

Marriage Covenant

**Between Christopher Hobert Carnell and
Sarah Beth Brock**

Covenant of Sarah Beth Brock

WHEREAS, the only true and living God, Jehovah of the Bible, in infinite wisdom and providential mercy did design and ordain marriage for the blessing of our father Adam; and

WHEREAS, the same LORD God did ordain marriage to be a permanent union in this life, between one man and one woman, grounded in a holy covenant, that should not be put asunder by man, except for severe violations such as fornication or desertion; and

WHEREAS, the same LORD God did prescribe in the Bible all the duties and privileges that will result in a happy and beneficial marriage and did condemn all those sinful actions that will destroy a marriage; and

WHEREAS, the same LORD God, in a further display of His infinite wisdom and providential mercy did make me a woman, as a help meet for the man, in need of his leadership and protection; and

WHEREAS, I love the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is Jehovah God forever, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and greatly desire to be perfect before Him in all the will of God, to please Him well in all things, and live according to His pure doctrine; and

WHEREAS, marriage is under hostile assault by a fornicating generation, which glamorizes casual sex and easy cohabitation, despises its commitment and confines, violates it with adulteries, breaks it with easy and numerous divorces, distorts it with dysfunctional relationships, and perverts it with same-sex unions; and

WHEREAS, I am under holy conviction to make this covenant before Him and many witnesses to be a godly wife, as defined by the only true LORD God in the Holy Bible, to silence the reproaches of our enemies, save the Word of God from blasphemy, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; and

WHEREAS, I freely choose with my parents' blessing and before many witnesses to be Christopher Hobert Carnell's wife, though knowing him to be a sinner and subject to all the temptations of the flesh, on this 30th day of September in the year of our LORD 2006; therefore

AS THE LORD LIVETH, I do hereby solemnly promise before God, our Lord Jesus Christ, the elect angels, my loving parents, and these witnesses, knowing the solemnity of such vows, to be the devoted and loving wife of Christopher Hobert Carnell, according to the following Christian duties among others, as expressed in the Holy Bible:

1. To make my personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a holy body and spirit my top priority, as this is the chief purpose for my existence and the primary means of maximizing my marital success and happiness (Psalm 73:25-26; 84:10; Matt 22:37-38; Luke 14:26; I Cor 7:34; 16:22; II Cor 7:1; I Pet 1:15-16; Phil 1:21; 3:7-14; I Tim 2:9-10; I John 1:1-9),
2. To keep sufficient consecration to the Lord, knowledge of His will, and personal conviction to resist attempts by Chris to lead me to sin (I Pet 3:6; I Sam 25:3-37; Acts 5:29),
3. To remember soberly and always, with daily practical application, I was created for him rather than he for me (Genesis 2:18; 3:16; I Cor 11:9; Prov 18:22; Eccl 9:9; Eph 5:27),
4. To submit to him cheerfully, as unto the Lord, to be in subjection, as the church is subject to Christ, and to obey him in all things, without answering again (Gen 3:16; I Cor 11:3; 14:34-35; Eph 5:22-23; Col 3:18; Tit 2:3-5,9-10; Prov 12:4; 19:13; 21:9,19; 25:24; 27:15-16; 30:21-23),
5. To reverence him from my heart, in the offices God has given him, as husband, lord, and head, rather than seek a casual friendship as with a partner or peer (Eph 5:33; I Peter 3:1-7; Gen 18:12; I Kings 1:11-31; I Sam 25:39-42; I Cor 11:3),
6. To adorn myself with a meek and quiet spirit always, which God values very highly (I Pet 3:3-4; I Tim 2:9-10; I Cor 14:34-35; Prov 11:16),
7. To live as wife first and mother second, if the Lord graciously grants us children (Gen 2:18; I Cor 11:9; Prov 31:10-12; Eccl 9:9; Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 5:8; 8:4,6-7; I Sam 1:8),
8. To love our children, be sober, discreet, chaste, a keeper at home, good, full of good works, and above reproach, that God's word be not blasphemed (Tit 2:4-5; I Tim 5:10,13-14; Prov 31:10-30),
9. To follow and support him fully in the godly training of our children, according to the wisdom of God and the light of nature, without regard for human invention or foolish sentimentality (Prov 13:24; 19:18; 22:6; 23:13-14; 29:15; Eph 6:4; Deut 21:18-21),
10. To love him tenderly, loyally, and passionately, as my nature and body were designed, by Scripture's example and commandment, rather than by feelings or circumstances (Titus 2:3-5; Song of Solomon),
11. To look and think only upon him as the object of my love and lovemaking, and not to so look or think on any other (Num 5:11-31; Job 31:1; Titus 2:5; Prov 2:16-17; 31:11-12; Jer 3:3),

