

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-24

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“GOD, MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE” – PART 1
THE DANGERS OF SPLITTING UP A HOME

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Ministry, Servanthood, Marriage, Discipleship

I'm humbled and thankful to announce that Lisa

and I will be celebrating 32 years of marriage in a couple of months. I was 21 and she was 19 – she still looks 19. But we knew that we were to marry, the Lord had made it so clear to us. We loved Jesus and His word and we wanted nothing but His will to be done. Over these past 32 years, Jesus has been the anchor for us through all the seasons and for 22 years of public ministry – the LORD has been good to us.

1 Corinthians 7:10-24

:10 Now to the married I **command**, *yet* not I but the Lord: A wife is not to **depart** from *her* husband. **:11** But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband. And a husband is not to **divorce** *his* wife. **:12** But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. **:13** And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. **:14** For the unbelieving husband is **sanctified** by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is **sanctified** by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. **:15** But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under **bondage** in such cases. But God has called us to **peace**. **:16** For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save *your* husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save *your* wife? **:17** But as God has **distributed** to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him **walk**. And so I **ordain** in all the churches. **:18** Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised. **:19** Circumcision is

nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the **commandments** of God *is what matters*. :20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. :21 Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use *it*. :22 For he who is called in the Lord *while* a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called *while* free is Christ's slave. :23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. :24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that *state* in which he was called.

It's been well said that:

“As the family goes, so goes a nation and as the nation goes, so goes the world we live in”.

The Break Up of Marriages in America

is the number one sickness in our culture. A broken marriage leads to more emotional, physical and spiritual damage than anything else.

“A broken marriage is like a smooth placid pond of water that gets hit by a rock. From the point of impact, rings emanate outward until everything is affected.”

The Bible stands Alone as the Greatest Book in the World on relationships, marriage, family, children, husbands & wives.

We Just Witnessed this Past Friday...

The Most Watched Wedding in History. / It was the 6th Most Viewed Internet Event in History / 2.5 billion people (1/3 of the Earth's Population) watched it.

GOD, MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

THE DANGERS OF SPLITTING UP A HOME

1.) Why is marriage such a big deal ?

v.10-13

1a.) It's a spiritual union designed by God

:10 Now **to the married** I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to **depart** from her husband. :11 But even **if she does depart**, let her remain **unmarried** or be **reconciled** to her husband. And a husband is not to **divorce** his wife.

California is by far the most beautiful state in the nation.

Unfortunately – California has become the place of hedonistic lifestyles.

California has been for years the divorce capital of America.

Now the nation is equally as ruined as our state is.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be **joined** to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**.

Man has gone about to undermine, redefine or reengineer the institution of marriage to fit his trends and it doesn't work.

Marriage, as designed by God, is for life.

Mark 10:9

Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

(if we do cause separation, we invite God's divine wrath upon us)

:11 But even **if she does depart**, let her remain **unmarried** or be **reconciled** to her husband. And a husband is not to **divorce** his wife.

There are situations that arise where a marriage is no longer possible.

Physical spousal abuse and/or a dangerous situation existing at home by threats.
{Call the police. Then call the church.}

There's no Wiggle-Room Here

in the Apostle's Teaching.

In Fact – Paul brings to bear several times in this teaching
Applying his full apostolic authority.

If you're a Christian, seek marriage reconciliation through the church.

If you're not a Christian, then you're on your own. Call Oprah.

If you're a Christian and you're seeking a divorce

from your spouse and you are either unwilling or unable to be reconciled, then you must remain unmarried.

There's no grounds here for re-marriage. That is, getting married a second time using divorce as an out.

Matthew 5:31-32

“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ :**32 But I say to you** that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except **sexual immorality** causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced (*knowing about his/her sin*) commits adultery.

It would be absolutely unthinkable that Paul should hope to change the Lord's own teaching by a deliberate ignoring of the exception the Lord granted. Paul would never do that. He saw himself as bound by the word of Jesus, and what Jesus said must ultimately stand.

Malachi 2:14-16

Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the LORD has been a witness Between you and the wife of your youth, **With whom you have dealt treacherously**; Yet she is your companion And your wife by **covenant**. (*the word of your promise*) :**15** But did He not make *them* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal **treacherously** with the wife of his youth. :**16** “For the LORD God of Israel says That He **hates** (*is His enemy*) **putting away** (*divorce*),



treacherously *bagad, baw-gad'*; a primitive root; to cover up or to hide away, to rob, pillage, to abandon.

WHY IS MARRIAGE SUCH A BIG DEAL

1b.) It's a ministry foundation dedicated to others

:**12** But to the **rest** (*mixed marriages*) I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.

“I, not the Lord, say”


(simply means Jesus didn't talk about this exact situation while on earth.
He revealed this Paul as an Apostle of Christ)

Marriage is About the Other Person

Make no mistake about this. This is not what's being taught in churches today - that the apostle's words are less in meaning.

Matthew 19:3-10


The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?" :4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,' :5 and said, "*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*?" :6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has **joined together**, let not man separate." :7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" :8 He said to them, "Moses, **because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted** you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. :9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." :10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry."

 **hardness** Grk: sklhrokardi÷a **sclerosis-kardia**, the hardening of the heart. Heartedness. The increasing stubbornness and perversity of the heart. An inability to move, flex, and reshape.

The Original Greek Language Implies; The Layering of Unresolved Hurts, Unconfessed Sins. The Building Up of Bitterness, which leads to an unwillingness to listen or hear.

Ephesians 4:26b-27

"do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
:27 nor give **place** to the devil.

