

# Let The Bible Speak Series

## Keeping Our Vows

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The use of vows was common in Bible times. The general idea was to voluntarily give or do something. The primary idea being that of setting apart or consecrating something to God or another individual. When Jacob went into Mesopotamia he vowed to God the tenth of his estate, and promised to offer it at Bethel to the honor and service of God. Gen. 28:20-22.

There are several laws for the regulation and due execution of vows.

A man might devote himself or his children to the Lord.

Samuel was vowed and consecrated to the service of the Lord, and was offered to him, to serve in the tabernacle, 1 Sam. 1:22-28.

If a man or woman vowed themselves or their children to the Lord, they were obliged to adhere strictly to the service, according to the conditions of the vow; if not, they were to be redeemed.

The price for redeeming persons of such and such an age is particularly limited, Lev. 27:2-3. Only if the person was poor, and could not procure the sum limited, the priest imposed a ransom upon him according to his abilities.

If any one had vowed an animal that was clean, he had not the liberty of redeeming it, or of exchanging it, but was obliged to sacrifice it to the Lord, or give it to the priest, according to the manner of his vow.

If it was an unclean animal, and such as was not allowed to be sacrificed, the priest made valuation of it; and if the proprietor would redeem it, he added a fifth part to the value, by way of forfeit. The same was done in proportion when the thing was a house or a field. Lev. 27:9-10.

Any vow must be made deliberately and devoutly, for a sudden passion makes not a vow. We should vow only that which is in our power to perform.

The performance of solemn vows is strictly enjoined upon us according to the text found in Eccl. 5:4. Unfortunately today, many people fail to honor their vows.

A man's word, his promise, has come to mean very little.

The time was when men, made deals by "word of mouth" and carried them out because they considered their word as a sacred pledge. Men no longer make such deals.

Numbers 30:2 "If a man shall vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth."

### I. Keeping Our Marriage Vows

Marriage is a serious step. It is God ordained for the purpose of perpetuating the human race. Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honorable among all..." Disregard for the marriage vows is common today. Nearly one half of all marriages end in divorce.

Such disregard for these vows will bring destruction upon any race.

People need to realize the sanctity of this union, before entering it. Were this so, in many cases, broken homes and crushed hearts could be averted.

The world, generally, is ill informed on what the bible teaches about this subject.

1. Marriage was instituted by God and was instituted because it was not good for man to dwell alone. Woman was taken from man's side and in marriage became a part of him. "This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man." Gen. 2:23

2. There was no divorce law in the beginning.

Mt. 19:8 "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." Divorce was a sufferance. Because of the ignorance and slow development of the human race, God permitted some things of which He never approved. Such general permission did not last forever as is seen in Acts 17:30 "The times of this ignorance..."

God will not tolerate the desecration of marriage vows today. Failing to keep this commitment will not go unpunished. Some may ask: "Is there no reason for which an individual can be joined to another? 1Cor. 7:39 "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." Romans 7:3 "...but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress though she be married to another man." Mt. 19:9 "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery, and whosoever marries her which is put away doth commit adultery." When the one guilty of this sin is put away by the innocent spouse, the Lord gives them the right to remarry.

This, however, is not a license to marry and divorce on any pretext or basis. (as is common today) The idea that "I have someone that I like better," or "I just don't love you anymore," or "we just couldn't seem to get along," is breaking the marriage vow for unscriptural reasons, and a remarriage will lead to the sin of adultery.

Marriage must not be looked upon lightly, it is the mother of the world; it preserves kingdoms; fills cities and communities, and originated with God Himself.

One cannot live in an adulterous relationship and be saved. It carries with it the punishment of hell. It is a tragedy to see people break these vows and place themselves in a position where they are lost.

For this reason one should be very cautious in selecting a companion. It is for life... "till death do you part." Hence, don't be too hasty. Don't make a vow you cannot or will not keep. Don't just marry anybody that comes along. (Many make this mistake)

Some folks spend more time selecting a new car, than they do a husband or wife.

