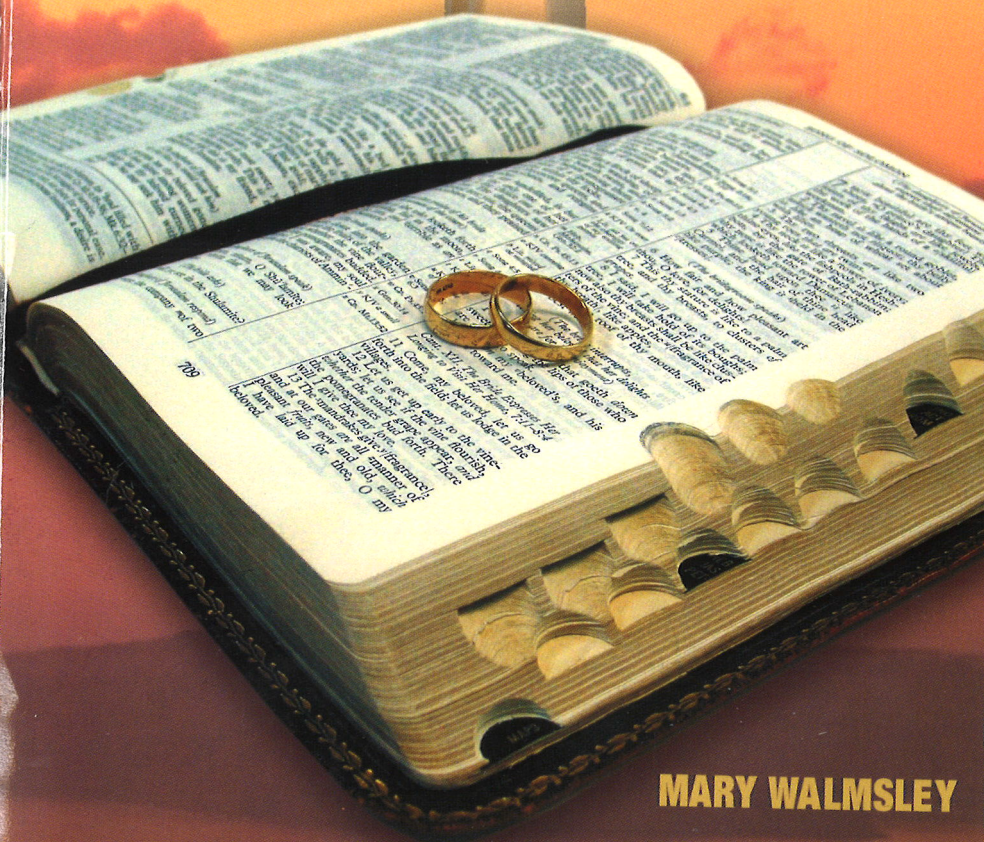


BECAUSE OF A COVENANT



789

MARY WALMSLEY

*“Written for the generation to come;
That a people yet to be created
may praise the Lord”
(Ps. 102:18)*



**BECAUSE
OF A
COVENANT**

MARY WALMSLEY

Guardian
B O O K S

Belleville, Ontario, Canada

Because of a Covenant

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B O O K S

Belleville, Ontario, Canada

Because of a Covenant



Biblical Basics on the
Law and Love of
God Regarding Marriage



By Mary Walmsley





Table of Contents



Acknowledgements	page 9
Introduction	page 11
Preface	page 13
Prelude - A Covenant	page 15

The story of a marriage covenant, the author's testimony. Her marriage ends in divorce; driven at first by covenant, then by love, she remains faithful to her vows.

Chapter 1 - Marriage	page 53
---------------------------------------	---------

God created man, woman, marriage, and the marriage covenant. God participates in the resilient covenant by which a husband and wife are bound until death do them part.

Chapter 2 - Adultery	page 67
---------------------------------------	---------

Adultery introduces a third person into a relationship designed for two. God speaks clearly about the sin of adultery and His displeasure with marital infidelity. Adultery has extensive ramifications, yet it can be ended and the sinner forgiven.

Chapter 3 - Separation	page 93
-------------------------------------	---------

Separation is an opportunity for healing and receiving God's counsel. Its resolution requires that a choice be made between further estrangement or reconciliation. God's will is for reconciliation.

Chapter 4 - Divorcepage 101

Divorce is not part of God's design for a covenant marriage; it is a sin that leaves the couple legally separated by the laws of the land, while still bound by a covenant made with God. Because of a covenant, this paradoxical state leaves the divorced person with limited choices for right relationships in the future.

Chapter 5 - Divorced, Yet Faithful.....page 109

A divorced person can choose to remain faithful to God and his/her estranged partner by upholding the marriage covenant. God is honored and pleased when the covenant keeper stands in the gap for the prodigal mate, praying for salvation and trusting God's power and grace to bring healing and reconciliation to the covenant couple.

Chapter 6 - A Second Marriagepage 123

Because of a covenant, a second marriage is adultery; the consequences of a second marriage are the same as for adultery. The adultery of a second marriage can be forsaken, however, and the sinners forgiven.

Chapter 7 - Divorcing a Second Partner.....page 131

Although God hates the divorce of a covenant couple from a first marriage, He permits the divorce of a second partner for righteousness' and the covenant's sake.

Chapter 8 - Reconciliation.....page 137

Healing and reconciliation are essential ingredients of the Gospel message. Both husband and wife take steps to bring it about. The benefits of reconciliation are many, and by it God is glorified.

Appendices -

Biblical Examples page 148

A Quiz page 153



Acknowledgements

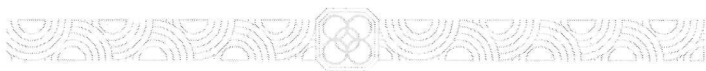


I want to acknowledge Marlene Bagnull and Steve Dunham, who have given their time and talent to nurturing my writing skills over the years, and more recently, Keith Carroll and Beverly Eliason.

I give special thanks also to Hartley Connett, Marge Heiden-gren, Suzanne Kelsey, and May Irwin, who dedicated themselves tirelessly to the task of checking and re-checking the Scriptural references and categories for accuracy and relevance.

Out of a deep sense of compassion, I acknowledge those I know who have suffered, or are suffering the devastation of divorce. Their quest to make sense out of chaos and to rebuild a godly life for themselves and their families has given me the impetus to dig deep into Scripture for God's solutions to some of today's most challenging situations.

I am also grateful for all those—too numerous to mention by name, who have been praying for me, my marriage and family, and this work. May God be glorified.



Introduction



In the Beginning God Created... (Gen.1:1).

With these words, all readers of the Bible are drawn into God's plan for order. Not only did God create "order out of chaos", He created a specific family order—one man, one woman. From this basic order came God's call for our original parents to "be fruitful and multiply." Also from this basic order came God's expectation of faithfulness.

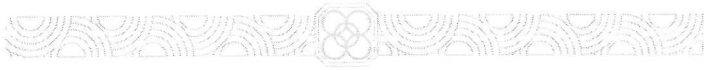
As a people, we entered into a covenant with God; as a people we have, in virtually every conceivable way, broken our covenant. Yet God in His faithfulness honors the covenant even when we dishonor it. In spite of the claims of many complexities in every generation, and in spite of the claim of "new concepts", God calls us to a timeless covenant relationship, saying, "I will be your God." In spite of broken covenants of an untrustworthy people, God still sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to live in the Creation, and to redeem the Creation.

Our God is a faithful God, who calls us to faithfulness... this today, in a broken society, one in which "broken covenants" are normative. One may ask, "What difference is there in a 'divorce culture' when one person lives as if the covenant of marriage has not been broken, even after divorce is pronounced?" Mary Walmsley knows the difference for she lives out the implications of the vows she made with life-long intention. She has devoted her life to honoring the marriage covenant which she made to a man in the presence of God. She has devoted her life to maintaining order. She has devoted her life to being faithful. If only one person decides to live in a "covenant consciousness" after reading this book, then this book has achieved its goal. This book serves as an encouragement both to the covenant-makers and to those contemplating breaking their covenant, that they may be steadfast.

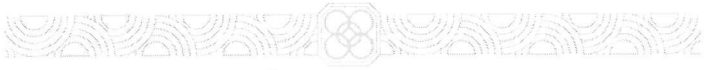
Mature love is more than an emotion. Mature love is a decision. God loves us not because we are "irresistible" but because through His covenant with us He has made a decision—a commitment to love us! A great deal of the disruption in family order today is the result of insecurity in the very institution which God intended for the order of His creation. And yet, those who have maintained their marriage covenant "for better or for worse" have been in a position to become dependent upon the One who bestows the Grace necessary for us to keep our vows.

