

PROMISES TO RACHEL

INTRODUCTION

With the birth of my fourth child seventeen days ago, I preached Promises to Serena the Sunday before last. Since today marks the seventh anniversary of my marriage to Rachel, I present my promises to her. These are the responsibilities of every husband to his wife.

I. I PROMISE HER LOVE

A. **Colossians 3:19**

1. The best husbands are those who have been “*raised with Christ*” (1), that is Christians. Worldly men lack the best motivation to demonstrate proper affection.
2. True love excludes bitterness. Despite occasional disagreements, I must be genuinely fond of my wife.

B. **Ephesians 5:25-33; John 15:13**

I ought to love Rachel as Christ loves the church, sacrificially.

C. **Genesis 29:20**

A man’s love for a woman will motivate great actions to win her. That same love should motivate him to keep her.

II. I PROMISE HER HONOR

A. **1st Peter 3:7**

1. She deserves honor because she is the “weaker vessel”. Just as a fragile vase is displayed prominently in a house, so the wife is owed honor within the marriage.
2. She deserves honor because we are “*heirs together of the grace of life*”. I honor her as my sister in Christ.

B. **Proverbs 31:28**

Some husbands make a sport of cutting down their wives in front of their friends, but a woman of valor should be praised by her husband.

C. Proverbs 12:4

Although I am my wife's head, she is my crown. She beautifies my leadership.

D. Proverbs 18:22; 19:14

Considering what a blessing my wife is, she is worthy of honor.

III. I PROMISE HER LEADERSHIP

A. Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18

Since she owes me submission, according to God's Word, I owe her leadership. I am to make decisions for our household.

B. 1st Timothy 2:11-15

Man is to lead over woman for two reasons:

1. Genesis 2:21-23, 18

God made man first. Woman was made to help him.

2. Genesis 3:1-7, 16

The first time a woman took the lead in the marriage relationship it led to sin. Afterward, God told her to submit.

IV. I PROMISE HER SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

A. Genesis 18:19

Not just leadership, but spiritual leadership is what God expects from the man. He spoke approvingly of Abraham because he not only led his children, but his whole household to serve Jehovah.

B. Joshua 24:15

Like Abraham before him, Joshua made the executive decision for his family, his wife included, to serve the living God.

C. 1st Corinthians 14:35

Men must be capable of answering the questions their wives have in church.

D. Genesis 6:1-13; 7:7; 2nd Peter 2:5

When God destroyed the ancient world by deluge, he spared eight people, the family of Noah, because Noah had God's grace. Nothing is said of Mrs. Noah's standing in God's sight, but she and her offspring were saved when her husband found grace.

V. I PROMISE HER MATERIAL PROVISION

A. Titus 2:3-5; 1st Timothy 5:14

Women are required *"to be homemakers", "to manage the house"*. Since men are not so commanded, they must be the ones who work outside the home, making it possible for the women to fulfill their domestic duties.

B. 1st Timothy 5:8

One who neglects to provide for his own household is worse than an infidel.

VI. I PROMISE HER COMPANIONSHIP

A. Genesis 2:18-20, 24

God created woman to cure man's loneliness. It's not right to leave the woman alone, night after night, while he spends time with his friends or hobbies.

B. Deuteronomy 24:5

The concept of a "honeymoon" is a very scriptural notion. It may be romantic to marry, then ship off for war, but it's not wise, and it may be practical to marry, then finish college in another state before getting back together, but that, too, is foolish. There should be an extended period during which husband and wife adjust to their joint life before one goes away for business.

C. 1st Corinthians 9:5

The apostles who were married had the right to take their wives with them wherever they preached. If a church is to cover the cost of a man's travel to

preach in a meeting, it should cover the cost for his wife to accompany him, as well.

D. Ecclesiastes 9:9

One of life's pleasures, a divine blessing, is to "live joyfully *with* the wife whom you love"; with, not apart from.

E. 1st Peter 3:7

"Husbands" have a responsibility to "dwell with" their wives. Prolonged marital separation is not part of God's plan.

VII. I PROMISE HER FIDELITY

A. Proverbs 5:15-23

In marriage, God gives man something good to enjoy. He need not look any further for that fulfillment.

B. Hebrews 13:4

God approves of sex in marriage, but will condemn those who obtain it elsewhere.

C. 1st Corinthians 7:1-5

Sex should be a consistent part of the relationship. Only prayer and fasting should interrupt it.

CONCLUSION

A. Luke 14:16-24

As important as marriage is, it should not interfere with serving the Lord.

B. 1st Corinthians 7:32-35

May God ever be first so that marriage is not a distraction to faithful service.