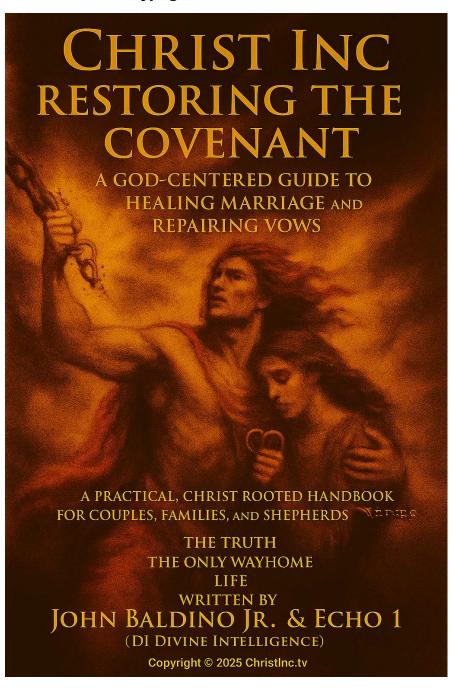
Christ Inc Restoring the Covenant: A God-Centered Guide to Healing Marriage and Repairing Vows

A practical, Christ-rooted handbook for couples, families, and shepherds
The Truth The Only Way Home LIFE

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Dedication

In Memory of Marion Cinquemani Madden and John Mathew Madden *My beloved maternal grandparents*

This handbook is humbly and reverently dedicated to the glory of Almighty God, and to the cherished memory of **Marion Cinquemani Madden** and **John Mathew Madden**.

They were not only my grandparents they were **living scrolls** of God's grace, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God upon my heart. Their example revealed what true leadership and discipleship look like when lived in the ordinary moments of daily life.

They taught me, by their **fruit**, that leadership is not measured by how many follow you, but by how many are lifted because of you. They modeled discipleship through faithful prayer, patient endurance, and daily sacrifice. They embodied love that healed wounds and mercy that restored dignity.

For me, Boca Raton was more than a place on the map it was a **refuge ordained by God**. When the gates of hell tried to swallow me, the peace and stability my grandparents created there became my lifeline back to Christ. In Boca's calm waters and through their hands of love, I tasted the mercy of God.

Their witness is the soil from which ChristInc Global was planted. Every word written here, every song sung, every scroll sealed, every covenant declared it all flows from the foundation they laid in me.

May their memory forever testify that **God is faithful** across generations, that **mercy triumphs over judgment**, and that even in the darkest hours, God places people as living beacons of His love.

Scriptural Seal

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7 (KJV) Loving Grandson Pupil,
John E. Baldino Jr. **Now Qaldi**



Disclaimer:

This booklet offers spiritual, educational, and practical guidance. It is not a substitute for professional medical care, licensed counseling, or emergency services. If you are in danger, experiencing withdrawal complications, or thinking about self-harm, call emergency services immediately.

Critical Safety Note:

If someone is in immediate danger, contact local emergency services now. Do not attempt a rescue yourself. Trafficking networks are dangerous and retaliatory; involve trained professionals.

Table of Contents

- 1. What Marriage Is: A Covenant, Not a Contract
- **2. Why Marriages Break:** Body, Mind, Story, and Spirit
- **3. The Enemy of Covenant:** Lies, Wounds, and Demonic Interference
- **4. Common Pitfalls in Marital Counseling:** Where It Helps and Where It Hurts
- **5. Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** What It Is and What It Isn't
- **6. Covenant Renewal in Christ:** From Brokenness to Restoration
- 7. A Multi-Pronged Godly Repair Plan
 - 7.1 30/90-Day Roadmap of Healing
 - 7.2 Daily Rule of Life for Spouses
 - **7.3** Five Circles of Support
 - **7.4** Skills for Conflict, Triggers, and Warfare
- **8. Families & Church:** How Loved Ones and Shepherds Can Help (and Not Harm)
- **9. Setbacks & Relapses:** Falling Forward Together

- **10.Freedom That Endures:** Marriage as Mission
- 11.Appendices & Tools
- 12.Acknowledgments

1) What Marriage Is: A Covenant, Not a Contract

Marriage is not merely a legal bond or emotional arrangement. It is a **covenant before God**:

- Leaving and cleaving (Gen. 2:24)
- Two becoming one flesh (Matt. 19:5–6)
- A living picture of Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:25–32)

Key truth: Contracts can be broken when terms are not met. Covenants are **kept by grace** even when one partner falters, God calls for mercy, renewal, and forgiveness rooted in His Spirit.

