



Series: Is Marriage Still Relevant?

Week 2: Case Study

David and Tim are brothers, two years apart. They are very close, talking on the phone 1-2 times a week. On their family vacation, David asked Tim to come along on a grocery run. Since they were alone, David knew he could ask, “How are things going with Kathy? Y’all have been together a few years now,” David asks. “I actually just ended things with her,” Tim replies. “What?!” David cries. “I thought y’all were talking about getting married?” Tim quickly points out, “No SHE was talking about getting married. She was pushing it on me, over and over, and I didn’t want to. I kept telling her that I didn’t need a piece of paper to show her that I love her and am committed to us. She could’ve seen my love for her in our relationship. I mean, we lived together for over two years.”

“That wasn’t the only thing,” Tim continues. “What do you mean?” David asks. Tim admits, “It felt like the passion side of things was wearing off. I got tired of her work schedule, things just cooled way down between us, and our relationship started to feel like a duty. It wore me out.”

“So, you ended it?” David asks. “Yeah, I did a couple weeks ago. It was like our compatibility wasn’t as strong as I had hoped. I felt like I was definitely putting more into the relationship than she was.” Tim adds. “I’m sorry that it’s over,” David says. “Nah, it’s OK. It’s better for me now that she moved out.” Tim says. “How so?” David asks. “I know more what I want in a woman. Kathy showed me what kind of weaknesses I can’t put up with for too long.”

Questions for Discussion

- How would you describe Tim’s view of love and marriage? What are Tim’s top values?
- What can you affirm as True and Biblical about Tim’s views on love and romance?
- How does the Bible depict passion in the essence of love? Against it? For it? Neither?
- Thinking about the statistics from last week, where do you see the categories that we discussed in Tim & Kathy’s relationship?
- Read Genesis 2:22-25. This is where we see the first human marriage ceremony. The Hebrew word for “cleave” literally means to be glued to something. Elsewhere in the Bible, the word “cleave” means to unite to someone through a covenant or a binding promise.¹ Another definition of covenant is on the reverse side. What are some similarities between a covenant and a contract? What are some differences?

¹ *The Meaning of Marriage*, Timothy Keller with Kathy Keller, 2011.

- How could Tim and Kathy's relationship have looked if they had a covenant mindset rather than a contract mindset?
- What is your takeaway from today?
- *A covenant is a relationship between two partners who make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal. They're often accompanied by oaths, signs, and ceremonies. Covenants define obligations and commitments, but they are different from a contract because they are relational and personal. -The Bible Project*