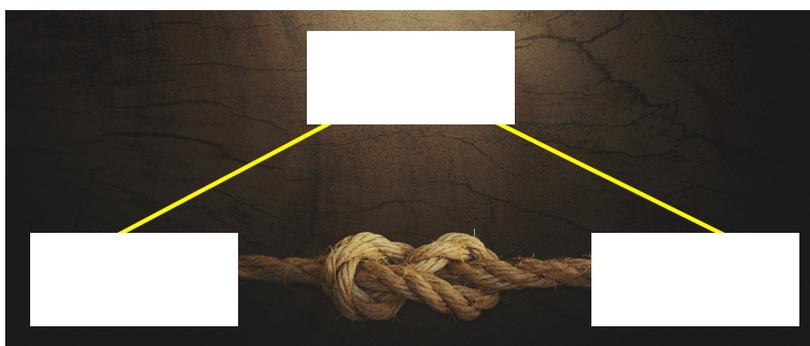


In a world where many—young and old—believe “Nobody stays together anymore,” it’s important for us to understand how seriously God takes **covenants**—relationships based on promises—including the covenant of **marriage**. Marriage doesn’t involve just two; marriage involves **three**:



In **Matthew 19:6**, Jesus plainly revealed God’s role in the covenant of marriage: “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has _____ together, let not man separate.” When God “ties” a man to a woman in marriage, she is his “wife _____” (**Mal 2:14**).

You’ve heard grooms and brides “exchange vows” at wedding ceremonies. That’s much more than a cute custom! Vows are “solemn promises.” When a groom and bride make those vows, they are entering into a special relationship based on promises—a **covenant** where God is joining them together for life. It’s no wonder then that we read in **Hebrews 13:4**:

Let marriage be held in _____ among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why is it dangerous to treat something like marriage as if it’s disposable?
- Of all the places Jesus could go to answer the Pharisees’ question in **Matthew 19**, why go back to “the beginning”?
- Some of our youngest ages studied a more kid-friendly version of this same lesson. Why do young people need to grow up with an alternative to the “Nobody stays together anymore” mindset?
- What does it mean to “hold” marriage “in honor” (**Heb 13:4a**)?
- In what ways is marriage to be a kind of display or parable of Jesus and his relationship with his church? (**Eph 5:32**)
- Many don’t like to hear language like “for God will judge” (**Heb 13:4b**). So why warn us in that way? What does all of this tell us about the God of covenants?