

**Title: Cove-what?**  
**Speaker: Phillip Boshoff**  
**Date: 31 August 2014**  
**Time: 18:00**



## 1. Assumptions

a. God is into relationships

**genesis 2:18,24**

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him..."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

**proverbs 18:22**

<sup>22</sup> *He who* finds a wife finds a good *thing*, and obtains favor from the LORD.

b. You want to do it right – the Godly way

c. You want to be the best possible husband / wife

d. Every relationship asks one question

e. Everybody is someone's spouse

f. Your spouse can never fulfil you

g. The end goal of marriage is not to be married, it is to pursue the purposes of God together

## 2. Held in honour

**hebrews 13:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor among all...

## 3. Marriage as covenant

**ephesians 5:31-32 (NLT)**

<sup>31</sup> As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

Covenant, what's that?

a. Mediator

b. Exchange of clothes

c. Exchange of belts

d. Sacrifice

e. Mingling of blood

f. Exchange of names

g. Memorial seal

h. Recital of the terms of commitment

i. Memorial meal

j. Erect a memorial

Mediator	-	Christ
Exchange of clothes	-	leaving father and mother / old families
Exchange of belts	-	mutual strength and protection
Sacrifice	-	Christ
Mingling of blood	-	consumation
Exchange of names	-	wife takes husband's name
Memorial seal	-	ring

Recital of terms	-	marriage vows
Memorial meal	-	ceremony
Erect a memorial	-	a new family

#### 4. Broken covenant

##### malachi 2:16

<sup>16</sup> “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence,” says the Lord of hosts.

##### matthew 19:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.

#### Some stats:

- 60 percent of marriages for couples between the ages of 20 and 25 end in divorce.
- 50 percent of all marriages in which the brides are 25 or older result in a failed marriage.
- 65 percent of altar-bound men and women live together before getting married.
- Research indicates that people who live together prior to getting married are up to 50% more likely to have marriages that end in divorce.
- Children of divorce have a higher risk of divorce when they marry, and an even higher risk if the person they marry comes from a divorced home. One study found that when the wife alone had experienced a parental divorce, her odds of divorce increased to 59 percent.
- When both spouses experienced parental divorce, the odds of divorce nearly tripled.
- Half of all American children will witness the breakup of a parent’s marriage. Of these, close to half will also see the breakup of a parent’s second marriage.
- Studies in the early 1980’s showed that children in repeat divorces earned lower grades and their peers rated them as less pleasant to be around.
- Teenagers in single-parent families and in blended families are three times more likely to need psychological help within a given year.
- Compared to children from homes disrupted by death, children from divorced homes have more psychological problems.
- A study of children six years after a parental marriage breakup revealed that even after all that time, these children tended to be “lonely, unhappy, anxious and insecure.”
- Seventy percent of long-term prison inmates grew up in broken homes.
- Children of divorce are four times more likely to report problems with peers and friends than children whose parents have kept their marriages intact.
- Children of divorce, particularly boys, tend to be more aggressive toward others than those children whose parents did not divorce.
- People who come from broken homes are almost twice as likely to attempt suicide than those who do not come from broken homes.
- Children of divorced parents are roughly two times more likely to drop out of high school than their peers who benefit from living with parents who did not divorce.

#### 5. Covenant redeemed

##### 2 corinthians 5:16-21 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! <sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” <sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

**matthew 26:26-28 (NLT)**

<sup>26</sup> As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.