 **place** to/poß **topos**, *top'-os*; to quarter among you. A foothold. A spot, a space, a room or place of occupancy.

Hebrews 12:15

looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many (your spouse and kids) become defiled;

Isaiah 59:2 amp.

For your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that when you pray, He does not listen to you.

(Every one of you – I am invoking my pastoral authority, I am beseeching you to begin attending **Wednesday night services** as we begin our series on the 10 commandments - the fear God in your life!)



permitted Grk: **epitrepo**, *ep-ee-trep'-o*; to give up or to turn over. To suffer through. To transfer, to allow via tolerance

**No, but rather - Since such *is the case* – don't rush into marriage.
Make sure it's of the LORD. Count the costs.
The decision is binding before God !**

The role of a Christian husband – a Christian man
(You hold on to her and you fight for your marriage, Jesus-man)

If you're a Christian and you're seeking a divorce
from your spouse and you are unwilling to be reconciled, then you must remain unmarried.

WHY IS MARRIAGE SUCH A BIG DEAL

1c.) It's a physical witness displayed before the world

:13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

There is no doubt whatsoever:
Marriage is the most **private** & the most **public** relationship known to man.

1 Peter 3:1

Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

GOD, MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

THE DANGERS OF SPLITTING UP A HOME

2.) Why is marriage under attack today?

v.14-17

2a.) Marriage is God's ultimate calling for a family

:14 For the unbelieving husband is **sanctified** by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is **sanctified** by the husband; otherwise your children would be **unclean**, but now they are **holy**.

Some of the Corinthians were married when they came to Christ and got saved, but not their spouses. So this created issues...

☝ **sanctified** αγιαζω **hagiazō**, *hag-ee-ad'-zō*; to make special, set apart, implied; protected, blessed, covered, graced.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable **among all**, (believer and non-believer) and the **bed** undefiled; - but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Ephesians 6:4

And you, fathers, do not **provoke** (exasperate, frustrate, mock,) your children to wrath, **but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

WHY IS MARRIAGE UNDER ATTACK TODAY

2b.) Marriage is God's chief setting for peace

:15 But if the unbeliever **departs**, let him (*she*) depart; a brother or a sister is not under **bondage** in such cases. But God has called us to **peace**

The Lord has delivered the Christian from a
Life of Self-Decay.

James 4:1

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for pleasure*

James 3:14-17

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. :15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. :16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. :17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

(15) a brother or a sister is not under **bondage** in such cases

If the non-Christian can't cope with your new-found faith in Jesus and cannot stand looking at the reflection of Jesus in your face and says, “**I can't stand this Jesus stuff in your life and I'm leaving... “Let the guy depart, let him leave.”**”

This is a Heart-Breaking Situation



bondage doulo/w douloo, *doo-lo'-o*; no longer tied to, enslave, a servant of.

WHY IS MARRIAGE UNDER ATTACK TODAY

2c.) Marriage is God's primary mission field

:16 For how do you know, O wife, whether - you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether - you will save your wife? :17 But as God has **distributed** to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him **walk**. And so I **ordain** in all the churches.

Technically, Verse 16 is a supporting argument to Verse 15

“When all else has failed the non-Christian wife or husband desires to end the marriage, release him or her to their world – holding on to them will not save them”

Each of us, (non-Christians as well) have been given / allowed free-will choices
yet the Lord is at work in your life.

Leave Them a Godly Example – As you let them depart

It's been obvious from the beginning
that Satan hates marriage. He fears what could come from a godly marriage. He's terrified of the witness and impact that a marriage can have on a culture. A godly marriage can build a nation...

Last Week – After Service, a Couple Came Forward
And said “our divorce was to be final on March 31”
(but God was allowed in to do His thing)

GOD, MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

THE DANGERS OF SPLITTING UP A HOME

3.) Why is marriage not for everybody?

v.18-24

3a.) The Lord gives what's best to you

:18 Was anyone called while **circumcised**? Let him not become **uncircumcised**. Was anyone called while **uncircumcised**? Let him not be **circumcised**.

:19 **Circumcision** is nothing and **uncircumcision** is nothing, but keeping the **commandments** of God is what matters.

The outward appearance doesn't matter to God. It's not becoming (circumcised) or to become (uncircumcised) it's not becoming a slave or a free man. If you're tattooed, don't worry about it now – you can't change it.

“My Marriage Stinks” – Well I'm Sorry about that,
But you must make your marriage work

Ephesians 5:21-26

submitting to one another in the fear of God. :22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. :23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. :24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. :25 ¶ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, :26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

3b.) The Lord knows what's best for you

:20 Let each one **remain** in the same calling in which he was called. :21 Were you called while a **slave**? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. :22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's **freedman**.

Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's **slave**.

Now That You're a Christian First:
Be the best at what you are and what you do...

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. :6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. :7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. :8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. :9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

WHY IS MARRIAGE NOT FOR EVERYONE

3c.) The Lord places what's best before you

:23 You were **bought at a price**; do not become slaves of men. :24 Brethren, let each one (**remain** (*abide, dwell, reside*) with God) in that **state** in which he was called.

Abiding With God is to be The Sole-Absolute Priority
of Our Lives.

This World is Possessed by The Spirit of
Antichrist.

This weekend the Jehovah's Witnesses came to my door and tried to get me to join their team – so I asked them "Is Jesus Lord?"

1 John 2:22

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist** who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:3-4

Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the **Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. :4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

When the Gospel Comes into a Life, a Person is
Set Free.

You Need To Be Possessed with a Different Spirit.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

I Think About All Those Who Came Forward In Last Sunday's Services...
Everything Has Been Washed Away For Them. Their Past Is No Longer –
Everything Has Been Erased.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. :18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

————— *End of Study* —————

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