In short, God is a covenant-keeper "for better or for worse". May the God to whom we make our vows bless each person who reads this book. May His Holy Word inspire and sustain you. And may the words of Mary Walmsley inspire the reader to a closer relationship with the One who has inspired and sustained her.

The Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, D.D.
Bishop of Quincy



Preface



On June 16th, 1951, I married Roger Walmsley for life. I took his name and dedicated my life to being his wife and the mother of his children. Twenty-three years later, after three children and two grandchildren, I was divorced, against my will. It was then that the rightness of our marriage and the wrong of divorce hit me with full force. With heart and soul I cried out to the Lord, “What went wrong? What do I do now? What hope is there for the future?” In answer, God led me on a pilgrimage that would heal my broken heart and restore my soul. At first driven by covenant, then by love, I came to realize that they are one and the same.

Because of a Covenant contains the answers to the questions I had asked by presenting the Word of God concerning marriage and the several variations of the marital relationship commonly found today. To strive for healing and the restoration of any broken relationship requires making choices daily; yet today the boundary between right and wrong is unclear, and contemporary customs tend to lead people astray, even the well-intentioned. Too many

people are unaware of what God has said in Holy Scripture, leaving them confused and vulnerable when making life-changing decisions. They seek happiness, only to end up with emptiness. Joy is the fruit of obedience.

Whether this book is used as a guide for those making personal decisions, a resource for clergy and counsellors, a handbook for Bible study, or as preparation for marriage, it is intended to benefit people of all ages at all stages along life's journey, that they might know God's will and make right choices for the sake of their souls and to the glory of God. I pray that my message of healing, salvation, and joy in redemptive love will be a blessing to you.

Mary Walmsley



Prelude: A Covenant

*Your children will be like
olive shoots around your table.*

~Psalm 128:3



A PARENTAL EXAMPLE

I was raised under the illusion that wrong is right.

When I was a child of nine, a new couple arrived in town. The husband and my mother soon discovered that they shared many interests in common, such as tennis, sailing, and classical music. Day after day, Mother and the other man would do things together. Their mutual pleasures seemed so providentially coincidental to them that they deemed their relationship to be “right.” They became shamelessly bold in being together, whether in public or private, with or without their respective spouses and children. Day after day, year after year, Dad’s steadfast love for his wife was sorely tested as Mother focused her attention primarily on another woman’s husband. We children hated the intrusion of this man in our family’s relationships and knew it was wrong, yet we loved all the people involved.

In the summertime, our two families shared one house at the seashore, four adults and eight children under one roof. In order to

lessen the awkwardness, the children were trained to accept this scenario as normal, to treat the adulterer and his family as extended family, even to the extent of addressing the other man and his wife by the misleading and erroneous titles of “uncle” and “aunt.”

My siblings and I were expected to love and honor a mother whose heart favored another man even though our precious, lovable father was right there by her other side as a steadfastly devoted husband. We did love Mother very much and had no difficulty loving the other man and his wife as well; yet every day we had to wrestle with conflicting emotions and embarrassing situations. This was the heritage I brought to my marriage.

❖ *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work (2 Thess. 2:7a).*

A GOOD CHOICE

In the fall of 1949, I returned to college on a high from having spent the entire summer at the Trapp family Music Camp. Not only was this a musical mountain-top experience, but a spiritual one as well. The best way I knew to continue the blessing was to gather together a family-sized group of friends and sing madrigals.

The college choir rehearsed in the chapel. It was during a five-minute break in the first rehearsal that I checked with my friend Phil to see whether or not he'd found another bass to fill out the madrigal group I was starting. He had. Pointing to a young man seated on the chancel floor, he said with a smile, “There he is: Roger Walmsley!” And that's how I met my husband!

There were six of us in the madrigal group. We rehearsed for two months before Roger and I had our first date. Within two weeks after that, both Roger and I knew that sooner or later we would be married. Everything seemed to match: our love of music, the church we attended, our desire to have a family, and much more.

❖ *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* (Amos 3:3 KJV).

A COVENANT IS MADE—JUNE 16, 1951

Our wedding day dawned bright and sunny, the day my Dad would entrust me into Roger's care for the rest of my life. My Dad was known for a gentle sense of humor, for his way of putting people at ease by coaxing a chuckle out of them. As he escorted me down the aisle, he turned to me and said, "I forgot my suspenders!"

I arrived at Roger's side a smiling bride. We pledged our love and entire allegiance to each other that day, binding ourselves in a covenant. Not only were the boundaries of morality established for us thereby, but an ideal opportunity was provided us to know God by loving and being loved.

❖ *"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate"*
(Matt. 19:6).

NAIVE CONFIDENCE

I entered marriage with the full expectation of living happily ever after. My love for Roger seemed to know no bounds; I delighted in being married and in having him as my husband. My confidence was in our mutual love and in the integrity of the vows we had made.

❖ *"Is not your fear of God your confidence?"* (Job 4:6).

AN EARLY LESSON ABOUT LOVE

One day early in our marriage, we met a recently divorced woman struggling with grief over her loss. I made a thoughtless comment about her husband not being very lovable anyway. Roger spoke to me quietly, saying, "Be careful, Mary. All divorcees loved their mate at one time."

❖ *Things which are a mere shadow of what is to come*
(Col. 2:17).

EVE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN—1961

Ten years passed. In spite of having three wonderful children (two girls and a boy) and attending church regularly, our marriage proceeded with middling success, not good but not bad. A distance had grown between us, a vulnerable space—like a door left wide-open.

One day another man entered our home as a house guest. He played with the children and kept me company while Roger was busy elsewhere. Soon lust in the guise of love entered the relationship. If Roger was aware of what was going on, he neither said nor did anything about it. The lure of adultery was so strong that I succumbed.

❖ *(The adulteress) leaves the companion of her youth,
And forgets the covenant of her God* (Prov. 2:17).

CONVICTED BY COVENANT

Six months later, after experiencing far more pain than pleasure, I said to the man, “No! No more! Go away from here.” And he went.

Roger may have been hurt deeply by my adultery, but he said little. Not so with God! I felt His wrath! It permeated my guilt and shame. I could not escape the familiar words I had known since childhood, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY” Yes, I had sinned, and I was very sorry. I vowed never again to commit adultery.

❖ *Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned,
And done what is evil in Thy sight* (Ps. 51:4a).

The making of that vow brought about a great change in me; I found peace. God had forgiven me, of that I was certain. I assumed that Roger had forgiven me as well.

❖ *“Neither to I condemn you; go your way.
From now on sin no more”* (John 8:11b).

❖ *“What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy”* (Acts 10:15).

A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS

God blessed this restoration of my covenant commitment by filling me with joy and confidence. I was honoring the covenant once again, and it felt right and good. It was a new confidence, however, because it rested in both God and man. I knew that by keeping this latest vow I would please both God and Roger.

❖ *If our heart does not condemn us, we have
confidence before God* (1 John 3:21).

ADAM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN —1972

Roger and I worked hard to regroup. Our marriage changed for the better for a while, but the improvement didn't last because a distance remained between us.

Another ten years passed. In addition to our three children, we now had a son-in-law and two grandchildren.

At a party in 1972, Roger met a younger woman who was separated from her husband. She was a pianist, he a singer. As Roger introduced her to me, I knew in my soul that I had been supplanted.

They began to make music together, infrequently at first but then with increasing regularity. She had, indeed, become my rival for his time and attention, and it provoked me bitterly. Eventually, the tension became so great that I felt compelled to do something. I wanted my husband back!

One day, I looked out the window and saw Roger putting a cello into his car. Knowing that he was going to spend the afternoon making music with Tricia, I decided to confront him. He had just started the engine as I approached his car.

Seeing me, he put the window down and asked, "What do you want?"

"I think you are having an affair with 'Tricia, and I don't like it."

I watched his hand turn off the engine. From the look on his face, I knew my words had penetrated deeply. I fled like a grasshopper, first to the kitchen, then up the stairs and down the hall. *My God, he's coming after me!* I gasped. Roger's measured tread on the stair sent me flying up to the third floor, where I found myself backed into a corner. With heart pounding like a kettle-drum and both knees turned to rubber, I lowered myself into a chair facing the doorway.

He entered the room, took a seat, and spoke deliberately. "Would you repeat what you said to me outside?"

Feeling certain that I was justified, I restated my case. "I think you're having an affair with 'Tricia," and then described the negative effect his time with her was having on our family.

