



The Vow - Week One: “The Promise of Priority”
Ephesians 5:21-33
Make a promise to make your partner a priority and keep it.



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

The Zim-Zum of Love: A New Way of Understanding Marriage
by Rob and Kristen Bell

Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work
By John Gottman, PhD

The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Lasts
Gary Chapman

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Podcasts can be found by:

- Listening online through the “Audio” page of Pastor Leon’s website leonbloder.org
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- You can also subscribe to our podcasts from iTunes and receive them automatically.*

DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:

The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.

NIAGRA FALLS AND 14 HOUR CAR RIDES—A METAPHOR FOR MARRIAGE

*YOU WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD? START WITH SAVING RELATIONSHIPS
AND HOW DO WE DO THAT?*

WE LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO MAKE PROMISES THAT WE KEEP:
PROMISE OF PRIORITY
PROMISE OF PARTNERSHIP

TODAY: MAKE A PROMISE TO MAKE YOUR PARTNER A PRIORITY—AND KEEP IT

50% OF MARRIAGES TODAY END POORLY...

*WE ALL HAVE DESIRES—BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DESIRES BECOME
EXPECTATIONS... THAT ARE NOT BEING MET?*

EPHESIANS 5:21-33

- THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY MISUSE OF THIS TEXT
- WHAT WAS PAUL TRYING TO SAY?
- JESUS IS AT THE CENTER OF BOTH EXHORTATIONS TO BOTH HUSBANDS AND WIVES
- “SUBMISSION” IS NOT COERCED, IT IS A GIFT FREELY GIVEN—BY BOTH
- HUSBANDS CALLED TO SHOW AGAPE LOVE—SPACE FOR GRACE, GROWTH
- PAUL WROTE THIS AS A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO LOOK AT RELATIONSHIPS
- AMELIUS AND PAPIRIA - A LITTLE BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE A HAPPY AND LASTING RELATIONSHIP?

*(FINANCES, EDUCATION, RENEW THE SPARK, HEALTHY FAMILY, CRITICISM, TRIUMPH)
AND A “THE WILDCARD” IS HARD TO QUALIFY*

PEOPLE ASK—“HOW DO YOU DO IT?” OUR RESPONSE: IT’S WORK

*(TIME AWAY, CONSTANT EDUCATION, COUNSELING, WORKSHOPS, DEVELOPMENT)
AND WE HAVE TO WORK AT MAKING ONE ANOTHER A PRIORITY*

YOUR PROMISE OF PRIORITY SHOULD INCLUDE:

- PRIORITY OF TIME (BEING FOCUSED)
- PRIORITY OF ATTENTION (BE PRESENT)
- PRIORITY OF RELATIONSHIP (EVEN KIDS)

MAKE A PROMISE TO MAKE YOUR PARTNER A PRIORITY—AND KEEP IT