

**Till Death Do Us Part
Marriage is a Covenant
2/13/11**

(Questions taken from Study Guide "imarrriage" by Andy Stanley)

Getting Started

How have the following affected your expectations going into marriage?
What have you tried to imitate or avoid?

- TV or Movies
- Books or magazines
- Your parents' marriage(s)
- Other marriages

Going Deeper

Have you ever felt like you just couldn't measure up – that you just couldn't meet the expectations you felt were place upon you? Maybe this occurred with your parents, your spouse, your boss, a coach, or someone else. How did this affect your relationship?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-2

When you submit to someone else, you gain favor in his or her eyes. How about when you place expectations on others? What kind of response does this elicit?

As you go through your day, think about the expectations you place on your spouse. Write them down.

When expectations collide, one of the most popular options is to compromise. However, compromise can backfire when you are more committed to your marriage than your partner. Have you observed this?

Read 1 Peter 3:7

In the same way that wives are to submit to their husbands, husbands are to be considerate and respectful toward their wives. One sign that we are placing expectations on our spouse is that we stop serving our spouse. As you go through the day, take note of how considerate you are of your spouse. Write down the ways that you serve your spouse.

How does your relationship with your spouse impact your relationship with God? As you go through the day, pray that God would make you aware of the expectations you are placing on your spouse.

Take it Home

Andy Stanley says, "God doesn't call you to be committed to marriage; He calls you to be committed to your spouse. If you think about it, it's possible to give "honor" to marriage while unloading expectations on your spouse. So what about you? Where does your commitment lie?"

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Selected Scriptures

Pastor Ronn Smith

Our relationship with God is a _____ relationship

Your _____ is a covenant relationship

Marriage is a _____ NOT a _____

A covenant marriage _____ as God _____

Our commitment is NOT to the marriage, but to a _____