3. Divorce carries a high price tag:

1. you fail in your commitment, and break your sacred vows

2. a God-ordained union has been broken

3. a companion, once loved, is now scorned and hated

4. since the union, in the sight of God, was for life--so must their separation for the opposite sex be for life. Children of divorce, pay an even higher price:

1. they are deprived of both parents

2. they lose the love of and warmth of a Christian home

3. they pay physically, psychologically, and emotionally
4. they may even lose their soul

Letter to Judge by a 10 year old girl

"Sir, you are a judge and this is your job, to divorce people. Only where do ones go who still love the husbands? And how do you divorce a 10 year old? Can you cut out my heart and stop it from hurting? Please, please, please help a 10 year old keep a mom and dad." The price of divorce is too high.

#### Keeping Our Vow To Christ and The Church.

When we obey the gospel, we are married to Christ.

Romans 7:4 "Wherefore, by brethren, ye also became dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead..."

2Cor.11:2 "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ

Just as a young couple makes vows when they become husband and wife, so the young Christian is bound by vows to his Lord. In becoming a Christian, we make a commitment to Christ. This commitment is a sacred promise or vow.

Peter made a vow that he failed to keep. Mt.26:35 "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee" Before many hours passed, he did the very thing he said he would not do. Many today, like Peter, after making vows to the Lord, break them.

Note the following commitments we make when we are married to Christ:

#### 1. The Commitment to assemble on the Lord's Day.

Many who would never think of breaking a vow they made to their earthly partner, often think very little of breaking a commitment they have made to Christ.

They miss the assembly without the slightest disturbance of conscience; they might attend, then again they might not.

What if a young man when asked "do you promise to love, cherish, and protect this young lady all the days of your life" replied "I might."

Heb. 10:25 It is my duty and responsibility to be present every Lord's day and I will be unless my interest has been shifted to other matters. Mt. 6:33 "Seek first the kingdom of God..." One doesn't declare his faith in Christ by word of mouth only.

When he participates in that silent and impressive service that commemorates the death of Christ, he evidences to the world his strong faith in the Savior. 1Cor. 11:26 "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."

This spiritual feast is to be observed every first day of the week according to Acts 20:7. Each week has a first day, and we are obligated to assemble with other Christians and remember Christ. The shew bread in the Holy place of the Tabernacle, was eaten every Sabbath day. It typified the Lord's supper.

#### 2. The vow to never backslide.

The bible warns repeatedly against falling and making havoc of our faith.

1Cor.10:12 "Let him that standeth take heed..."

Our life as a Christian is one of growth and progress--1Pet. 2:2 "As newborn..."  
"Grow in the grace and knowledge..." When we are content to just "hold our own" and do as little as we can, we are inviting backsliding. (most people never plan to backslide) We must look forward at all times. God has sounded the warning through the ages "don't look back"

It is fabled that when Pompei was destroyed a woman turned back to get her pearls and was later found underneath the rubbish of the city.

Lot's wife looked back and turned to a pillar of salt.

We look back, desiring the things we left, and we backslide.

One who breaks this vow is in worse condition than if he had never made it. "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" 2Pet.2:21

Are you a backslider? Do you remember the day you promised the lord you would follow him? Do you remember how you felt when you first obeyed the Lord?

Yet now you have broken your vow.

To Israel, the Lord said "O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 14:1.

v. 4 "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from them."

### 3. Our vow to not love the world.

The world of sin is an ever-present enemy of the child of God.

Paul lists the catalogue of sins in Romans one and Galatians five.

The Christian is not to fix his affections on these things for they are at variance with the spirit of Christ.

John warns us not to love the world in 1Jno. 2:15.

Col. 3:1-2 "If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Paul said "I have been crucified with Christ" Gal.2:20. By so doing, we become dead to the world. This was one of your marriage vows when you became a Christian. Have you faithfully kept it? What if your wife told you that she loved you but she would like to go out with one of her former boy-friends? How would you feel?

Is this not what happens when, after being married to Christ, we decide to go out with one of our former friends and commit sin?

### III. Keeping Our Vow to Earnestly Contend for the Faith.

Jude 3

1Tim.6:20 "O Timothy, Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge, by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith..."

The truth, gospel, church is the object of Satan's attack.

As the people of God we are responsible for, and committed to, defending the faith against the attacks of the evil one.

Phil. 1:21 "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one

spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel..." Acts 20:28 "Take heed unto yourselves and unto the flock..."

There will always be "grievous wolves," false teachers, wicked men, weak brethren, compromising church members. The faith must be protected, defended.

2Tim. 2:2 "And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

Are we keeping our vows today? Think about it.