12. To cheerfully and often love him sexually, both actively and passively, in those benevolent ways he desires and needs, without any defrauding, remembering the wisdom of my physical design and the holy instruction of Solomon (I Cor 7:1-5; Heb 13:4; Song of Solomon; Gen 26:8),
13. To forgive him fully and finally without bitterness for his failures, and never recall events from the past at anytime (Matt 6:12; I Cor 13:4-7; Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:13; Prov 17:9; I Cor 14:20),
14. To remember the highest standard of love is that of Paul in his definition of Christian charity (I Cor 13:1-13; Col 3:14; Gal 5:14; I John 4:7-12),
15. To communicate openly, freely, and honestly, without compulsion, at all times and regarding all matters (Amos 3:3; Prov 29:19; 20:5; John 15:15),
16. To so conduct myself with virtue and grace, as his representative in public, that honor will accrue to him (Proverbs 11:16; 12:4; 19:14; 31:23; Eccl 10:1),
17. To help him financially by not complaining, using funds frugally, or working a job he approves, though personally caring for our home and children takes priority over working a job, if it all possible (Prov 31:10-31; 14:1; Gen 3:16; Eccl 4:9-12; Titus 2:4-5),
18. To honor his parents and family as my own, and to encourage him in his duties to his family (Exodus 18:1-12; Eph 6:1-3; I Tim 5:3-8),
19. To remember marriage is permanent, so reconciliation and renewal are superior to separation or divorce, by the power of Christ (Rev 2:4-5; I Cor 7:10-11; Matt 5:21-26; Phil 4:13),
20. To use the Lord's means for offences between us, rather than the flesh's revenge and the world's escapes (Prov 19:11; Matt 5:21-26; 18:15-17; Rom 12:17-21; I Cor 6:1-8; 7:10-11),
21. To remember his conduct, good or bad, does not justify my violation or neglect of these holy obligations to the Lord (I Pet 2:18-24; 3:1-6; Luke 6:31; Acts 20:35; Matt 23:1-3),
22. To cheerfully submit to inquiries by my parents, his parents, and our pastor regarding my life, marriage, and family (Lev 19:17; Psalm 141:5; Pro 20:5; 25:2; 27:5-6; Gal 6:1-2; Rom 15:1-3; Heb 10:23-25; Jas 5:16,19-20),

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WHEREAS, the true and living God, Jehovah of the Bible, in infinite wisdom and providential mercy did design and ordain marriage for the blessing of our father Adam; and

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WHEREAS, the same LORD God did prescribe in the Bible all the duties and privileges that will result in a happy and beneficial marriage and did condemn all those sinful actions that will destroy a marriage; and

WHEREAS, the same LORD God, in a further display of His infinite wisdom and providential mercy did make me a man, needing and wanting the meet help of a woman; and

WHEREAS, I love the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is Jehovah God forever, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and greatly desire to be perfect before Him in all the will of God, to please Him well in all things, and live according to His pure doctrine; and

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WHEREAS, I am under holy conviction to make this covenant before Him and many witnesses to be a godly husband, as defined by the LORD God in the Holy Bible, to silence the reproaches of our enemies, save the Word of God from blasphemy, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; and

WHEREAS, I freely choose with my parents' blessing and before many witnesses to take Sarah Beth Brock as my wife, though knowing her to be a sinner and subject to all the temptations of the flesh, on this 30th day of September in the year of our LORD 2006; therefore

AS THE LORD LIVETH, I do hereby solemnly promise before God, our Lord Jesus Christ, the elect angels, my loving parents, and these witnesses, knowing the solemnity of such vows, to be the devoted and loving husband of Sarah Beth Brock according to the following Christian duties among others, as expressed in the Holy Bible:

