

# COMMITTED TO FIDELITY

## 1. WE ARE CALLED TO BE TRUE TO OUR \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Old Testament, a vow was for \_\_\_\_\_.

There was an implication of follow through.

God is not just concerned with what we do – He is concerned with what we say we are going to do.

**Numbers 30.2:** If a man vows a vow to the Lord or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

**Deuteronomy 23.21-23:** If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.

### What does it mean to be a man of your word?

Psychologically, you are bringing into \_\_\_\_\_ who you are by doing what you say you will do.

You are also conveying your principles or lack thereof with your actions or inactions.

In the New Testament, we see that failure to be a man of our word does more than just present a credibility problem among our friends and families.

**Matthew 5.37:** Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

**James 5.12:** But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

One of the most subtle problems that humanity faces is the propensity to

“\_\_\_\_\_.”

## 2. WE ARE CALLED TO KEEP OUR \_\_\_\_\_.

### Romans 7&8

A. The intrinsic value of \_\_\_\_\_ is the governance of our emotions by our strength of character.

**Prov. 3.5-6:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ESV

### Romans 7&8

B. Our true character should be \_\_\_\_\_.

We are trusting him to become our true selves.

That means we are dependent upon our daily relationship with Christ to fulfill our vows and our commitments including and especially marriage.

Therefore, our vows are for every day not just the day of our wedding.

There were several relationship studies in the 90s that focused on Decision Making and Goal Implementation in Relationships by Gollwitzer and Kinney.

They discovered the competing mindsets on decision making.

### **Why do people fail in their fidelity in marriage?**

1. Some believe it's \_\_\_\_\_. And they are partially right.
2. Some believe it's \_\_\_\_\_. Again, not quite the bullseye.
3. Some believe it's \_\_\_\_\_ and that is simply flat out ridiculous.
4. But what is closer to the truth is that people \_\_\_\_\_ to have an affair.

There are many men who are truly committed to their spouse, their jobs, and they don't waste time deliberating.

Those stuck in a cycle of deliberation perpetually ask the question 'why?'

When we ask the question 'why' it puts our brain into deliberation mode which as a survival mechanism tries to find alternatives.

Then our hearts, minds and eyes are \_\_\_\_\_ for a better alternative.

We men do this until we have an alternative.

The best part is this: Dr. David Schnarch has validated research confirming that marriage with a growth mindset is supposed to get better and better over time.

That sound like our God – I am certain He designed marriage to do just that – to get better and better over time.

*Prov. 5 says be satisfied with the wife of your youth...*

### **3. WE ARE CALLED TO FIDELITY IN OUR \_\_\_\_\_ (OUR MARRIAGES).**

Scripture says let your yes be yes and your no be no because our word and our commitments are much more important to God than we might realize.

In fact, it says do not swear to anything but simply let your yes be yes and your no be no.

The principle that Jesus declares in Matthew that James echoes in his letter to the church points to total commitment and fidelity or faithfulness in carrying out that commitment.

*To commit in marriage means to secure the future for all parties by deciding 'against' all future deliberations, all future alternatives, all future temptations, and all future escapism.*

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer:** It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love.

Marriage is a commitment to implement the verb ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’ unconditionally which is our marriage vow.

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