He heard me out and then presented his position, which was, in effect, "There is nothing wrong with making music." He made no mention of 'Tricia, as though she played no part in our distress; so I brought her into the conversation.

"If you have a problem, it is your problem," he said. "My relationship with her has nothing to do with you."

"It is my life!" I replied, amazed that he could think that way.

He restated his position. "My relationship with her has nothing to do with you."

I tried again, speaking from the bottom of my soul: "It is my life!"

He saw my distress but would not listen. With increased vehemence and authority he repeated his claim one more time. "My relationship with her has nothing to do with you!"

The same four words were all I could say: "It is my life."

❖ *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).*

We sat in silence for a long time, stuck at an impasse, in a triangle that he denied and I decried. I knew well the pleasure and pain of adultery, especially the pain. Memories from childhood and adulthood raced through my head. For years, Roger and I had watched my mother spend the bulk of her time with another woman's husband. Year after year, their behavior caused pain to more than one generation in both families. The adulterers appeared to never get hurt, but the rest of us did. The notion that I and the children might get caught in such a bind was intolerable. Finally, I could bear it no longer.

Looking at Roger, I said aloud, "You can have one or the other, but you'll not have us both."

❖ *"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse"*
(Deut. 30:19).

We sat in silence, listening to the echo of those surprising words. Then Roger got up and left.

I sat still—very, very still. I hadn't planned that conversation, and certainly the outcome was not what I'd had in mind. How I wished I could take those last words back again, but I couldn't! Like Eve in the garden of Eden, I had handed my husband the choice between good and evil. Like Sarah, I had given permission for my husband to go in to the other woman. Now it was for him to decide.

❖ *"When I expected good, then evil came;
When I waited for light, then darkness came"* (Job 30:26).

ADAM EATS THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT

For days the subject was not raised, yet tension kept building between us. When Roger was gone, I both hated his absence and dreaded his return. His detachment from me seemed total. Something had to give. A house divided against itself cannot stand, and ours felt doomed.

Eventually the day came when Roger called it quits. He announced that we would be divorced, that it didn't matter who did it because the result would be the same. "Within a year you'll feel better than you've ever felt in your life," he reasoned. "Within two years you'll be married, and within five years you'll be the superintendent of a school system somewhere."

❖ *Do not boast about tomorrow,*

For you do not know what a day may bring forth (Prov. 27:1).

I argued, but to no avail; he would not budge. His mind was made up, and that was that. No amount of complaining or crying could dissuade him. To the contrary, the more I badgered him over his decision, the more reasons he presented for having made it, each one more detached from the truth as I knew it.

❖ *"Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives"* (Matt. 19:8a).

A WAY PAVED WITH PAIN

I walked through the agonizing procedure of divorce in a daze. Several times my lawyer said, "But Mrs. Walmsley, you still love your husband!"

"That is true," I'd reply, "yet I know of no alternative but to carry on. I can't go back, not until there's been a great change for the better, and there has been no such change. He's trying so hard to push me away that I can't get near him. Nowadays I feel unwelcome in my own home." It was a nightmare.

❖ *They have prepared a net for my steps;
My soul is bowed down* (Ps. 57:6).

What had I done? In spite of all that I had worked and lived for these past twenty-three years, here I was, partly responsible for the very destruction of my own life and family. The prime of

life was still ahead of me, yet I stood betrayed, rejected, confused, and alone. I might be alone for the rest of my life. The outlook was bleak.

❖ *“Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected”* (Isa. 54:6).

THE BACK-SEAT DRIVER—June 1974

“What is to become of me?” I cried.

One day my sister called from her home in Vermont. “Come,” she said, “Just come.”

I packed a suitcase, got into my little green Pinto, and drove to the Green Mountains of Vermont. Fighting back tears in order to see, I made my way along three major turnpikes (PA, NJ, and NY Thruway) with hands gripped tightly on the wheel. Rain poured down. Windshield wipers thumped frantically to clear away the blinding waves of spray from each passing car and truck.

By the time I reached a quieter highway two hours later, the rain had let up and the traffic lessened. I could relax a little. With many miles yet to go, my mind began to review comments Roger had made, reasons for his decision (my adultery was never mentioned), his accusations against me, and his expectations of what will become of me. One complaint in particular stuck in my craw: “You’re a negative person, always saying ‘No’.”

I thought about that last comment. It didn’t sound like me, at least not the person I thought I was. The more I thought about it, the more offended I became. At last I could hold it in no longer and spoke aloud. “If I am negative, then I must change; but if I’m not, then he’s wrong.”

I was startled, astonished that I was speaking out loud to myself and amazed at what I had said. So completely did I revere the intelligence of my university professor husband that the very notion of his being wrong was revolutionary to my thought pattern.

❖ *Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all (Ps. 139:4).*

I suddenly heard myself speaking aloud again. And again the words were not of my intention, yet they came out of my mouth. But more than that, as they passed through my lips, I heard the sound of them passing my left ear from back to front!

“This is the year to say ‘Yes’, not ‘No’.”

I was dumbstruck! Ordinarily I would have heard my voice in front of me, but this time it came from behind my left shoulder. Not only had I made a vow, but an invisible and comforting Presence behind me was in the making of it! It was awesome!

God was teaching me the importance of a vow. I kept that vow for more than a year, until the day I was asked to do something contrary to God’s will; then I said ‘No’.

❖ *“Your Teacher will no longer hide Himself... And your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it”*
(Isa. 30:20-21).

THE LOCKET

Christmas was spent with Mother that year. Dad had died two years earlier, so it was just the two of us. I can’t tell you how difficult it was for me to be without my own family. Roger and I had spent twenty-three years together. One year earlier, there had been eight Walmsleys gathered around the Christmas tree, and here I was alone with Mother. O, how I hurt!

When it came time to open gifts, Mom eagerly handed me a package she had wrapped with great care, a gift she was certain would please me. I opened it politely, but my heart was not in it. It did not matter what the gift might be; nothing could penetrate my grief. I did not want things; I wanted my family back!

I tried to smile and be grateful, but my face must have looked awful. Poor Mother!

But she did not give up. Reaching for another gift, one that had been given to her, she handed it to me, saying, "Here, Sweetie. I want you to have this. I know it will make you happy!" But it didn't. I did not want any thing; I wanted my husband and family!

God bless Mother for persevering. "Wait a minute!" she said and went up the stairs. Within a few minutes she returned and handed me a gold locket.

"I'm sorry it's not wrapped," she said, "but I know it is for you."

What could I say? I don't often wear jewelry; she knew that. And it was another thing. Mom was trying so hard to rescue the spirit of Christmas that I tried hard to be grateful, yet my face was still long.

"It's from your father," she added, fully aware that I had been close to my Dad and still missed him very much. It helped to have Dad brought into the present. I brightened a wee bit.

She went on. "It was given to him by Mrs. Milne."

I remembered Mrs. Milne as one of my Dad's most grateful patients, an elderly woman who liked to give him precious gifts in gratitude for being such a beloved family physician. I was beginning to take interest.

Mom kept talking. "It has her initials on it," she explained, but that did not register in me. I was unaware that her name was Irene, much less that her middle initial was A. Since my expression did not change, Mom spoke yet again, this time with great care and love, "Her initials spell I AM."

❖ *And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM....*

This is My name forever... I am indeed concerned about you....

I will bring you up out of the affliction"

(Exod. 3:14, 15b, 16b, 17).

A HOSTAGE OF WAR

My husband and I were separated, but not separated by God. In spite of God's interventions in my life, the pain and confusion lingered. Anger burned inside me. The process of divorce dragged on and on. I watched myself being robbed, robbed of my marriage, robbed of my husband and my home, robbed of family life, physical protection and financial security as well. Rage consumed me, seeking an outlet for its expression. The Bible says, "*Be angry, and yet do not sin*" (Eph. 4:26). There are times when that is a difficult assignment.

Divorce is a tug-of-war between God's will and the devil's way. Satan's trickery may have ripped apart the fabric of my life, but I was on God's side, clinging to the covenant.

❖ "*You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him*" (Deut. 13:4).

THE CALL TO WORK

Everyone, including Roger, expected that in Vermont I would "start my life all over again," have a career in teaching, and live happily ever after; but God had another plan.

I tried to find work as a teacher. Having a Masters Degree in Elementary Education, it was assumed there would be no problem. Wrong again! The law requires that a teacher holding a Masters Degree automatically receives a higher wage, yet no department of education would even consider hiring me; my degree was vintage, and I had not been a classroom teacher for two decades. So there I was in the Green Mountains, unemployed and unemployable, and still reeling from rejection, grief, anger, and despair.

