

# The Vow - February 9th - The Vow to Fight - Troy Knight

## TALK IT OVER

**Key Scriptures from the Message:**  
Ephesians 6:11-14  
Colossians 1:15-16  
Psalm 23:1  
Romans 2:12  
Acts 13:2-3  
Acts 19:21  
Acts 21:4  
Acts 21:10-14

**Start reading.**

### **Romans 2:12 NLT**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### **Acts 13:2-3**

One day as these men were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

### **Acts 19:21**

Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!"

### **Acts 21:4**

We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

### **Acts 21:10-14**

After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

**Start talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- If you are married, do you remember your wedding vows?
- What is your definition of the word "vow" without looking in the dictionary?

**Start thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Troy mentioned 2 of Satan's lies about marriage. What are they? Discuss each one. How have you seen them played out among family, friends, or acquaintances? What were you able to learn from their experiences?
- Read Romans 12:1-2. How does God reveal his will to us?
- Read Acts 13:2-3; 19:21; 21:4, 21:10-14. How do these verses demonstrate Larry Osborne's teaching about God's will for a marriage or career, that is, that God most often gives us a game plan rather than a blue print for our behavior? How has that been demonstrated through the relationships in your life?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do you believe arranged marriages have a lower divorce rate than marriages based on love? Do you agree that comparison is valid? Why or why not?
- What expectations of your spouse did you have before you were married? How have they changed since you've been married?
- If you've been divorced, what did you learn from the failed marriage? If you had it to do over again, what would you have done differently?
- Troy also shared two elements of a game plan to make a marriage work. They are fight for your marriage and practice your faith in Jesus Christ. What part has each played in the marriages of friends and family, as well as your own (if you are married)? What lessons have you learned in the practice of each one?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit to living the life of faith that God has called you to live. Pray, study and meditate on God's word, and seek Godly counsel if needed.
- If you are a married couple consider signing up for Marriage on the Rock starting on Sunday February 23rd.

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

- Heavenly Father, forgive us for placing our friends, relationships, and other things before You. Give us strength to place You first in every part of our lives. Help us to learn how to practice our faith in you in our marriages and our everyday. Amen!. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Start digging.** For further study.

Question: "What is God's design for marriage?"

Answer: Marriage has been a hot topic lately, and there is much confusion surrounding the issue. Is there a design for marriage, and, if so, who has the right to change the design? Can we redefine what marriage is if the old definitions are too restrictive? At the heart of our questioning is a clash of worldviews.

It seems that Christians who take the Bible as God's final word on the subject of marriage are the only ones who are not confused. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and He has stated plainly that marriage is His idea. He defined it in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:24). Jesus reiterated God's design for marriage in the New Testament (Mark 10:6–8).

After God created the first man, Adam, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a suitable helper for him" (Genesis 2:18). So God's first objective in creating marriage was to provide companionship. He did not make another man for Adam so that he could experience brotherly affection. He created a woman from the man's own body and brought her to the man (Genesis 2:21–22). With the woman, Adam could experience a deeper kind of intimacy than he could with a man. God created male and female bodies and souls to complement each other in such a way that they become "one flesh" in marriage (Genesis 2:24).

God's design for marriage is that it be a unique union between a man and a woman in a covenant for life. God's design includes sex, the consummation of that union, which is to be experienced only between a married couple. Any sexual expression outside the marriage covenant is sin. The sexual union was designed, in part, to bring forth children (Genesis 1:28), who are to be raised in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). By designating specific roles for husband, wife, and children, God instituted the family. With the husband bearing the responsibility for the family's well-being and the wife acting as his helper, the family can thrive (Ephesians 5:21–33).

God's design for marriage is that it be a picture of His union with those He calls His own. Throughout the Old Testament, God used imagery related to marriage to explain His love and commitment toward Israel. When the nation of Israel rebelled against Him, God expressed the sorrow and jealousy of a man who has a cheating wife. "Like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you, Israel, have been unfaithful to me," the Lord says in Jeremiah 3:20. In the New Testament, marriage is used as an illustration of Christ and His relationship with His Bride, the Church. Paul writes, "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him" (2 Corinthians 11:2; cf. Ephesians 5:31–32). So God's design for marriage is that it be an unbreakable covenant such as God has made with His people.

When God designed marriage, He pronounced it "very good" (Genesis 1:31). He still pronounces it "good" when we follow His design. All perversions of His design, including divorce, sexual promiscuity, and homosexual activity, destroy families and therefore weaken society. God is the designer of marriage and the only One qualified to give us instructions about how to use His gift. We do well when we decide to follow His design for marriage.