

# Four C's of Remarkable Relationships

**C**hrist Centered

**C**ommitment

**C**

**C**

# What is Commitment?



- ✓ Commitment is the state and quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, a pledge, or undertaking.
- ✓ Commitment is staying true to what you said long after the mood that you said it in, has left.
- ✓ Commitment is a choice to give up choices. Although this might at first sound limiting, it actually brings great freedom and depth!

1. It can change your life

2. It's boundaries will be tested, sometimes daily

3. It will help you overcome life's obstacles to leave a legacy

*Philippians 3:12-14*



**As goes the marriage, so goes the family.**

**As goes the family so goes the nation**

**Malachi 2:13-16 (TEV)** "This is another thing you do. You drown the Lord's altar with tears, weeping and wailing because He no longer accepts the offerings you bring Him. **14** You ask why He no longer accepts them. It is because He knows you have broken your promise (*commitment*) to the wife you married when you were young. She was your partner, and you have broken your promise (*commitment*) to her, although **you promised** (*committed*) **before God that you would be faithful to her ..."**



As goes the marriage, so goes the family.

As goes the family so goes the nation

Malachi 2:13-16 (TEV) "... 15 Didn't God make you one body and spirit with her? What was the purpose in this? It was that you should have children who are truly God's people. So make sure that none of you breaks his promise (*commitment*) to his wife. 16 I hate divorce says the Lord God of Israel. I hate it when one of you does a cruel thing to his wife. Make sure that you do not break your promises (*commitment*) to be faithful to your wife."



Malachi 2:14b(TEV) “you promised before God that you would be faithful ...”



## Q. What does Godly Commitment look like in a marriage?

It is a Husband and Wife:

1. Determined to keep their promises
2. Putting up hedges to protect their relationship
3. Persevere to leave a Godly legacy

# 1. Determine to keep your promises

Malachi 2:16a (TEV) "Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful..."



# 1. Determine to keep your promises

Malachi 2:16a (TEV) "Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful..."



## 4 guaranteed ways that your marriage will fall apart:

### 1. Indulge in selfishness (*Matthew 20:27-28*)

Thought: Marriage is all about my personal happiness

### 2. Justify unfaithfulness (*Matthew 5:27-28*)

Thought: What they don't know won't hurt them

### 3. Expect marriage to be easy (*Matthew 7:24-27*)

Thought: Our marriage will never have a storm

### 4. Pursue a quick fix (*Hebrews 6:12*)

Thought: I'll just get the Pastor to pray for me



# 1. Determine to keep your promises

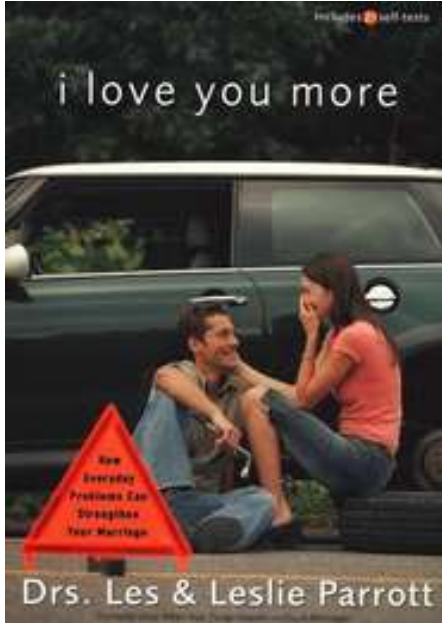
Malachi 2:16a (TEV) "Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful..."



## Q. What did their promise look like?

- ✓ Abiding determination to do so
- ✓ Faithful till death do us part
- ✓ Willful agreement to keep love alive  
*(LOVE's root word is 'give.' Without giving there is no true love and love will not grow without giving!)*
- ✓ A decision to do

Wisdom and insight from three couples who were married for 68 years, 70 years and 72 years.





# 1. Determine to keep your promises

Malachi 2:16a (TEV) "Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful..."



*"Where husband and wife abide in commitment of their marriage vows, all the power of a covenant keeping God stands behind them and their marriage."* Jack Hayford Spirit filled life Bible pg.1270

## 2. Putting up hedges in your relationship

**Malachi 2:14a (TEV)** "You promised before God that you would be faithful ..."



**1 Corinthians 9:7** "... Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?"

**Prov.27:18** "Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit..."

"Commitment is a choice to give up choices. Although this might at first sound limiting, it actually brings great freedom and depth. Once committed, all one's energy goes into making this commitment work."



## 2. Putting up hedges in your relationship

Malachi 2:14a (TEV) "You promised before God that you would be faithful ..."



### Broken down boundaries, cause and effect:

Psalms 80:12 "Why have You broken down her hedges, so that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit?"

➤ It's the enemy who wants to steal your fruit, your reward!

Proverbs 24:30-31 "... field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down."

Prov.27:18 "Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit."



## 2. Putting up hedges in your relationship

Malachi 2:14a (TEV) "You promised before God that you would be faithful ..."



### 5 boundaries you may want to consider:

1. **Mental Hedge** (*My thoughts are with my spouse*)
2. **Friendship Hedge** (*I didn't marry them*)
3. **Family Hedge** (*Leave and cleave*)
4. **Financial Hedge** (*You are ONE*)
5. **Spiritual Hedge** (*Christ is the head of you both*)

Prov.27:18 "Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit."



### 3. Persevere, to leave a Godly legacy



**Malachi 2:15 (TEV)** “Didn’t God make you one body and spirit with her? What was God’s purpose? It was that you should have children who are truly God’s people.”

**Proverbs 13:22 (AV)** “A good man leaves an inheritance [of moral stability and goodness] to His children’s children...”



# Commitment

Malachi 2:16a (TEV) "Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful..."



Q. What does Godly Commitment look like in a marriage?

1. Determined to keep their promises
2. Putting up hedges to protect their relationship
3. Persevere, to leave a Godly legacy

- ✓ It can change your life
- ✓ It will be tested, sometimes daily
- ✓ It will help you overcome life's obstacles



# Four C's of Remarkable Relationships

**C**hrist Centered

**C**ommitment

**C**

**C**