

THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE

Based on the command of Christ #33 – “Honor marriage”

The Wedding Covenant from the Institute in Basic Life Principles.

Easton's Bible Dictionary – (*berith*,) which comes from the root meaning "to cut."

A blood covenant was a formal, solemn, and binding agreement—a vow or pledge—between two parties made by "cutting" or dividing of animals into two parts.

I. Covenant Symbols in Christian Wedding Traditions and Customs

1. Seating of the Family on Opposite Sides of the Church

2. Center Aisle and White Runner

3. Seating of the Parents

4. Groom Enters First

Ephesians 5:23-32 reveals that earthly marriages are a picture of the church's union with Christ.

5. Father Escorts and Gives Away the Bride

6. White Wedding Dress

Revelation 19:7-8 - Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

7. Joining Right Hands

8. Wedding Vows

Groom and Bride: Do you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together following God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

If so answer: "I Do"

I, *Groom/Bride*, take you, *Groom/Bride*, to be my wedded husband wife,/ to have and to hold,/ from this day forward;/ for better, for worse;/ for richer, for poorer;/ in sickness and in health;/ to love and to cherish/ keeping only unto him/her until we are separated by death;/ as God as my witness,/ I give you my promise.

9. Exchanging of the Rings

Gen. 9:16 - Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

Revelation 4:3 - And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

10. Bridal Veil

1 Corinthians 7:4 - The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.

11. Pronouncement of Husband and Wife

12. Presentation of the Couple

13. The Reception

14. Cutting and Feeding of the Cake

15. Throwing of Rice