

MARRIAGE PART III
“COMMITMENT WORK”
SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13
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INTRODUCTION

- Who’s *really* the most important person in your relationship?

I. LOYALTY: A LOST CAUSE?

- “Why should I stay?” Better, “Why should you go?”
- Philippians 2:2-5, “...⁴ Don’t look out only for your own interests...⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”
- Study – Univ. of Chicago Institute for American Values:
 - Results:
 - 19% of divorced people had happily remarried after 5 years
 - Of the most discontented marriages 80% were happy 5 years later
 - The “happy” marriages took three different routes to success: 1. Endurance, 2. Marital Work, 3. Personal Change
 - People who stay in marriage win in the end.

II. COMMITMENT WORK

- Just because we say I do doesn’t make us able. Just because we say I do doesn’t make us capable; it only makes you accountable... - Andy Stanley
- For the human heart to engage in deep and trusting relationships it needs security...this is found in commitment.
- Covenant or Contract?
 - A contract limits my responsibility and protects my rights.

- A covenant says that you lose your rights and assume responsibilities.
- Mutual submission is a primary principle of intimacy. 1 Corinthians 7:4
- A marriage will never be a great marriage if divorce is ever an option.
- Commitment means being willing to be unhappy while God works to make you more holy.

III. THE RIGHT PERSON: THE INCOMPATIBILITY MYTH

- “The so-called incompatibility is a myth invented by jurists in order to plead for divorce...” -Paul Tournier
- The issue is not incompatibility; the issue is selfishness.

IV. THE GREAT COMPROMISE: NOT GIVING UP

- Compromise and sacrifice are the real marks of mature love.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, “Love is...”
 - Patient - Never pressures
 - Kind - Considerate (all the time)
 - Doesn’t Envy, Isn’t Rude (behave badly) or Irritable
 - Believes in what is Right
 - Doesn’t Quit and Is Always Hopeful
- 1 Corinthians 13:7-8, “Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful...But love will last forever!”
- Three Facts of Life:
 1. You will have conflict in marriage.
 2. There are things you will never agree on.
 3. Compromise is the evidence of real love.

CLOSE

- “Love is defined by a willingness to give up my will...” Eugene Peterson
- John 15:5, “...For apart from Me you can do nothing.”