Living Well

Marriage: A Vow or Plan B

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A Vow ….

Check out these websites for more information:

For more information about the ministry - www.livingwellokc.org

Photos and writings about the ministry - www.livingwellokc.blogspot.com

Encouragement/culture on marriage - www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com

Wisdom Community School - www.wisdomcommunitvschool.com

I, _, take you ___, to be my (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.

When we were married over 42 years ago, **we took vows similar to the ones above.** The pastor who officiated made clear that it was a vow before God and the witnesses present.

We know today that many people change those to fit their personality. They often change the parts about t**he extremes that can happen in marriage** - worse, poorer, sickness, and until death. It's easy to keep a vow when things are going well.

But vows and promises are made for those unforeseen, challenging times. [see below]

We took **our vows very seriously,** although we were not very spiritually mature at the time. We both married with **the belief that we would be married for our whole life.** At our age, it's hard to remember now how we felt or the thoughts that went through our minds at the time. But it meant that divorce has never been an option. ***So …… if divorce isn't an option and you are unhappy, what do you?***

You have to learn to work through your problems! And you work hard at it! You do not give up!

How seriously do couples take their vows today?

Couples make vows to: each other, God, and many witnesses.

God takes our vows very **seriously.** *Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the Lord your God with your own mouth.* (Deuteronomy 23:23)

What does a person think? I took a vow but……..

*What would happen if the couple **had to go back to everyone who witnessed their vows** and said that they didn't really mean it and were breaking their vows?*

A Promise ….

On the reverse side:

PLAN B

OPTIONS

*A promise must be kept, even when it turns out to cost us more than we expected. Inconvenience does not dissolve obligation. **Inconvenience makes promise-keeping all the more beautiful, even God-like.** God is a promise-maker and a promise-keeper. He made us covenantal beings living in a covenantal universe. Our lives unfold with His beauty as we receive, believe, make and keep promises. It costs us. But it cost God too. His cross inspires in us the depth of personal character that doesn't go with the flow but keeps a promise even when unforeseeable eventualities make it hard. **The unforeseeableness of the future is the very reason why we make promises.** It's why promises are valuable. In a world of contingencies, promise-keeping is the glue that holds us together... Let's cheerfully and wholeheartedly keep our word, no matter what. It's the Christlike thing to do. Ray Ortlund*