**Above and Beyond**

*“"It was said, ' WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE '; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”*

*Matthew 5:31-32 NASB*

**The issue of Commitment: Fidelity**

**A contractual view of marriage. Irreconcilable differences**

“Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"... They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?" He said to them, "Because of your **hardness of heart** Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."”
Matthew 19:3, 7-9 NASB

**A Covenant view of marriage. (Holy Bond)**

“And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ' FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH '? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."” Matthew 19:4-6 NASB (Gen 2:24, 1 Cor. 7:2-7)

“For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.” Hebrews 9:16-17 NASB

**ABOVE: Devoted faithfulness**

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
Hebrews 13:4 NASB

“Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them; Let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared.”
Psalms 76:11 NASB

**BEYOND: Understanding Roles**

“and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body… Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;... Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.”
Ephesians 5:21-23, 25-28, 33 NASB