❖ "*This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent*" (John 6:29).

BACK TO SCHOOL—1975

At that time my sister was the proprietress of the Old Bennington Country Store. Her fabric and needlework department was housed in an old, one-room schoolhouse next door. Needing someone to man that little shop, she hired me as the clerk—me, with a Masters in Elementary Education, now a student in a one-room schoolhouse learning about life anew from the Master Teacher Himself!

❖ *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God* (Heb. 5:12).

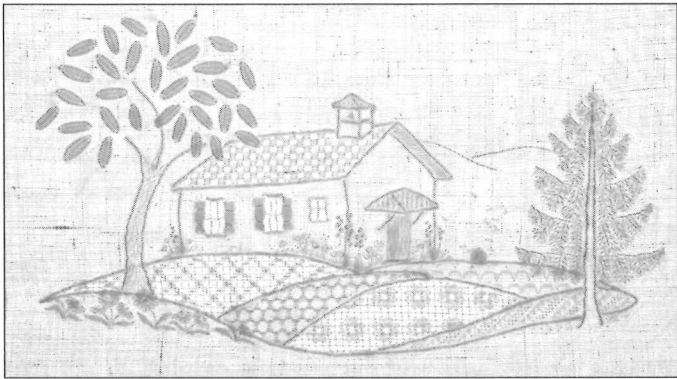
A 20TH CENTURY PSALMIST

There I received an extra-ordinary gift from God: talent for doing fine embroidery was revealed in my fingers. I was forty-five years old and never before knew it was there! God gave me this distraction with which to ease the pain. Disciplined, purposeful stitching became an outlet for anger. Quiet, careful embroidery provided time to ponder, time to gently absorb reality, and time to reflect on God's interaction within my life. It was like praying with my hands. God had given me a new "voice" with which to proclaim a positive message. Like a harp in the hands of the Psalmist, the needle and thread became an instrument through which I would express heart, mind, and soul.

❖ *It came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him* (2 Kings 3:15).

AS WHITE AS SNOW

Grateful for what God was doing in my life, for His teaching and the purification process He was achieving in me, I designed and stitched a setting of the little schoolhouse. This,



my first embroidered work of art, was worked with white threads on white linen as a table runner.

❖ *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart* (1 Pet. 1:22).

❖ *Fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints* (Rev. 19:8b).

MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE—JANUARY 1976

I stayed in Vermont for more than a year before returning to the Philadelphia area to be near the children. I had to find an apartment and learn to live alone. It was not easy.

The day came for my last trip to the lawyer's office to sign the papers. Our daughter Ann was with me and two grandchildren as well. My lawyer was out of town; his substitute was behind schedule, so we were escorted into a large, well-appointed legal library on the first floor. A secretary came in with a coloring book and some crayons to help the little ones while away the time.

In numbness I watched the young. I couldn't help but recall how our marriage had begun in a church filled with witnesses, music, and love. *What a contrast to the triviality of this scene! I thought. It is folly to think that a covenant with God can be termi-*

nated by men. It is the work of the devil. Satan has won a victory because I am here. How very sad for all of us—for this generation and the generation to come.

The lawyer entered with papers in hand. Knowing that every step toward divorce goes against God's will, I hastened to do something right, to find a gesture to placate God. *There must be something I can do that will gain a grain of mercy in all this*, I reckoned.

Looking at the lawyer, I asked aloud, "Shouldn't we have a Bible to do this?"

He was flabbergasted. I dare say that he had never been asked that question at a time like this!

He called to the secretary in the hall, "Do you know where there is a Bible?"

She came at his call. The children and I stood aside as a flustered search began. The legal staff had no idea of where to find a Bible among all those books. They looked high and low with increasing impatience. I watched and was still glad that I had asked; I could not imagine a deed of such magnitude being done without involving God in some way.

At last they found a Bible. The lawyer opened it at random. Holding it awkwardly in one hand, he proceeded to read aloud the legal document I was to sign. Then, looking at me with an air of condescension, he reiterated the reason for our divorce, "Your divorce is to be granted on the grounds of disputes and unhappy differences," as though I had not heard the absurdity the first time.

I signed the papers. *Forgive me, Lord.*

As we prepared to leave, the secretary informed me that I would be notified when the divorce was final.

❖ *To one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin (Jas. 4:17).*

THE 10-CENT POSTCARD

Several weeks later, sandwiched in a pile of mail, there appeared a nondescript ten-cent postcard. It came perilously close to being tossed out with the junk mail because I thought it was a utility company's card with a meter reading. It was, in fact, the official notice from the County Courthouse that our divorce was final.

I could barely read it for the stinging tears that filled my eyes. The date was February 14, 1976, twenty-five years to the day since my engagement ring was put on my finger!

❖ *"I hate divorce," says the Lord (Mal. 2:16).*

A DANGLING "EX"—APRIL 1976

Two months and a day later, my son-in-law called. "Roger's going to marry Tricia this afternoon. They're to be married by a justice of the peace. His parents are the only ones who have been invited. And they're going to live in the same house that once was your home!"

I was shocked but not surprised. Ever since Roger first met Tricia, I feared this would happen. A wave of pain gathered momentum inside me. "With me discarded, it's not surprising that they felt free to marry," I told Bill bitterly. "If they really were free, there'd be no earthly reason why they shouldn't marry; but they're not!"

Bill waited, knowing I would have more to say. He was right. Piercing pain soon caused a flow of heated words to erupt from me like a volcano.

"There is a heavenly reason why not, and His name is Jesus!" I declared vociferously. "Jesus says that divorce and marriage to another partner is adultery. Our covenant exists until death us do part. I'm not dead yet, and neither is he!" Bill knew all this. He just listened, letting me vent.

❖ *A wife is bound as long as her husband lives (1 Cor. 7:39a).*

CAUGHT IN A QUANDARY

O God, I hurt! Will I ever stop hurting?

Saddled with the discrepancy of being divorced while believing in marriage, I kept asking, "How can I, a divorcee, ever restore my integrity?" I wrestled daily with the issue of marriage, the right kind (covenant, like ours) and the wrong kind (adultery, like theirs). "If there is no merit in divorce, how can some good come out of all this?"

❖ *"If you extract the precious from the worthless
You will become My spokesman"* (Jer. 15:19).

THE CONCEPT OF COVENANT MADE VISIBLE

God's way of extracting good out of me was to engage me in an embroidery project that would "speak" louder than words. He inspired me to create wedding garments for a bride and bridegroom fashioned after Olde English smocks, garments designed to be worn by men and women for work. Marriage is work, for husband and wife alike. As both of these wedding garments were cut from the same bolt of fabric, when seen together they appear to be one. Yes, in several ways the concept of Covenant is captured in them.



❖ *"Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these (wedding garments) mean to you?' Then you shall say to them, 'Because... of the covenant.... these (wedding garments) shall be a memorial'"*
(Josh. 4:6-7).

A WHOLE NEW BALLPARK—1977

“I want what you have!”

“And what exactly is that?” asked the group of born-again Christians I’d been camping with for two days.

Holding up three fingers of my left hand and pointing to each in turn, I said, “You are bone sure of your faith, you are Scripturally literate, and you are of a joyous countenance. I want what you have!”

They were thrilled! As they prayed with me, I invited Jesus to come into my heart and be my personal Lord and Savior. He accepted the invitation, and my life was changed that day for better and for ever! In addition to the love and joy released in me, by His grace my will was now solely to obey His will.

❖ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).*

THE VOICE OF HIS WORD

Within a matter of days a most remarkable event occurred. While walking along a sidewalk one day, God intervened in my life once again, saying, “You are Roger’s rightful wife, and he is your rightful husband. I want a reconciliation. It will come through prayer and the children.”

I neither heard a voice nor saw a vision, yet those words certainly did impact my soul! No words on earth could have been more surprising!

My first reaction was skepticism and displeasure. Not only did the suggestion seem totally unrealistic, but it was unwelcome as well. I had no desire whatsoever to go back to a hurtful relationship, and Roger already had another wife. Like most people, I considered our marriage dead.

❖ *“My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord (Isa. 55:8).*

I tried to shake the matter off, but it did not go away. I could not erase those words out of my mind! So persistent were they that I simply had to think twice. Not only was the message consistent with Holy Scripture, but there was no doubt in my mind that it was God who had spoken.

Because I did not doubt the Author, God confirmed His message. The next day He repeated it, but with three words changed: "You are Roger's rightful wife, and he is your rightful husband. **There will be** a reconciliation. It will come through prayer and the children."

Now the words were branded indelibly on my soul.

❖ *"Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord"* (Luke 1:45).

