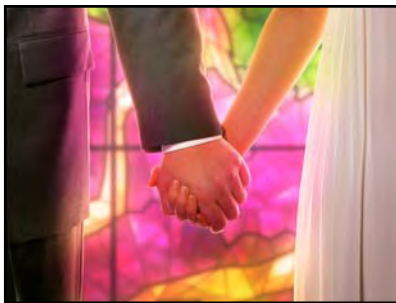




*Embracing* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

With what can we compare our walk with God?

1. Some have compared it to that of a marriage
  - How well does that hold up?



*Embracing* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

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  - How well does that hold up?
  - Does this metaphor have a Biblical basis?

*2 Corinthians 11:2* NASB

“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.”

*Embracing* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

With what can we compare our walk with God?

1. Some have compared it to that of a marriage
  - How well does that hold up?
  - Does this metaphor have a Biblical basis?
  - Let's look at a typical set of marriage vows.

*Embracing* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

Typical Vows

I Jill, take you, Jack, to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

Typical Vows

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

Typical Vows

I Darryl, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

Typical Vows

I Darryl, take you, Jesus, to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

Vow Elements

1. My partner and one true love
2. Cherishing of the union
3. Loving more each day
4. Trust and respect
5. Sharing all moments of life (laughing and crying together)
6. Faithfully loving in all circumstances
7. Complete surrender of the body throughout life

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

Did or does God ask us to marry Him?

➤ Let's look at the Bible and find out

*Exodus 20:3* NASB

"You shall have no other gods before Me."

*Exodus 20:2* NASB

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

*Exodus 20:3* NASB

"You shall have no other gods before Me."

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF *GOD*

In ancient times worship of false gods was very widespread.

1. The Israelites had just been rescued from Egypt
2. They were exposed to many false gods.
3. Some of them no doubt worshipped the false gods of Egypt.





*Exodus 32:24* NASB

"I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off!' So they gave *it* to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."

*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF GOD

The 1<sup>st</sup> commandment fits perfectly with a marriage metaphor.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. God wants to be before all others in our lives.
3. This means even before:
  - Our earthly spouse
  - Our children
  - Our extended family
  - Our careers



*Remembering* THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Who was Joshua?

1. In the Hebrew his name is Yehoshua (יהושע).
  - It means: "Yahweh is deliverance" or "Yahweh Saves"
2. He was the son of Nun.
3. He was a trusted warrior who led the battle against the Amalekites.
4. He became the leader of Israel after Moses.





*Joshua 24:15* NASB  
"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve:...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

*Embracing THE CHARACTER OF GOD*  
God wants to be married to us today.  
➤ He wants:  
❖ To be our one true love before all others (Ex 20:3)  
❖ Us to be partners with Him (Isa 1:18; Matt 11:29)  
❖ Us to be faithful and not commit spiritual adultery (2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:10)  
❖ Us to trust Him completely (Deut 6:5; Prov 3:7)

*Embracing THE CHARACTER OF GOD*  
What does this teach about the character of God?  
➤ I believe it teaches us that:  
➤ God is jealous for us. Not in a selfish, narcissistic way, but in a way that protects us from harm and eternal loss (Ex 20:5; Deut 4:24).  
➤ God wants to shower His blessings on us. He is the ultimate giver of good gifts (Matt 7:11)  
➤ God wants to teach us what true love is really about. True love is a love that sacrifices for others (John 15:13; Eph 5:25).

*Romans 5:8* NASB  
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

