



Living Well

Commitment



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March 2009

Commitment and Marriage

Check out these websites for more information:

- www.livingwellokc.org
- www.livingwellokc.blogspot.com
- www.marriagenetworkokc.net

Where you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.

Jim Elliot
Missionary killed in 1956, while trying to evangelize the Waudani people in Ecuador

In 2003, a survey by OSU on the topic of marriage asked Oklahoma residents, who had been divorced, about the things that led to the divorce. They were given 10 things and asked whether each was a major contributor to their divorces. Commitment was selected most often; **85% said that "lack of commitment" was the major reason for divorce.**

Scott Stanley talks about what commitment is:

How do couples experience commitment? Our theory suggests there are two components to commitment: personal dedication and constraint. Personal dedication speaks to how intrinsically committed partners are to one another whereas constraints are the things that might keep couples together when partners would rather leave.

Constraints are the things that accumulate as relationships grow

and make it hard to break up, such as financial considerations, responsibilities for children, social pressure, and a lack of foreseeable alternatives. Despite the connotation, constraints can have a positive function in the lives of couples because they can help prevent one or both partners from making drastic decisions that unravel investment during periods of intense unhappiness.

The majority of young people (18-24) in Oklahoma believe that cohabitating improves chances for having a good marriage. This generation is characterized by **"sliding" into marriage** rather than "deciding."

Every married person at some point is unhappy. Sometimes that unhappiness seems to be caused by the person to whom they are married. At that point, the commitment to the marriage becomes critical to the well-being of the couple.

When the couple has a high level of commitment and a

high level of dissatisfaction, their approach to life usually dictates the outcome. Because they know they are not going to divorce, they may choose to **seek solutions** rather than face the remaining lifetime of despair. If they tend towards showing problems under the rug rather than trying to solve them, they may **live in acceptance and apathy**, "gut it out," believing that the situation can't be different. If one spouse is not willing to examine or take responsibility for their part of the relationship, one or both will **end up in bitterness and resentment.**

God's desire is that our marriage include **a commitment to the very best for our spouse**, not just a commitment to stay married. With that kind of commitment - we will serve, forgive, and love our mate to the end. *Passion can never purchase what true love desires: true intimacy, self-giving, and commitment.* Anonymous

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On the other side:

Money and Commitment

Commitments, Covenants,

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Commitment and Faith

To truly understand the nature of commitment, we must understand **God's commitment to us.**

His faithfulness and commitment to us is not dependent on what we do but on His character.

1 John 4:10 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Hebrews 13:5 *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We can experience more joy and peace as we know that God loves us more than we love Him, that He is faithful to us whether we are faithful to Him or not, that He will sacrifice for us when we don't even understand the nature of the word. Through understanding, receiving, and believing these concepts, we can allow Him to live through us in the same way, as we submit our will of His. We can love as He loves. We can be faithful and committed because He is. Life can be lived with joy.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.livingwellokc.org
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Living Well with Money

Practical tools for today's economy
A study by Ed & Donna Edwards

April 5 - May 3 (excluding Easter)

Sunday evenings 6-7:00

@Portland Ave Baptist Church
1301 N Portland

Money and Commitment

We believe that the next financial predicament for consumers will be credit card debt. We see people with as much as \$100,000 in consumer debt (not mortgage or vehicle debt).

The people who will do the best financially during this crunch will be those who carry little or no debt, but this concept is contrary to cultural norms and takes re-education, guidance, and a **spiritual commitment to make the change.**

Unfortunately, many people have made money their first love. **But**

Money makes a terrible lover.

Many of us fall into the trap of thinking **money will make us happy**, so we find ourselves loving money.

Matthew 6:24 tells us *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and money."* Love of money can become a serious problem in our lives, but money is a terrible lover. Money is incapable of making us happy.

Money can't love you back because money is amoral. It has no feelings. Money can't say "I love you." When times are tough in our lives, it can't hold us in loving arms.

Although at times it seems as if money does bring satisfaction, we soon realize that it was only temporary. No matter how hard we may try, you can't make money love you.

It's also more difficult to keep money's interest than to lose her interest.

Most of us will choose spending when faced with a choice of saving or spending. But, when we spend instead of save, there's no way to earn interest on the money; it is only earned when it is saved or wisely invested.

Because money doesn't love you, it seems to always be working against you.

Remember, money doesn't care either way. She has no feelings.

Money also doesn't care when we buy nice things.

She will never try to stop you when you are about to overspend. And, she doesn't care if you spend wisely or not.

Money is a terrible lover. If you find yourself loving money, remember it will only break your heart! Instead, love God and follow His principles of good money management.

Commitments, Covenants, & Vows

When we marry, we made a vow to each other, which represented our commitment to marriage for a lifetime. God says that any vow we make is a vow to Him and is very serious to Him. His relationship to us is a covenant relationship and our marriage is also a covenant.

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

...the wife of your marriage covenant.

Malachi 2:14 *This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*
Matthew 26:28

For more information:

The Power of Commitment by Scott Stanley

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas

Covenant Marriage, Staying together for Life, by Dr. Fred Lowery

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24