A TUG ON THE COVENANT CORD

What do I do now? I wondered. *What are the responsibilities of a prophet? Shall I relay the message, and to whom?*

As the thought of reconciliation with Roger was news to me, I figured it would be news to him as well. He, especially, ought to know what God had said. Moreover, I was certain that it was good news because our God is not a cruel God; He wants the best for each of us.

I wrote a letter to Roger, telling him what God had said and warning him to turn from his wrongful ways, but he didn't respond.

❖ *"If you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your life"*
(Ezek. 33:9).

A CHRISTIAN WITNESS

It was natural for me to share the prophecy with family and friends as well. There were people who believed as I did and saw the

message as a good word from God, but they were few in number. As with the prophets of old, I experienced far more negative reaction than positive. Some people had disdain, even pity for me, saying, "Poor Mary, she's out of her mind!" Others in bewilderment, outrage, or feeling threatened would cry out, "But he's married to someone else!" There were those who closed their eyes, covered their ears, and said simply, "I don't want to hear about it." Still others rejected me as a person and kept their distance.

As much as I longed to be accepted and taken seriously, instead I had become an island set in a social sea of confusion with waves of reaction coming at me from every direction.

Thank God for work and being stabilized by stitchery! Having finished the wedding garments, I began a large quilt, at the center of which is a map of the island of Martha's Vineyard.

❖ *"Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God"*
(Acts 14:22b).

BACK TO BASICS

In order to participate in the reconciliation, a major change was required. I must learn to think the way God thinks in order to obey His will and be a good helpmate.

One day, a friend asked in casual conversation, "From what kind of tree in the garden of Eden did Adam and Eve eat?"

Without hesitation I answered "Apple."

Being a gracious gentleman, he gently informed me, "It was 'the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'."

I shall never forget how dumb I felt!—me, a college graduate with an advanced degree! I had attended Sunday School regularly as a child and church as an adult and still did not know the elementary principles of the faith! Appalled at the measure of my own ignorance, I determined then and there to read the entire Bible and learn what God has to say.

I purchased a Bible with cross references and maps of the Holy land. I purchased a complete concordance, too, so that I would have both Hebrew and Greek dictionaries to aid in the translation of words. Since my Bible was not a red-letter edition, I added a collection of colored pencils to enrich my studies.

I started to spend two to three hours every day reading, translating, and color-coding the text (encircling all Christ's words with a red pencil, God the Father's with green, man's with blue, women's with pink, and words spoken in prayer with orange!)

My Bible is something to see! When passing through customs at Heathrow Airport years ago, the inspector opened my Bible, turned a page or two, closed it, opened it up again and flipped through more pages before finally closing it. Looking at me over the top of his glasses, he smiled and said, "This Good Book is well used!"

❖ *"Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord"* (Deut. 8:3).

❖ *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope* (Rom. 15:4).

THE POLLING PLACE

Roger's sin and his silence bedeviled me. He neither quit his adultery nor spoke to me. How was I to know whether he had received my letter and the warning in it? He was in deep spiritual trouble and either didn't know it or didn't care. I wanted to be sure that he knew, but how?

Soon it would be Election Day. Roger always went to the polls early in the morning on his way to work. I could intercept him. I knew the polling place, having voted there myself for thirteen years.

I did just that. I met him on the sidewalk as he left the polling place and headed for his car. "Divorce and a second marriage is

adultery!" I said loudly for others to hear. "And adulterers don't get into heaven!"

Poor Roger! He walked briskly, but I kept up with him, haranguing all the while.

"Your soul is in jeopardy! Repent and be saved. Don't wait until you stand on the threshold of heaven, saying 'Lord, Lord', only to be turned away and never get in!"

He walked on in deliberate silence.

"Speak to me!" I pleaded. He kept walking.

"God wants you and me to be reconciled!"

He kept walking. At last he reached his car and drove away. He must have thought I was mad for such a display of undisciplined anger! It was clear that I had not yet forgiven him for his adultery, nor had I put my complete trust in God to bring about our reconciliation. I was trying to make it happen. I needed a lot of healing.

❖ *The anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God*
(Jas. 1:20).

STRENGTHENED BY STITCHING

Once I was home again and had settled down, I began to wonder, *How else can I peaceably relay the same message? What other way do I have to warn him of the serious consequences of his sin?* Through stitchery, of course!

Having reached Genesis 6 in my study of the Bible, Noah's ark came to mind as the perfect vessel, especially as the rainbow was the first visible sign of a covenant. Way back then people were marrying and giving in marriage whomever they chose, just as they are today, and God was very displeased. Once the door of the ark was shut (and it was God who shut it!), no one could enter the ark and be saved. *If that isn't adequate warning, I don't know what is!* I concluded and stitched a rendition of Noah's ark on my quilt.



❖ *The patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark (1 Pet. 3:20).*

ANOTHER CHILD

In October 1978, a daughter was born to Roger and Tricia. I greeted the news with mixed emotions. At first I thought *Now that Roger has a child by another woman, he'll never come*, as though it were a fact. But on second thought I knew better than to conclude Roger would never come. The birth of Ishmael did not change Sarah's status as the covenant wife through whom God's promise would be fulfilled. Like Sarah, I must wait a while longer for God's promise to be fulfilled—a whole generation, perhaps.

❖ *For (God) is not a man that He should change His mind (1 Sam. 15:29b).*

WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE

Several years passed. I returned to my old neighborhood one day to have tea with Helen. Looking out her kitchen window, I

noticed Roger sitting at the picnic table in his yard across the street. *What's he doing at home mid-afternoon in the middle of the week?* I wondered. Then, seeing his little daughter climbing on a jungle gym behind him, I understood.

I feasted my eyes on him unabashedly. The sight was pleasingly familiar: his bearing, his hair, his expression. As I drank it all in, I could feel a stream of love flowing from me toward him in a very real way, and it was good.

"What are you staring at?" asked Helen.

"Come, see for yourself," I replied.

Helen crossed the room and stood behind my chair. Leaning down so that her head was over my shoulder, she followed the direction of my gaze until she, too, saw Roger. An expression of concern came over her face.

"Mary, are you all right?" she asked with a modicum of alarm, remembering the pain I had suffered years ago.

Looking her straight in the eye, I replied, "Helen, am I all right?"

"Yes," she said, smiling and nodding her head in affirmation, "you are all right!"

❖ "I extend peace to (him) like a river" (Isa. 66:12).

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

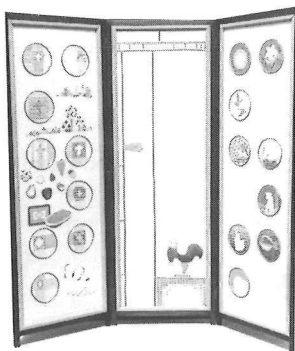
I have always been fascinated by the liturgical season of Eastertide, the forty days after Jesus' resurrection and before His ascension, a time when the margin between *visible* and *invisible* was measured solely by faith.

In gratitude for the gift of faith, I embroidered a three paneled, standing floor screen in honor of God Himself and named it "*Eastertide Trinity*"—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

❖ *He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me (Ps. 50:23a).*

A HARVEST OF BLESSINGS—1983

It took nine years of stitching three to four hours every day to complete four embroidered works of art, but only family and close friends had seen them. One day a friend said, “Mary, your stitchery is so fine, it really should be seen by a greater audience! Why don’t you join the Philadelphia Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America and enter your art work in their Biennial Exhibit?”



The exhibit was to be in June, making it a doubly exciting time for me, because our fourth grandchild was due to be born then, too.

The big day came. Little James was born early on the morning of the 9th, and I was there. When I arrived at the gallery that afternoon for the reception for exhibitors, I noticed a crowd gathered around my quilt. Someone shouted, “There she is!” Others echoed “Congratulations!”

My first reaction was to say, “Thank you! It’s a boy!,” but then I realized they didn’t know about James; they must be referring to something else. Moving closer to the quilt, I saw something new—not one, but *two* ribbons hanging beside it. One was a blue ribbon for First Prize; Quilt Category, and the other a gold ribbon for Judge’s Best in Show!

People were asking all at once: “What is the broom for?” “Why is that orange thing there?” “Is there significance in those three flags?”

Finally one person stepped forward, pointed to a particular figure and said, “Mary, tell us about this.”

With all eyes now focused on one object, I began to tell the story behind it. The response was so enthusiastic that I kept on. No sooner had I finished telling one story than they asked for another. I was on a roll, and the audience was delighted! A seed had been planted for a future ministry.

