:20-25

²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:20-25

²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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To cling to, stick to.

Used to express covenant loyalty

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Deut. 4:4, “But you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today.”

Deut. 10:20 “You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.”

Genesis 2:20-25

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**How does a covenantal
understanding of marriage
shape our relationships?**

**A covenantal understanding means
that marriage is not a contract or
consumer relationship.**

A covenant is more **personal**
than a contract.

A covenant is more **personal**
than a contract.

A covenant is more **permanent**
than a contract.

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A covenantal understanding of marriage means that we must take divorce incredibly seriously.

Matthew 19:1-9


¹ Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”

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School of Shammai



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School of Shammai

School of Hillel

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⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

Matthew 19:1-9

⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.

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Proverbs 2:16-19

¹⁶ So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, ¹⁷ who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; ¹⁸ for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; ¹⁹ none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

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**Our God models covenant
relationship to us.**

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶ “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

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God is faithful to his promises.

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2 Timothy 2:13

**¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.**

**Our God models covenant
relationship to us.**

God models sacrificial love.

**God knows the pain of
a broken covenant.**

**Israel abandoned their covenant
with God.**

**God knows the pain of
a broken covenant.**

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Jeremiah 3:6-10

God went through a divorce.

**Our God models covenant
relationship to us.**

**God radically commmits himself to
the restoration of what is broken.**