

Real Solutions for Life and Marriage

➤ **CONTRACT** = An _____ between two or more parties, especially one that is written and enforceable by law.

➤ **WHY CONTRACTS FAIL:**

1. They're based on _____
2. They're based on _____
3. They're based on "I have to look out for _____"
4. They can be _____
5. They set up our keeping _____
6. When broken, there's retribution – somebody gets _____

Why Marriage Is Likely To Fail If It Is Viewed As A Contract

Why We Are Likely To Fail In Our Christian Life If Our Relationship With God Is Viewed As A Contract

➤ **THE SOLUTION? COVENANT** = A binding, _____ agreement based on _____.

1. Mentioned _____ times in Scripture

2. Based on the _____ of God

³At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, ⁴"This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations!... ⁶I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

⁷"I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Gen 17:3-7)

3. _____ – cannot be broken.

⁸And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God."

⁹Then God said to Abraham, "Your responsibility is to obey the terms of the covenant. You and all your descendants have this continual responsibility. ¹⁰This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. ¹¹You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. This applies not only to members of your family but also to the servants born in your household and the foreign-born servants whom you have purchased. ¹³All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant."(Gen 3:8-13)

4. Changing of _____

⁵What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. ¹⁵Then God said to Abraham, "Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah. (Gen 3:5,15)

And God took Abraham's name – "I am the God of your father Abraham...."(Gen 26:24)

5. Covenant is for _____ – us and others through us.

²*I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.*” (Genesis 12:2-3 NLT)

6. Based on _____ “...an everlasting covenant between me and you...to be your God and the God of your descendents after you.” (Gen. 17:7 NIV)

CONTRACT..... COVENANT

Based on mistrust All about _____

Based on _____ Based on unconditional love

“I have to look out for _____” “I want to look out for you”

Limited _____ Unlimited responsibility

Based on obligation..... Based on _____ and self sacrifice

Let’s make a _____ Here’s your gift

Can be _____ Can NOT be broken

Result of Default = retribution Result of Default = _____

Not _____ in Scripture Mentioned 300 times

God never made a _____ with anyone God makes covenants with His people

➤ **Couple Sharing**

1. Review the characteristics of covenants and list ways that each of you have been “forgetting” your vows as being an unbreakable covenant.
2. Restate both covenants with each other and, if possible, do so in front of a few witnesses (family, close friends, etc).

For Couples Together:

Believing that marriage is a covenant intended by God to be a lifelong fruitful relationship between a man and a woman, we vow to God, each other, our families, and our community to remain steadfast in unconditional love, reconciliation and sexual purity, while purposely growing in our covenant marriage relationship.

For Every Believer:

Believing that my Christian life is a covenant with God to give me a lifelong fruitful relationship with the Father through His Son Jesus Christ, I vow to God and to this church Body to remain steadfast in my love for my brothers and sisters in Christ, reconciliation and purity of life, while purposely growing in my covenant relationship with the Lord.