❖ *And all the multitude kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them (Acts 15:12).*

Twenty minutes flew by before my friend said, “Mary, you haven’t even been in the next room yet!”

I excused myself and followed her around the corner. There two ribbons adorned the wedding garments—a blue ribbon for First Prize: Embroidery Category, and another Judge’s Best In Show!

Displayed nearby was my white table-runner bedecked with a red ribbon for Second Prize: Embroidery Category!

God had done a wonderful work in me! I was exhilarated by the honor, but deep down I knew the embroideries were merely a means of achieving God’s purpose for my life.

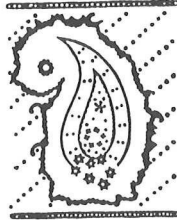
❖ *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14).*

PROVIDENCE

Three days later, I went to a church fair. It was a big fair with over 200 tailgate vendors. I hadn’t passed ten cars when I stopped dead in my tracks. Before me on a table were two dozen blocks of wood, most of them lying face down. Each had a pattern carved into the front and a handle carved out of the back.

One in particular caught my attention. It was a pattern of a babe about to be born. *After all that happened the other day, what motif could be more timely?* I thought. For weeks I had been won-

dering what my next embroidery project would be, and here was the perfect pattern! Every detail fascinated me, especially the seven stars.



❖ “He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God’” (Rev. 3:1b,2).

I stared at it in amazement, then aimlessly turned the block over. A little white sticker said “\$4”. *That’s a lot of money for a block of wood*, I thought to myself and returned to staring at the pattern. For the longest time I stood there with the block in hand, alternately planning the stitches to use and then checking the price, totally unaware that I was being watched.

At last the vendor broke in. “They used those for printing fabric,” he said.

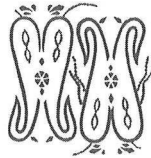
The word *fabric* caught my attention slightly but not enough to break my concentration, so the vendor tried again. “I’ll give you two for five dollars,” he said.

I lifted my eyes and looked at him. “If there’s another block on that table that has anything to do with me, you have a deal.”

Reaching down, I took hold of one and turned it face side up. My eyes widened, for I could clearly see God’s hand in the orchestration of this event. I held in my hand was an embellished rendition of *M W!*

Holding the block outward for the vendor to see, I said simply, “My initials are *M. W!*”

I will never forget the look on his face! I paid him the \$5 and returned home with patterns for my next two works of art, two smaller quilts entitled “Birth of a Star” and “My Signature.”



❖ *“I have called you by name; you are Mine!
Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored
and I love you” (Isa. 43:1b,4a).*

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Overnight visits with the grandchildren were a regular occurrence. At the beginning of each visit, I asked the child what he or she wanted for dinner. Whatever the answer, the same was purchased on the way home. Mike always preferred fish of some kind, Lara might select anything, Matthew inevitably asked for pizza, and James had either a hot-dog or hamburger.

To a grandson I would add, “While you are with me, you are the man of the house, so it’s up to you to take care of Gammy—and make conversation, too!”

One day it was Matt’s turn. In spite of the fact that his little, blond head barely reached the car window, he settled into the passenger seat feeling big and important.

The first item to be discussed was the menu. His reiteration of “Pizza!” made short work of that subject, so he moved on to something else. Out of a clear blue sky the lad began a recitation of family relationships. It was obvious that he had given thought to the subject and wanted to set it straight.

“Gammy,” he said, “Gran-Gran in your mother. Right?”

“Right.”

“And you are my mother’s mother. Right?”

“Right.”

“And Roger is my mother’s father. Right?”

“Right.”

“So you are my grandmother.”

“Right.”

“And Roger is my grandfather.”

“Right.”

“And Tricia is my grandmother.”

“Wrong.”

Matt paused, thinking. “What is she, then?”

“She is Roger’s second wife.”

“Oh,” said the child without hesitation, “he should have only one of those,” and the conversation glided to another subject.

❖ *Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner*
(1 Cor. 14:40).

THE CALL TO SPEAK—1985

Two years later, upon completion of the two quiltlets, God took away the gift of embroidery! I tried to start another piece, but all attempts failed; the inspiration was not there. *What does this mean?* I wondered. *Lord, what do you want me to do instead?*

Remembering the scene in the gallery when my artwork and testimony sparked great enthusiasm from the audience, I knew God was calling me to stand beside my embroideries and tell others about the wondrous things He has done in my life. I packaged myself for market by writing a brochure and launched a lecture series as “Mary Walmsley, Sower of the Word”. It continues to this day.

Before long, a young woman came to me and said, “Mary, because of your testimony I did not get a divorce.” Several others have said the same since then. Only God knows how many

marriages have been saved because I share my testimony openly.

❖ *How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?* (Rom. 10:14).

A BURDEN

I had a burden in my heart for Roger. Although we lived only eleven miles apart, we hadn't spoken with one another in years. As I was going public with our story, I wanted him to know what I was saying and to hear it from me.

I mailed Roger the text of each speech as it was given, but he never acknowledged receipt of them. Four years later, content that I had done my part, I stopped mailing him speeches.

❖ *For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline* (2 Tim. 1:7)

THE ANOINTED HAIRCUT

By 1989, I had been keeping covenant for twelve years without meeting another person doing the same.

One day I asked my hairdresser, "Where are the others? Lots of Christians are divorced, many of them against their will. Are there none who read the Bible and see what I see?"

Skip had been cutting my hair for years, but only when I asked this question did he think to connect me with a woman in his parish who's standing for her marriage. I called her that night and met her two days later, along with dozens of others! The occasion was a regional meeting of Covenant Keepers, Inc., an international support group for men and women who, because of a covenant, are praying for the restoration of their marriage. What love, faith and joy are found among them! I was so encouraged and uplifted by this meeting that I joined the local group and haven't missed a meeting since!

❖ *Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you (2 Tim. 1:14).*

DOWN UNDER

In 1994, Roger retired and moved to Australia, the original homeland of his second wife. When others heard the news, they feared that I would take it hard and lose all hope of reconciliation. To the contrary, my immediate response was, "Praise the Lord! God is in Australia, too!"

One of Roger's colleagues from the Physics Department graphically described to me the distance of Roger's move. "Mary," he said, "if you take a globe and drill a hole from Philadelphia through the center of the earth, it will come out within 200 miles of Roger!"

I thought to myself, *Roger has gone as far as he can go without being on his way home again!*

❖ *Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? (Ps. 139:7).*

TEA FOR TWO, TWICE

Two years later, Roger and his family planned a visit to the Philadelphia area. Mother had passed away, leaving me an inheritance, so I now had a home of my own. I wrote them a letter, saying, "While you're here, please come and see my new, old house!"

Roger came alone. Only once in the last twenty-two years had we been alone together, and that was shortly before his move to Australia when he had come to my apartment to deliver four chairs. As we sat in the back yard that day sipping iced tea, he made no mention of the obvious disrepair inside the apartment, but we both chuckled over the height of the weeds growing out of the gutters outside!

Having seen where I used to live, I dare say he hoped to find an improvement here. After touring the house from attic to base-

ment, Roger gave it his approval. Then we came into the family room overlooking the garden and had tea, hot tea on a wintry day.

For an hour and a half we chatted about family and friends. All the while he kept watching me, so I feasted my eyes on him. Once again love poured like a river out of me for him. I cannot explain that love because it is a holy mystery to me; but it is real and very lovely indeed!

As he was preparing to leave, I helped him with his coat and then said, "Roger, I'm going to give you a hug." He stood there, ready to receive, so I hugged him and said, "Peace be with you, brother; and may God go with you."

"Thank you!" he replied and left.

❖ "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you*" (John 14:27).

NAME TAGS

During the coffee break at a meeting one day, a woman standing nearby saw my name tag and quietly asked, "Do you know 'Tricia Walmsley?"

I hesitated, thinking *What shall I say?* I looked at her name tag but did not recognize the name. I hesitated a wee bit longer and then said carefully, "Yes. I first met 'Tricia on December 16, 1972. Subsequently she married my husband."

The poor woman! It was evident from her posture that she felt badly for having asked. She even said, "I feel so badly for having asked!"

"Don't feel badly," I assured her. "I've been praying for 'Tricia for twenty-five years. I have genuine love in my heart for her because I have been praying for her. Please don't feel badly."

Surprised and relieved at my reply, she straightened up and began to ask questions about forgiveness and covenant keeping. We have become good friends.

❖ *Pray for one another, so that you may be healed* (Jas. 5:16).

IN TOUCH

In the winter of 2000, Roger and his family made another visit to the Philadelphia area. I had hoped to see him, but was disappointed when I heard nothing. Shortly before his scheduled departure for home, however, he did call. “I’m sorry,” said he, “I’ve been sick and couldn’t come.”

