

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Is Marriage A Contract Or Covenant?

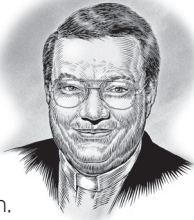
Know This...

There's a major difference between a contract and a covenant. A contract is a legal agreement that can be broken by mutual consent of the parties. A covenant is a solemn promise that cannot be broken because it is fortified by an oath to God. When God created mankind, He established marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman. Yet, the secular world says marriage is a contract between two people. Only a fool contradicts God. Christian marriage brings men and women together in a sacred bond—a covenant—that strengthens their love for God and takes them to heaven.



**John:** The Father established the marriage covenant. The Son made it a sacrament. And the Holy Spirit, through the Church, proclaims and protects it.

**James:** When a baptized man and woman say "I do," they swear an oath before God that their marriage is for life, that they will remain faithful to each other, and that they will be open to conceiving and raising children.



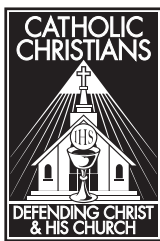
**John:** Marriage is more than just a sexual or convenient union between two people: it is an indissoluble, faithful, and loving union between a man and a woman in the sight of God.

**James:** Husband and wife come together in marriage and start a family. Christian marriage reflects the familial love between the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

**John:** In a sacramental marriage, the love between husband and wife images the love between Christ and His Church.

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what God has joined." Mk 10:6-9

"Jesus said, 'At the beginning of creation God made them male and female; for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother [and be joined to his wife] and the two shall become as one. They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, let no man separate



"The essential properties of marriage are unity and indissolubility, which in Christian marriage obtain a special firmness by reason of the sacrament. Before a marriage is celebrated, it must be evident that nothing stands in the way of its valid and licit celebration. All the faithful are obliged to reveal any impediments they know about to the pastor or local ordinary before the celebration of the marriage. To receive the sacrament of marriage fruitfully, spouses are urged especially to approach the sacraments of penance and the Most Holy Eucharist." Code of Canon Law

## PAPA SAYS

"If they say that marriages ought to be dissolved for the sake of religion, it must be known that even if human law has allowed this, divine law has nevertheless forbidden it. For Truth Himself says: 'What God has joined together, let man not put asunder.' He says also: 'It is not permitted to dismiss a wife, except for reasons of fornication.' Who, then, can contradict this heavenly Legislator?" Pope Gregory I (the Great), 601 A.D.



"It is well for a man not to touch a woman. But because of the temptation to immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not rule over her own body, but the husband does; likewise the husband does not rule over his own body, but the wife does. Do not refuse one another except perhaps by agreement for a season, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, lest Satan tempt you through lack of self-control." 1 Cor 7:1-5 "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous." Heb 13:4

Father, You are the Author of marriage. You made it a permanent covenant between one man and one woman. You made marital intimacy to image divine love. You call husband and wife to love each other as Your Son loves His Church. I pray that those called to the marriage covenant will remain faithful to each other, create a home together, deepen their love for You, and remain open to children. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

