

Promise: A declaration I **make now** that will be needed for **the future**.

A **promise** has nothing to do with **emotions** or **feelings**.

- The promises you make can improve your **relationships** because they improve **you**.

7 The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them. Proverbs 20:7 (NLT)

Most difficulties in marriage come because men and women are **different**.

3 Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction? Amos 3:3 (NLT)

Most issues in marriage happen when we fail to express our **expectations**.

The Love Cycle:

- We are **captivated**.
- We become **careless**.
- We get **complacent**.

Restoring your **marriage** begins with restoring **you**.

3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3 (ESV)

- Most people bring expectations into marriage, and they are usually centered on - "**Me**".
- God designed marriage to be centered on - "**We**" > "**Me**".

5 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and **be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh**.' 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:5-6 (NIV)

We pursue partnership with:

- Shared **submission**.

21 ...submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

Submission is an attitude that says: I'm here to **serve** you.

13 ...don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, **use your freedom to serve one another in love**. Galatians 5:13 (NLT)

- Shared **direction**.

3 Do two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place? Amos 3:3 (MSG)

3 Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?" 4 "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'

5 And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' 6 Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."

Matthew 19:3-6 (NLT)

A **goal** of marriage is **unity**.

16 "I hate divorce," says the GOD of Israel. ..."I hate the violent dismembering of the 'one flesh' of marriage." So watch yourselves. Don't let your guard down. Don't cheat. Malachi 2:16 (MSG)

A goal of marriage is godly **offspring**.

15 GOD, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. **And what does he want from marriage? Children of God, that's what.** So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse. Malachi 2:15 (MSG)

- Shared **Intimacy**.

Most people think intimacy is **romance**. Intimacy is **transparency**.

14 Come, my shy and modest dove— leave your seclusion, **come out in the open**. **Let me see your face, let me hear your voice**. For your voice is soothing and your face is ravishing. Song of Songs 2:14 (MSG)

2 vows you can make:

- I promise to do **one thing** that will lead me to **unity**.

- I promise to invest into **intimacy** this week.

19 We love each other because he loved us first. 1 John 4:19 (NLT)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

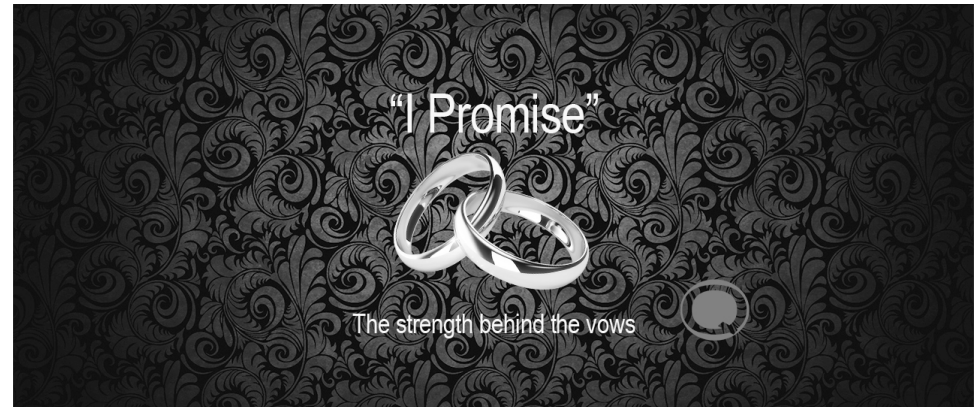
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do married couples in general spend enough time and energy strengthening their marriage? Explain?
- Do you think that people enter marriage with selfish expectations? Why do you think this is? What are some of those selfish expectations you've seen?
- Why is having a shared submission important? Why is it difficult? What happens when a couple doesn't have a shared submission?
- Why is a shared direction important? Why is this difficult for some? What happens when there is no shared direction?
- Talk about the two purposes of marriage.
- Why is having a shared intimacy important? What happens when a couple doesn't have a shared intimacy?
- Talk about the point that was made - "Most people think intimacy is **romance**. Intimacy is **transparency**."? Do you agree?
- Discuss the 2 vows we can make. What were yours? (Share if you can)

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OTHER NOTES:

WELCOME

Our Series:



Today's Talk..

The promise of pursuing partnership.

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The Quest Church
Doing life together