Although he was still suffering with severe laryngitis, we chatted for an hour and a half about our children and us—until his voice ran out and there was, quite literally, no more sound!

❖ *This is my beloved and this is my friend* (Song of Sol. 5:16b).

THE OPEN DOOR

My father purchased a house for \$20,000 in the 1940s; in 1999, that same house sold for more than \$1,000,000! Upon hearing this, I felt compelled to write a letter to the new owners, welcoming them to a wonderful house that holds many memories for me. “Not only did I grow up in it, but I was married from it, and our wedding reception was held there. I hope your days there will be happy” I wrote. Hearing nothing in return, I let the matter go.

Two years passed. Now it was 2001, the year originally appointed for Roger and Mary Walmsley to celebrate their golden wedding. One day, my friend Sandra was invited to a wedding on May 19th in my home town. It is a two-hour drive from this area, and she had no way of getting there, so I offered to drive her. Sandra was very grateful!

Soon thereafter, an elderly friend of my family passed away, and her funeral was scheduled for the same day in the same town!—the funeral at 2 P.M. and the wedding at 3:30! So I called Sandra and said, “In order for me to drive you to the wedding, you must first

attend a funeral with me!" We laughed, for both events and the timing were clearly the work of God's hand.

By a remarkable coincidence, a few days later I heard at last from the new owner of my childhood home! It seems that my letter had arrived just as they were settling in and got swept up in an armload of boxes and carried to the third floor. Two years later, the owner was sorting through those boxes, and found it! Grateful for my warm and welcoming note, she wanted to meet me and show the house to me as it is today.

Since we were going to be in the neighborhood on May 19th for the funeral and the wedding, we agreed to meet at her house earlier the same day. Thus it was that, by the hand of God, a second picture was taken fifty years later of me entering my childhood home as Mrs. Mary Walmsley.

❖ "I am the door" (John 10:9).

THEN UNTIL NOW

"Dear Roger,

"When I was a child, my friend Susie and I were playing in the front yard one day when we heard a horse approaching. Excited at the very sound, we dropped what we were doing and ran to the curb just in time to see a horse-drawn carriage go by with a liveried coachman at the reins. It stopped at some neighbors' house a few doors up. Soon the elderly couple emerged, dressed for an old-fashioned wedding and climbed into the coach. As it passed us again on the way down the street, they waved at the two little girls standing on the sidewalk, gawking. I later learned from Mother that they were on their way to their Golden Wedding Celebration.

From that moment on it was fixed in my heart that I wanted to celebrate my Golden Wedding some day. The fact that you first met my grandparents on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Celebration only cemented the desire in my heart.

For all that we've been, known, and done—at first together and then apart—I have always had love in my heart for you (in varying degrees and expressions, to be sure, but there none the less). It is a gift from God. I have never wavered from the concept that you are the only husband for me, and I am content. This, too, is a gift from God.

And so there is going to be a party here on June 16th, 2001. Needless to say, Roger, you are invited to come! I would love nothing more than to have you here!”

❖ *I know that there is nothing better... than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime (Eccl. 3:12a).*

I was truly blessed by his reply: “Congratulations! I hope all goes well as you plan. You have my best wishes for a wonderful occasion.

❖ *The lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting... To those who keep His covenant (Ps. 103:17a,18).*

HONOR AND GLORY



JOIN ME IN CELEBRATING A COVENANT OCCASION!

***THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARRIAGE OF
ROGER AND MARY WALMSLEY***

June 16, 2001



Dozens of these invitations were mailed. How blessed I was to not only be able to honor our covenant, but to do so with Roger's approval as well!

The big day came, and it poured rain! But that did not dampen the spirits of the thirty-seven people who came. As I wrote to Roger the next day, "There was so much love here in this place—love for me and you and the Lord. It was wonderful! I am more convinced than ever that our covenant is the best thing we've got going for us!"

❖ *Love is patient, love is kind... Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails*
(1 Cor. 13:4,7-8a).



ROGER AND MARY
COMING THROUGH
THE DOOR
1951



MARY COMING THROUGH
THE SAME DOOR
2001



Marriage

“My beloved is mine, and I am his”

~Song. Sol. 2:16

I. THE PHYSICAL DIMENSION TO MARRIAGE

A. GOD PROVIDES THE COMPONENTS

❖ *Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him” (Gen. 2:18).*

suitable: neged = in front of, in sight of, opposite to

❖ *And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. And the man said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man” (Gen. 2:22-23).*

man: adam = man, mankind

Woman: ishshah = woman, wife

Man: ish = a man as an individual, a husband

❖ *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Cor. 6:19).*

B. A MAN AND WOMAN CONSENT TO BE WED

❖ *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* (Amos 3:3 KJV).

C. GOD JOINS A MAN AND WOMAN AS ONE FLESH

❖ *“For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh”* (Gen. 2:24).

leave: azab = to loosen, relinquish, forsake

cleave: dabaq = to cling, adhere

❖ *“Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When he was one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him”* (Isa. 51:2).

D. WHAT GOD JOINS, MAN DOES NOT SEPARATE

❖ *“Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh’. Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate”* (Matt. 19:4-6).

leave: kataleipo = to leave, leave behind

cleave: kollao = to glue, unite

join together: suzeugnumi = to yoke together (from Greek sun= together, and zeugos= a yoke, a couple, pair)

let: (word not in Greek text but added for clarification in English)

separate: chorizo = to separate, divide

❖ *So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man* (Rom. 7:3).

❖ *“See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me... And there is no one who can deliver from My hand” (Deut. 32:39).*

❖ *Everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him (Eccl. 3:14).*

II. THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF MARRIAGE

A. THE SPEAKING OF VOWS ENACTS A COVENANT WITH GOD

❖ *The two of them made a covenant before the Lord (1 Sam. 23:18).*

❖ *(Jesus) is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises (Heb. 8:6b).*

B. GOD PARTICIPATES IN THE COVENANT

❖ *“(I) entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine,” declares the Lord God (Ezek. 16:8b).*

❖ *To (God) the vow will be performed (Ps. 65:1).*

❖ *“Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness” (Deut. 7:9).*

❖ *“They will come that they may join themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten” (Jer. 50:5b).*

❖ *(The adulteress) leaves the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God (Prov. 2:17b).*

❖ *Jonathan made a covenant with David. Then Jonathan said to him, “The Lord is between you and me forever” (1 Sam. 20:16,23b).*

C. THE COVENANT BOND DETERMINES PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR

❖ *Pay what you vow! (Eccl. 5:4b)*

❖ *“You shall be careful to perform what goes out from your lips, just as you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God, what you have promised”* (Deut. 23:23).

❖ *“If a man makes a vow to the Lord... he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth”* (Num. 30:2).

❖ *“You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord”* (Matt. 5:33).

❖ *So I will sing praise to Thy name forever, That I may pay my vows day by day* (Ps. 61:8).

D. THE COVENANT ESTABLISHES THE BOUNDARY OF MORALITY

❖ *“When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God will surely require it of you”* (Deut. 23:21).

❖ *“Thou shalt not commit adultery”* (Exod. 20:14).

❖ *Husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies* (Eph. 5:28a).

❖ *Because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband* (1 Cor. 7:2).

❖ *If they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn* (1 Cor. 7:9).

❖ *The wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband)... the husband should not send his wife away* (1 Cor. 7:10b-11).

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and*

marries another man, she is committing adultery" (Mark 10:11-12).

E. GOD HOLDS THE COUPLE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR PROMISES

❖ *"The Lord is a witness between you and the wife of your youth"* (Mal. 2:14b).

❖ *Pay your vows to the Most High* (Ps. 50:14b).

❖ *"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matt. 5:48).

perfect: teleios = having reached its end, i.e. complete

F. THE MARRIAGE COVENANT IS VALID UNTIL DEATH

❖ *We know that the Law (of God) is spiritual* (Rom. 7:14).

❖ *A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married* (1 Cor. 7:39).

❖ *"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate"* (Mark 10:9).

❖ *A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart* (Eccl. 4:12b).

III. THE INVIOABILITY OF A COVENANT

A. ONE MAY ABUSE A COVENANT—

1. by **breaking (fracturing)** the covenant

to break: parar = to break, fracture

❖ *rejecting God's statutes and not carrying out His commandments* (Lev. 26:15).

❖ *being covenant breakers* (Rom. 1:31 KJV).

covenant breakers: asunthetos = not keeping covenant

2. by **violating** a covenant

to violate: chalal = to pollute, profane, defile

❖ *putting forth his hands against those who are at peace with him* (Ps. 55:20).

