

The Inception — August 8, 2018

Covenant Matchmakers was born from a prophetic word received on August 8, 2018. These words became the foundation of everything this community stands for:

Don't settle.

God is faithful.

His neverending covenant promise to you will never cease.

Don't devalue your taste, your expectation,

or the desires of your heart

to accommodate someone's lack thereof.

Today is a miracle. History is being made.

This day will go down in the books.

It will never repeat itself.

Find strength in broken things.

Arise and shine.

"Blessed are you for believing, for there shall be a performance of all God has spoken." — Luke 1:45

SECTION 1 — COVENANT IS NOT A CONTRACT

The most important thing to understand about covenant is what it is not. In a culture that treats relationships like transactions, we must understand the difference between a contract and a covenant — because they produce completely different outcomes.

A CONTRACT SAYS...

- "If you do your part, I'll do mine"
- Based on performance
- Conditional — breaks when inconvenient
- Driven by feelings and emotion
- Ends when one party fails
- About what I receive

A COVENANT SAYS...

- "Even if it costs me everything, I stay"
- Sealed in sacrifice
- Unconditional — sustained by choice
- Driven by commitment and honor
- Held by grace even in failure
- About what I give

"Even if we are faithless, He remains faithful — for He cannot deny Himself." — 2 Timothy 2:13

SECTION 2 — THE ANCIENT COVENANT RITUAL

To understand covenant, we must go back to its ancient roots. In the biblical world, making a covenant was not signing a document. It was a life-level ceremony that involved blood, commitment, and solemn oath.

The Covenant Ceremony (Bereth)

Animals were sacrificed — specifically a bull. The animals were cut in half and the two halves were placed opposite each other. Both parties would then walk between the pieces seven times, declaring by their actions:

"If I break this covenant — let what happened to this animal happen to me."

This was not symbolic. This was the most serious form of commitment known in the ancient world. Blood was shed. Life was pledged. This is commitment.

"And it came about, when the sun had set and it was dark, that behold, a smoking oven and a flaming torch appeared which passed between these pieces." — Genesis 15:17

In Genesis 15, God Himself walked between the pieces — alone — meaning: "Even if Abraham fails, I will uphold this covenant." That is the character of God. That is the covenant He invites us into.

SECTION 3 — MARRIAGE AS COVENANT, NOT FEELING

The wedding ceremony itself carries ancient covenant imagery. The chuppah — the wedding canopy — represents God's covering over the marriage and the formation of a new home. The vows are covenant language. The union is covenant-sealing.

The Chuppah

The wedding canopy symbolizes God's covering over the covenant, the formation of a new household, and the shelter of divine protection over the marriage.

The Vows

Wedding vows are covenant language — not contract language. "For better or worse, in sickness and in health" is not conditional. It is unconditional commitment sealed before God and witnesses.

The Consummation

Marriage is fully sealed through physical union. This is why the gift of lovemaking is described as undefiled and pure within covenant — because sex within marriage is not recreational. It is covenant-completing.

The Lifetime Commitment

Whether you are 22, 31, or 40 — you honor the covenant of marriage. Not because you feel like it every day. But because you chose it. And you choose it again every morning.

"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure." — Hebrews 13:4

SECTION 4 — TWO MINDSETS: SACRED VS. CASUAL

The way we talk about sex reveals what we believe about covenant. There are two fundamentally different mindsets operating in culture today:

The World's Mindset:

- Casual — "just another day at the office"
- Recreational — disconnected from commitment
- Transactional — based on what I receive
- Temporary — no lasting obligation

The Covenant Mindset:

- **Sacred** — honoring what God calls holy
- **Intentional** — an act of love and commitment
- **Covenant-sealing** — the fullest expression of union
- **Permanent** — connected to lifelong vows

Wait — because something holy and God-honoring is coming. The choice is yours. You choose what you want to be.

SECTION 5 — GRACE: YOU ARE NOT DISQUALIFIED

This is the most important section in this guide. Read it carefully.

Many people come to this community carrying shame about their past. Past relationships. Past sexual choices. Past failures. And the enemy uses that shame to whisper: "You are disqualified. Covenant is not for you."

That is a lie. Here is the truth:

Christ Makes You New

No matter what happened last night, last year, or in your last relationship — Christ makes all things new. You can be born again spiritually. You can be sexually redeemed. Your past does not define your covenant future.

You Are Not "Used" or "Less Valuable"

The world's language around purity is often more damaging than healing. God does not see you as damaged goods. He sees you as His. Redeemed. Restored. Fully eligible for the covenant He has prepared for you.

Permanent Forgiveness

The sinless Son of God was slain for the permanent forgiveness of every sin ever committed. That includes yours. The old is gone. You may still feel guilty — but guilt and condemnation are not the same thing. He forgives every sin ever committed.

You Can Choose Covenant Starting Today

It does not matter where you are in your journey. Today you can decide: I will honor the covenant of marriage. I will wait. I will prepare. I will become the partner God is building me to be.

"If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here." — 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Only by the grace of God and faith in the perfect work of His Son — the sinless Son of God, slain for the forgiveness of sins — can we enter into this new covenant." — based on Romans 3:23-24

SECTION 6 — WHY COVENANT IS HARD (AND WHY YOU DO IT ANYWAY)

"Easy for you, pastor — you're married to Mrs. Perfect."

No. Sometimes marriage is terribly complicated. Sometimes relationships are hard. Sometimes you do not feel like being loving. You do not feel like forgiving. You do not feel like expressing love. You do not feel like doing what is important.

And here is the covenant answer:

You do it anyway. Because it is right. Not because you feel like it.

Feelings Are Not the Foundation

Covenant is not built on feelings. Feelings change daily. Covenant is built on choice, commitment, and the grace of God. You choose to love. You choose to forgive. You choose to honor. Discipline over feelings. Obedience over emotion.

The Misunderstanding of God's Character

Many people approach God — and relationships — with a contractual mindset. "I don't feel worthy because I haven't done enough." But God's covenant is not contractual. It is conventional — rooted in His character, not your performance. He remains faithful even when we are not.

Relationships Are As Good As We Choose

Our relationships — with God and with each other — are only as good as we choose for them to be. Not as good as we feel. Not as good as the other person deserves. As good as we decide, every day, to make them.

SECTION 7 — WHO YOU ARE IN THIS SEASON

You are not just someone who is single and searching. You are someone with a calling, a standard, and a God who keeps His promises.

Mission-Driven

You approach dating with intention, not desperation. You know what you are looking for and why. You are not swiping to pass time — you are pursuing a God-given vision.

Devil-Kicking

You refuse to let loneliness, fear, or impatience drive you into the wrong arms. You are spiritually strong. You recognize the enemy's tactics and you do not cooperate with them.

Covenant-Keeping

You are not casual with your life or your relationships. You hold a standard. Not out of pride — out of conviction. You know that covenant is worth waiting for.

The Covenant Declaration

"God, even if my past was messy, I choose covenant. I choose to honor what You call holy. I choose purity, commitment, and truth. Not because I always feel like it — but because it is right. Make me new — fully, deeply, completely."

You choose what you want to be.

Covenant Matchmakers meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at 4:30 PM CST on Microsoft Teams. Join us at Life.Church — search Covenant Matchmakers in the LifeGroups directory.