1. To make my personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a holy body and spirit my top priority, as this is the chief purpose for my existence and the primary means of maximizing my marital success and happiness (Psalm 73:25-26; Matthew 22:37-38; I Corinthians 7:34; 16:22; II Cor 7:1; I Peter 1:15-16; Phil 1:21; 3:7-14; I Tim 2:9-10; I Peter 3:10-13; I John 1:1-9),
2. To lead her and any children that God may give by example, instruction, and training, in holiness, truth, and wisdom, for the glory of God and their profit and comfort (Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; Deut 6:4-7; Ps 34:11; 127:3-5; Prov 19:18; 22:6; 29:15; Joel 1:3; Mal 2:15; Eph 6:4),
3. To remember a good wife is from the Lord, for my needed help in this life, so she is on loan to me from the Most High for safekeeping and nurturing in loving affection (Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; 31:31; Eccl 9:9; Mal 2:10-16; I Cor 9:5; I Pet 3:7),
4. To remember I am responsible for keeping a happy marriage by directing her as a loving leader, and managing our relationship to solve all differences in love (Gen 3:16; I Cor 14:34-35; Col 3:19; Rev 3:19; Prov 20:5; 25:2; 29:19,21; Rom 13:3-4; Eph 5:25-29; Col 3:21),
5. To despise and avoid anger, hatred, threats, physical violence, and depression, as being works of the flesh I am to mortify (Gal 5:16-21; Col 3:5-15; Prov 10:12; 12:10; 15:18; 16:32; 29:22; James 1:19-20; 3:17; Eccl 7:8-9; II Samuel 3:39; Luke 9:55),
6. To reject any foolish, hurtful, or lustful comparisons to other women, and to make gentle comparisons only when necessary, in sober affection to identify a godly Christian example (Prov 5:19; 31:29; Solomon 4:7; 6:9; Lev 18:18; Phil 3:17; Tit 2:3-5; I Thess 2:7; I Cor 13:4-7),
7. To remember my employment is a means to life, and not its end, and to make it serve my marriage, rather than my marriage serve it (Deut 24:5; Eccl 4:9; 9:9; I Tim 6:6-10),
8. To love my wife sacrificially, in order to secure her perfection, and thereby my greatest pleasure, even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it, for Himself and His pleasure (Ephesians 5:25-33; I Cor 13:4-7; II Corinthians 11:2; Prov 29:21; I John 4:19),
9. To knowingly love my wife with honor, gentleness, tenderness, and sensitivity, without any bitterness, remembering she is the weaker vessel, yet deserving my honor as an equal heir of the grace of eternal life (Eph 5:25-32; Col 3:19; I Pet 3:7; Gal 3:28),
10. To cherish my wife as very special, for as long as we shall live, and to particularly do so during our first year together (Prov 18:22; Eccl 9:9; Eph 5:29; Deut 24:5),
11. To nourish my wife and promote her growth and development, by all necessary means, to be a fulfilled and productive woman, and a virtuous and fruitful Christian (Eph 5:25-30; Prov 31:31; I Cor 14:34-35; Ezekiel 16:8-14),
12. To look and think only on her as the object of my love and sexual desire, and not to look or think on any other woman (Job 31:1; Proverbs 5:15-23; 6:25; Matthew 5:28-30),

13. To gently, unselfishly, and often love her sexually, in those benevolent ways she desires and needs, without any defrauding, remembering the wisdom of her physical design and the holy instruction of Solomon (I Cor 7:1-5; Heb 13:4; Eph 5:28-29; Song of Solomon 2:4-7; 8:3-4; Exodus 21:10),
14. To forgive fully and finally, without bitterness, her failures, and never recall events from the past at anytime (Matt 6:12; I Cor 13:4-7; Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:13; Prov 17:9; I Cor 14:20),
15. To remember the highest standard of love is that of Paul in his definition of Christian charity (I Cor 13:4-7; Col 3:14; Isaiah 55:8-9; Gal 5:14),
16. To communicate openly, freely, kindly, and honestly with her about all things that would satisfy her soul (Prov 16:24; 20:5; 27:9; 29:19; I Cor 13:4-7; Amos 3:3; John 15:15),
17. To allow her complete liberty of conscience to meekly correct me by the Word of God, when I intend to sin, and when needed, to solicit parental or other Christian help in such matters, without fear of reprisal (I Sam 25:1-37; Gal 6:1-4; James 5:19-20; Acts 5:29; I Pet 3:6; I Cor 9:5),
18. To go to bed together each night without bitterness or wrath, but rather with peaceful and godly contentment, which is great gain (Ecc 9:7-9; I Tim 6:6; Eph 4:26; Col 3:19; Prov 17:1),
19. To remember marriage is permanent, so reconciliation and renewal are superior to separation or divorce, by the power of Christ (Rev 2:4-5; I Cor 7:10-11; Matt 5:21-26; Mark 10:9; Phil 4:13),
20. To use the Lord's means for solving offences between us rather than the flesh's revenge and the world's escapes (Prov 19:11; 25:9; 15:1; Matt 5:21-26; 18:15-17; I Cor 6:1-8; 13:4-7; Rom 12:17-21; Eph 4:31-32; James 3:17-18),
21. To honor her parents and family as my own, and to encourage her in her duties to her family (Exodus 18:1-12; Eph 6:1-3; I Tim 5:3-8),
22. To remember my love and care of Sarah should always reflect the mystery of our Lord's love and care of His church (Eph 5:25-33; Psalm 45:1-17; Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Isaiah 54:5; Ezekiel 16:1-14; II Cor 11:2; Rev 19:5-9),
23. To remember her conduct, good or bad, does not justify my violation or neglect of these holy obligations to the Lord and her (I Pet 2:18-24; Luke 6:31-36; Acts 20:35; Rom 5:7-8),
24. To cheerfully submit to inquiries by my parents, her parents, and our pastor regarding my life, marriage, and family (Lev 19:17; Psalm 141:5; Prov 20:5; 25:2; 27:5-6; Rom 15:1-3; Gal 6:1-2; I Thess 5:14; Heb 10:23-25; James 5:16,19-20).