

## *“I Do” for Life*

**Steven D. Minor**

I can remember the weeks and days before I tied the knot with my beautiful bride. All those thoughts about what marriage would be like were running through my head. Thoughts like eating every meal together, having her there to talk to at all times (not having to talk for hours over the phone), and rearing a godly family. One aspect I tried to focus my thoughts on was the two-word phrase, “I do,” when the time came. They are only two small words but one **enormous** promise! I was pretty confident that I understood the promise I was making, but I am not confident that the world understands it and many Christians are a bit confused as to what it means too.

What kind of a promise is one making when he says, “I do”? Hopefully, when a couple is buying a house, they research the true cost and examine the fine print before signing the papers. Should we not do the same when it comes to the marriage covenant? Marriage is serious business to God! The good news is that God’s covenant for marriage is not in the fine print. It is in black and white in the pages of the New Testament. Let me sum up the covenant in a few words:

- Leave and cleave (Matthew 19:5)
- Unity (Matthew 19:5)
- Commitment (Matthew 19:6)
- Lifetime (Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:10ff)
- Faithfulness (Matthew 19:9)
- Submission (Ephesians 5:22, 24)
- Leadership (Ephesians 5:23)
- Love (Ephesians 5:25)
- Understanding (1 Peter 3:7)

- Honor (1 Peter 3:7)

Interestingly, Kenneth Price in his book, *The Eagle Christian*, explains how the golden eagle treats marriage as a very serious act. The eagle, when courting, is looking for a mate for life (just as the Christian should). When male and female eagles encounter each other, they begin a game of tag. After a few days of this game, the female starts a new game. She dives down to get a small stick. She then ascends to an altitude between eight and ten thousand feet. All the while the male eagle is following her every move. She will then drop the stick. The male eagle will retrieve the stick. She will then dive down again and get a bigger stick. Each time the female will drop a bigger stick. Each time she flies a little lower and a little faster. The game will continue either until the male eagle drops the stick or until the female eagle is satisfied with the male's performance as a fit husband. The marriage ritual of the two eagles is then made at an altitude between ten and fifteen thousand feet. It is done by locking talons together and turning head over heels. This monumental moment in the eagle's life is enhanced with both birds screaming at each other in joy. After the "vows" are made, the eagles will remain together for life (p. 13-14).

Marriage is a serious covenant to the golden eagle; how serious is it for us? Years ago men did not sign a contract. Their word was their bond. Most men had such integrity that they would do whatever it took to keep their words. What about today? Contracts today come and go, whether it is a loan, a job, a sport, or a mobile phone company. Most contracts are made with "loopholes." Marriage is much more serious than a contract with "a way out." It is a binding covenant upon all people, a universal law of God to be carried out until death.

Did we really mean the words we said in the presence of our spouses and before all those witnesses? Were the words, "In sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, until death do us part" just "lip service," or was it a promise never to be broken?

If you are wavering in your commitment to your marriage, please re-read the Scriptures listed above and re-commit your covenant to God and your spouse.

"I do" for life, or just until life gets difficult?

Biography

## **Steven D. Minor – North MacArthur Family Minister**

Steve graduated from Oklahoma Christian University with a degree in Bible in 1998. OCU is where Steve met his wonderful wife, Stephani Jimenez. They have been married since 1996. They have three children: Micah (1998), Mason (2000), and Makenna (2003).

In 1998 Steve and Stephani moved to Atlanta, TX where Steve served as the youth minister for 2 years. In October 2000, the Minor family moved to Ada, OK where Steve served as the Family Minister for 4 years. North MacArthur church of Christ (OKC) is where they have served families since 2004. Steve is the director of the Oklahoma Preacher Training Camp, Focus Week Bible Camp, and co-director of the Affirming the Faith Seminar. He has preached in the Netherlands, South Africa, and numerous seminars, camps, and Gospel meetings in the U.S.