

**A Story of Family: The Story of Covenant Love**  
**Pastor Dennis Rouse**  
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**The Purpose of Family:**

1. To be a reflection of His nature
2. To be an extension of His authority
3. To preserve the culture of His kingdom

**Top Dating Sites:**

- Zoosk
- eHarmony
- Elite Singles
- Match.com
- Our Time
- Silver Singles
- OK Cupid
- Plenty of Fish
- Tinder
- Hinge

**Funny Sites:**

- Spoon Meets Spoon
- Pimp My Profile
- Single and Sober
- Wingman
- Farmer Wants a Wife
- Star Trek Dating
- Ugly Schmucks
- Clown Dating

**MATTHEW 19:1-6 NIV**

*When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Some Pharisees*

*came to him to test him. They asked, "IS IT LAWFUL FOR A MAN TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE FOR ANY AND EVERY REASON?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. THEREFORE WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO ONE SEPARATE."*

### **Two Competing Value Systems:**

#### **CHRISTIAN:**

Marriage based on covenant  
Meeting other's' needs  
Two people becoming one  
Goal is to please God  
Governed by the Word  
Committed for life

#### **HUMANISTIC:**

Marriage based on feelings  
Other person meeting your needs  
Two people remaining independent  
Goal is to please self  
Governed by emotions and opinions  
Divorce is an option

### **Covenant:**

- Strongest word in the Bible describing both our relationship with God and with each other
- Reflects a solemn agreement between two parties in which there is total commitment by each party
- First truth to enter human consciousness
- Includes your life, your possessions, your children

### **GENESIS 17:1-7 NIV**

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my COVENANT between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my COVENANT with you. You will*

*be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my COVENANT as an everlasting COVENANT between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”*

“Anyone who chooses to enter a covenant must make a complete surrender of self to the one with which they are covenanted. You must so love and trust that you are willing to merge separate individuality into a dual personality of which God becomes an integral part.” — *Dr. Henry Clay Trumbull, Expert on Primitive Covenants*

“As high as God is above man, so high are the sanctity, the rights and the promise of a marriage covenant above the promise of worldly love. It is not your worldly love that sustains marriage but, from now on, the marriage covenant that sustains your love.”  
— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer (German theologian)*

### **Covenant Parallels:**

MARRIAGE:	JESUS:
Give of yourself	Jesus gave of Himself
Give something of value (ring)	Jesus gave His life
Exchange of names	We adopt His name
Terms set forth (vows)	New covenant terms
Shedding of blood	Jesus shed His blood
Covenant meal to seal marriage	Communion meal

### **3 Kinds of Love:**

1. Eros: physical love — found in your body
2. Phileo: emotional love — found in your soul
3. Agape: God’s love — found in your spirit

### **3 Components of Love:**

1. Passion: the desire that leads to romance, physical closeness, sex
2. Intimacy: involves closeness, like-mindedness, emotional bonding
3. Decision: commitment that encompasses short-term decision that “we love each other” with long-term commitment to maintain that love

### **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 NLT**

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. BUT LOVE WILL LAST FOREVER!*