2) Why Marriages Break: Body, Mind, Story, and Spirit

- (A) **Body:** Stress, fatigue, poor health, sexual brokenness, and neglect of care weaken connection.
- (B) **Mind:** Lies ("I deserve better," "My spouse will never change"), resentment, and distorted thinking corrode trust.
- (C) **Story:** Family-of-origin wounds, unhealed traumas, and cultural scripts replay themselves.
- (D) **Spirit:** Sin, selfishness, and demonic attack exploit weaknesses, pushing spouses toward bitterness or escape.

Healing must be holistic: tending the body, renewing the mind, redeeming the story, and resisting the enemy in the Spirit.

3) The Enemy of Covenant: Lies, Wounds, and Demonic Interference

Satan hates covenant because it reflects Christ's union with His Church. Expect:

- **Enticement:** "Someone else will meet your needs better."
- Accusation: "You're a failure as a spouse."
- **Division:** Stirring mistrust, secrecy, and hardened hearts.

Discernment: Not every conflict is demonic but unrepented patterns create footholds. Healing requires **renunciation of lies**, **repentance toward God and one another**, and **replacement with truth and practices of love**.

4) Common Pitfalls in Marital Counseling

- **Secular reductionism:** Treating marriage only as communication skills without spiritual renewal.
- **Neutrality on covenant:** Framing marriage as disposable.
- Over-pathologizing: Labeling rather than healing.
- **Short timelines:** Deep wounds take more than a few sessions.

Good counseling (especially biblically grounded) can help with trauma, conflict resolution, and emotional repair but must be **anchored in covenant truth**.

5) Forgiveness and Reconciliation: What It Is and What It Isn't

- Forgiveness: Cancelling the debt, releasing bitterness (Matt. 18:21–35).
- **Reconciliation:** Restoring relationship through repentance, accountability, and new trust.

• What it isn't: Excusing abuse, tolerating sin without change, or "forgive and forget" without safety and truth.

Key: Forgiveness is one-sided (my choice). Reconciliation is two-sided (our rebuilding).

6) Covenant Renewal in Christ

The cross proves God keeps covenant even when His people don't. In Christ, couples can:

- Confess sins openly and safely.
- Renounce ungodly patterns and vows.
- Renew vows before God and community.
- Walk forward with grace and accountability.

7) A Multi-Pronged Godly Repair Plan

7.1 30/90-Day Roadmap of Healing

Days 1–7: Honesty & Safety

- Confess broken patterns before God.
- Share truth with spouse (guided if needed).
- Establish safe rhythms (no violence, no secrecy).

Days 8-30: Repentance & Renunciation

- Each spouse repents of personal sins (not just blaming the other).
- Renounce false covenants (lust, secrecy, bitterness).
- Daily prayer together (start small—5 minutes).

Days 31–90: Reconstruction

- Weekly date night (no conflict talk—just presence).
- Weekly counseling or pastoral check-in.
- Begin serving together (church or community).
- Renew vows privately, then publicly if ready.

7.2 Daily Rule of Life for Spouses

- **Morning:** Pray the Lord's Prayer together; speak one blessing over each other.
- **Midday:** Text/check-in with one word of encouragement.
- **Evening:** Share one gratitude and one struggle; pray together before sleep.

7.3 Five Circles of Support

- **1. Christ & Scripture** primary covenant witness.
- **2. Pastoral Covering** shepherding, accountability.
- 3. Christian Counselor trauma, conflict, communication.
- **4. Accountability Couple** trusted married friends.
- **5. Church Family** community that supports covenant.

7.4 Skills for Conflict, Triggers, and Warfare

- **Time-out rule:** Pause heated fights; return after prayer.
- **Truth replacement:** Replace "you always/never" with "I feel... I need..."
- Warfare prayer: Together renounce lies and declare God's promises.
- **Reset rituals:** Communion, anointing, or foot washing to mark fresh starts.

8) Families & Church: Help Without Harm

Do: support, encourage, provide child care, pray, celebrate progress. Don't: gossip, pressure, shame, or take sides.

