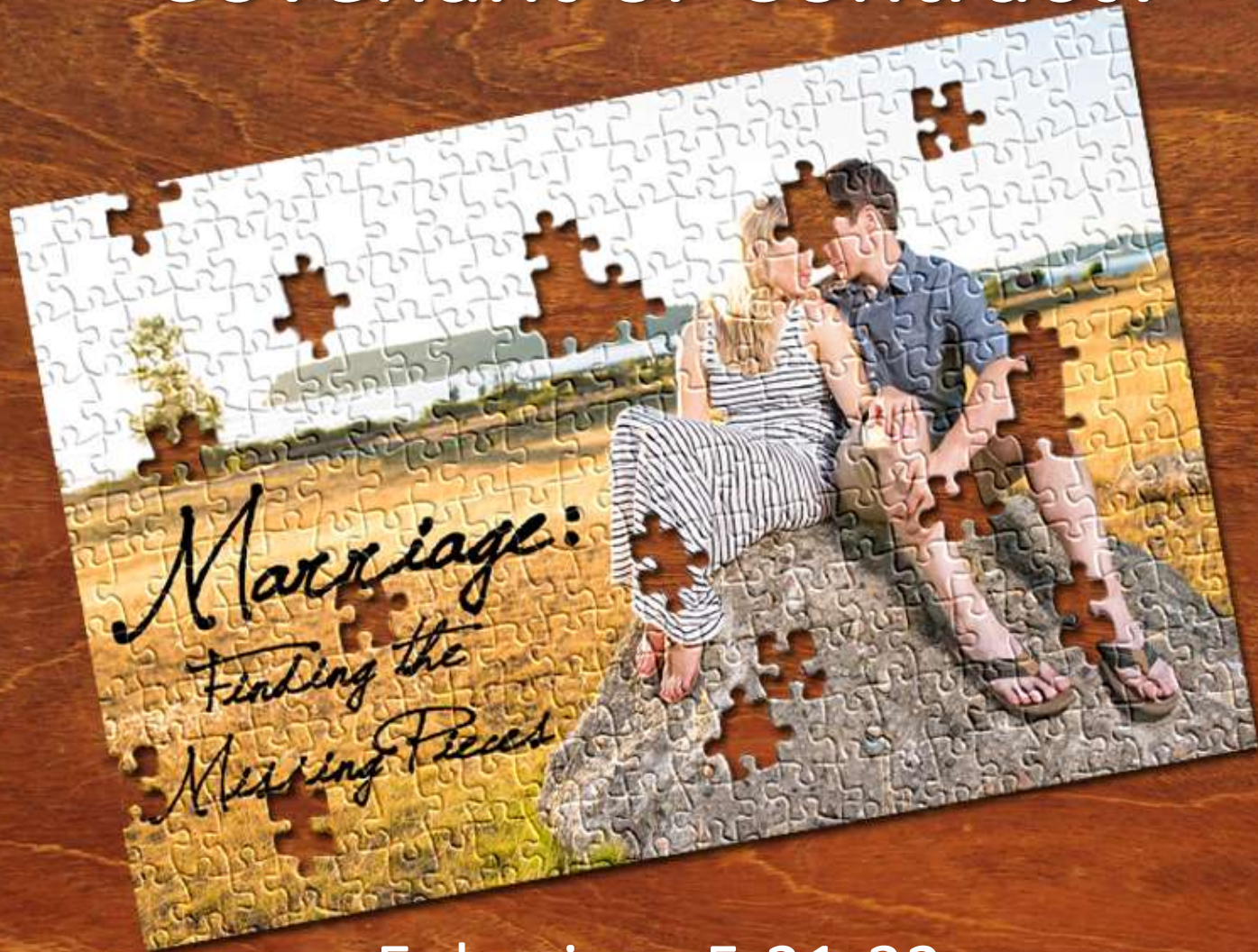


MARRIAGE: Covenant or Contract?



Ephesians 5:21-32

MARRIAGE IS A DIVINE COVENANT

- *This Divine covenant joins us together.*
- *This joining together is the creative, imaginative, work of God.*
- *This work of God has a framework.*



...TO WHICH I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE.

- *This pledge is made first to God.*
- *This pledge is a promise, not a feeling.*
- *This pledge will test us ... and transform us.*



...TO WHICH GOD COMMITS HIMSELF.

- *God enters a partnership with us.*
- *This partnership begins with my commitment to the Gospel for my sake and the sake of my marriage.*



...TO WHICH GOD COMMITS HIMSELF.

Mal. 2.13 Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's alter with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 you ask "Why?" It is because the LORD is (was and is) acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

