

The Marriage Promise

Do you remember your vows?

“I, Andy, take thee Mary to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God’s holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.”

You probably didn’t use these exact words, but something like that, right? What’s a “troth” anyway? Is it anything like a troll? Probably not.

Yep, if you haven’t figured it out, it’s February and tomorrow is Valentine’s Day. Maybe it’s a little later than I planned, but we can spend the rest of this month encouraging us who are married. I like to spend the first couple of months of each year talking about marriage. It’s also good timing because we have a couple couples who are planning to wed in the next month or so.

If you are not married, don’t worry, there’s something there for you as well! In fact, this subject is the best analogy for the church in relationship to God! So, let’s compare.

Those who marry, make a public vow to spend the rest of their lives together. Those who wish to become Christians, do the same thing. They make a vow to God to spend the rest of their lives living for Him. I like the way one man described baptism as “The Believer’s Wedding Ceremony!”

It’s true! We’re not in a relationship with God until we are baptized! Yet, not setting that aside, what is the vow we make? Maybe it could go something like this:

“I, Andy, take thee God to be my awesome heavenly Father, to follow and to obey from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death when we meet face to face, according to YOUR holy plan; and thereto I give thee my troth.”

By the way, “troth” means loyalty or pledged faithfulness, or one’s pledge word. Will you give your word to be faithful to God? Will you complete your word with baptism into Christ? Will you then continue the journey faithfully and loyally to and with Him? I hope you will.

Love to all,

Andy