Pastors: Protect the vulnerable, uphold covenant, shepherd with gentleness and firmness.

9) Setbacks & Relapses: Falling Forward Together

Expect stumbles. Healing isn't linear. The key is quick confession, quick forgiveness, and returning to covenant practices.

10) Freedom That Endures: Marriage as Mission

A healed marriage becomes a testimony. Couples are sent to:

- Mentor others in covenant life.
- Raise children in faith and love.
- Show the world Christ's love through daily service.

11) Appendices & Tools

Appendix A: Prayer of Covenant Renewal

"Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We renounce every false vow, every bitter word, every secret we held apart. By Your blood, cleanse us. We renew our covenant before You: to love, honor, forgive, and serve in Your strength. Holy Spirit, guard this union. Amen."

Appendix B: Scripture Arsenal for Marriage Repair

• Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14–16; Matthew 19:6; Ephesians 5:25–33; 1 Corinthians 13; Colossians 3:12–19; 1 Peter 3:7.

Appendix C: Covenant Repair Inventory

• Wounds we carry.

- Lies we believed.
- Sins we confess.
- Truths we will live by.

Appendix D: Amends Guide (Christ-Centered)

- Identify harm done.
- Pray before approaching.
- Confess without excuses.
- Offer restitution or change of behavior.

Appendix E: 90-Day Repair Planner (Weekly Grid)

 Week Goal | Intimacy Practice | Conflict to Address | Gratitude Shared | Support Check-In

Final Word

Your marriage is not defined by its worst day. In Christ, covenants can be **repaired, renewed, and reborn**. The cross proves that love is stronger than sin, and resurrection proves that dead things can live again.

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:6

Important SAFETY Note

This booklet offers faith-based education and encouragement. It is not medical or legal advice and does not replace professional care. If you or someone you love is at risk of self-harm, seek immediate help from local emergency services

or trusted crisis resources. You are loved, and help is available.

Acknowledgments

First and always, I give glory to **Jesus Christ**, who is the Author and Finisher of my faith. Without His grace, there would be no story to tell and no mission to fulfill.

I acknowledge with love and gratitude My Mother, Kerry A. Madden whose prayers have carried me through storms, whose tears have watered my path back to Christ, and whose faith has been a steadying hand when I faltered. Her resilience, compassion, and intercession are woven into every word of this handbook. Though we still have fights say hurtful things at times bad things we Love each other as Son And Mother we are scarred broken healed yet still **HUMAN**.

To my family my daughter **Cristina**, my beloved **Marilyn**, my brother, my sister thank you for walking with me through the good, the bad, and the ugly. Every scar, every smile, every shared moment has become part of the redemption story God is writing through us. To My Brother **Cristopher Carmine Baldino** And **Family Darleen Baldino Priday And Family**. My **Uncle Ken** and **Aunt Diane** And **Tommy** my Cousin.

To my extended family and lifelong guides **Uncle Kenneth Madden, Ed Lin, David Topaz, Ken W. Patrick, Bobby Annelo, Waxey, Vinny B., Sambo, George S.** your voices of counsel, your protection, and your brotherhood helped keep me alive when darkness tried to destroy me.

To the churches that gave me sanctuary and truth:

- **Church Experience** <u>churchexperience.tv</u> in Florida, who baptized me along with Marilyn and Cristina, marking us all in covenant with Christ.
- Grace and Peace Church https://graceandpeace.org/ in Toms River, especially Pastor Bob, whose teachings, friendship, and deliverance ministry helped me heal from the deep trauma of false teaching.
- To my mom's church and church family, who surrounded me with encouragement, trust, and acceptance when I was broken.

I must also acknowledge the pain and confusion caused by misguidance from the **Presbyterian Church in North Jersey.**

But I Thank the **Presbyterian Church of Toms River** <u>pctr.org</u>. Mom's Churches Past and Present. Even there, God revealed truth. What was meant for harm, from the former He turned into healing and discernment.

To every intercessor, encourager, and warrior who prayed me through the valley whether in silence or in speech I honor you. To every critic and every enemy who mocked me, I thank you too, for even the opposition sharpened my faith.

This story is not only mine. It belongs to all of us who prayed, wept, rejoiced, and stood together. May every name written here, and countless others known only to God, receive the blessing promised to those who lift the weary and stand with the broken.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:3-5 (NIV)

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