

Chapter III

The Vow: Did We Really *Get* It?

WE BEGIN THIS CHAPTER by revisiting the vows that are expressed to each party in the wedding ceremony. Although vows differ from wedding to wedding and couple to couple, we find a common statement that seems to be a part of the vows exchanged no matter how customized they are. That statement is: “Do you, Felicia, take Donald to be your lawful wedded husband, and do you promise to love him in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, **for better or for worse?**” *He . . . Nah!* Maybe this part of the vow should read “for good times or for hard times.” It appears this statement would be much easier to relate to instead of “for better or for worse.” The phrase “for better or for worse” seems to imply that we should *accept* whatever things or circumstances are presented to us in our marriage, and it has often been taken literally and

misunderstood in the wedding vow ceremony. I have gathered a good amount of statistics from different ethnic groups concerning the comprehension of the term “for better or for worse.” Most of them viewed this term to mean that *through it all* I must do whatever it takes to make my marriage last. Well, let’s explore this.

Who came up with this vow? If the statement already states “in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer,” what’s left to cover? “For better or for worse” seems to imply that whatever happens, we promise to love no matter what and make our marriages last. Yeah, right! God himself wouldn’t and didn’t put those boundaries in place. If we were supposed to go through anything and everything, I don’t believe God would have needed to establish boundaries. This statement “for better or for worse” has been a part of our wedding vows for centuries now, and I personally know people who have gone through anything and everything and have in the end killed their spouse. We are so firm on the boundary of not committing adultery that as long as we don’t do that act, it seems it gives us the liberty to do any and every other damnable and harmful thing against a marriage and God’s principles.

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