❖ *breaking off loving-kindness and dealing falsely in faithfulness* (Ps. 89:33-34).

❖ *altering the utterance of one's lips* (Ps. 89:34).

3. by **transgressing** the covenant

to transgress: abar = to cross over

❖ *doing what is evil in the sight of God* (Deut. 17:2).

❖ *stealing, deceiving, taking things under the ban* (Josh. 7:11).

❖ *going and serving other gods and bowing down to them* (Josh. 23:16).

❖ *not listening to the voice of God* (Judg. 2:20).

❖ *not obeying the voice of God* (2 Kings 18:12).

❖ *not fulfilling the words of the covenant* (Jer. 34:18).

❖ *cheating, dealing treacherously against God* (Hos. 6:7).

❖ *rebellng against God's law* (Hos. 8:1).

4. by **forsaking** your covenant

to forsake: azab = to leave, forsake, loose

❖ *bowing down to other gods to serve them* (Jer. 22:9).

5. by **spurning** your covenant

to spurn: naar = to abhor, spurn

❖ *casting off, rejecting, and being full of wrath against an anointed one* (Ps. 89:38).

6. by **forgetting** your covenant

to forget: shakeach = be oblivious of

❖ *(The adulteress) forgets the covenant of her God* (Prov. 2:17b).

B. YET THE COVENANT STILL EXISTS

❖ *Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it* (Gal. 3:15).

❖ *If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar* (Rom. 3:3-4).

❖ *"I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth"* (Ezek. 16:60).

C. IF ONE BREAKS A COVENANT, HE'LL NOT ESCAPE

❖ *"Now he despised the oath by breaking the covenant... he shall not escape"* (Ezek. 17:18).

❖ *"(God) does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'"* (Dan. 4:35b).

D. REMEMBER YOUR COVENANT!

❖ *Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them* (Ps. 76:11a).

❖ *It is a snare for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!" and after the vows to make inquiry* (Prov. 20:25).

❖ *It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay* (Eccl. 5:5).

IV. GIFTS FROM GOD THAT ENABLE A MARRIAGE TO LAST

A. JESUS, LORD AND SAVIOR OF ALL

- ❖ *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful (Col. 3:15).*
- ❖ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.... If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:6a,14).*
- ❖ *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Col. 3:16).*
- ❖ *God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it (1 Cor. 10:13b).*

B. GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

- ❖ *"I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue (Mal. 2:4).*
- ❖ *"If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17).*
- ❖ *"So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the Lord" (Lev. 18:5).*
- ❖ *"Thy commandments... by which if a man observes them he shall live" (Neh. 9:29).*

C. LOVE

- ❖ *We love, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).*

❖ *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you”* (John 15:12).

❖ *(God leads us) with cords of a man, with bonds of love* (Hos. 11:4).
cords: chebel = a rope (as twisted), a measuring line
bonds: aboth = something entwined, rope, cordage

❖ *But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love* (1 Cor. 13:13).

D. FAITH

❖ In Christ Jesus... faith (works) through love (Gal. 5:6).

E. AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

1. In General

❖ *“The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”.... They were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men* (Matt. 9:6,8).

❖ *Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ* (Eph. 5:21).

❖ *I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ* (1 Cor. 11:3).

❖ *The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body* (Eph. 5:23).

❖ *Wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior* (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

2. Physical Obligations

❖ *To the woman He said, "... Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" (Gen. 3:16).*

❖ *Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does (1 Cor. 7:3-4).*

❖ *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor (1 Thess. 4:3-4).*

F. THE HELP OF A SPOUSE

❖ *With humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Phil. 2:3b-4).*

❖ *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Pet. 4:10).*

❖ *The stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you (Eph. 3:2).*

❖ *If any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins (Jas. 5:19-20).*

G. COMPANIONSHIP AND TEAMWORK

❖ *The wife of your youth... she is your companion and your wife by covenant (Mal. 2:14b).*

companion: chabereth = cohort, partner, knit together

- ❖ *Encourage one another, and build up one another (1 Thess. 5:11).*
- ❖ *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up (Eccl. 4:9-10).*
- ❖ *Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life (Eccl. 9:9).*
- ❖ *“You must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35b).*

H. SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. One's Own Prayers

- ❖ *I will sing praise to Thy name forever, That I may pay my vows day by day (Ps. 61:8).*
- ❖ *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess. 5:16-18).*
- ❖ *“Pray that you may not enter into temptation” (Luke 22:46b).*
- ❖ *You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Pet. 3:7).*

2. Intercessory Prayer for Each Other

- ❖ *... Helping (each other) through your prayers (2 Cor. 1:11a).*
- ❖ *“I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail” (Luke 22:32).*

❖ *Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived (Gen. 25:21).*

3. As Partners in Prayer

❖ *There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Cor. 12:4,7).*

❖ *“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst” (Matt. 18:19-20).*

❖ *Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much (Jas. 5:16).*

I. GOD SETS HIGH STANDARDS

1. One Marriage per Lifetime

❖ *Be above reproach, the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2).*

❖ *Let marriage be held in honor among all (Heb. 13:4a).*

❖ *“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate” (Mark 10:9).*

2. Stewardship of One of God’s Great Mysteries

❖ *He who loves his own wife loves himself... just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great (Eph. 5:28b-29,31-32).*

❖ *Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1).*

3. The Opportunity to Be an Example That Glorifies God

❖ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless (Eph. 5:25-27).*

❖ *Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:5-6).*

❖ *“For as the waistband clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole household of Israel and the whole household of Judah cling to Me,” declares the Lord, ‘that they might be for Me a people, for renown, for praise, and for glory’” (Jer. 13:11).*

Adultery

*“Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman
you have taken, for she is married”*

~Gen. 20:3

I. DEFINITIONS OF ADULTERY

A. DICTIONARY

1. Extramarital intercourse

❖ Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Inc., Publishers, Springfield, MA, 1986).

2. Lust

❖ Unchastity of thought (ibid)

B. OLD TESTAMENT

1. Extramarital intercourse

❖ *“You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!”* (Ezek. 16:32).

C. NEW TESTAMENT

1. Lust

❖ *“Everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart”* (Matt. 5:28).

2. Extra-marital intercourse, as in the Old Testament, see B.1.

3. Marriage to another partner after divorce

❖ *“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery”* (Luke 16:18).

❖ *“Whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery”* (Matt. 5:32b).

❖ See Chapter Six—A Second Marriage

II. THE SIN OF ADULTERY

A. SIN AGAINST YOUR OWN BODY

❖ *Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body* (1 Cor. 6:18).

immoral: porneuo = have illicit sexual intercourse, commit fornication or adultery

B. SIN AGAINST YOUR MATE, YOUR ONE-FLESH PARTNER

❖ *Because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband* (1 Cor. 7:2-3).

immoralities: porneia = illicit sexual intercourse, fornication, adultery

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery”* (Mark 10:11-12).

C. SIN AGAINST ONE’S NEIGHBOR

❖ *This is the will of God... that you abstain from sexual immorality... that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things* (1 Thess. 4:3,6).

immorality: porneia = illicit sexual intercourse, fornication, adultery

D. A SIN THAT MAKES ANOTHER SIN

❖ *“I have seen a horrible thing: the committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; and they strengthen the hands of evil doers, so that no one has turned back from his wickedness”* (Jer. 23:14).

❖ *“If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or I have lurked at my neighbor’s doorway, May my wife grind for another, And let others kneel down over her. For that would be a lustful crime; Moreover, it would be an iniquity punishable by judges”* (Job 31:9-11).

❖ *“But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery”* (Matt. 5:32a).

❖ *“Why have you have despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.... You have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.... By this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme”* (2 Sam. 12:9-10,14).

despised: bazah = to disesteem

E. SIN AGAINST GOD

❖ *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Sam. 12:13).*

❖ *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? (Jas. 4:4).*

❖ *Ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (Jude 4).*

licentiousness: aselgeia = disregard of sexual restraints

deny: arneomai = to contradict, disavow, abrogate

❖ *"I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me" (Ezek. 6:9).*

F. SIN AGAINST GOD'S LAW

❖ *"You shall not commit adultery" (Exod. 20:14).*

❖ *"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" (Exod. 20:17).*

❖ *Let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4b).*

❖ *"You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 25:17).*

❖ *Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law (Jas. 2:10-11).*

❖ *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4).*

G. IS WITNESSED BY GOD

❖ “*They have acted foolishly in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbors’ wives, and have spoken words in My name falsely, which I did not command them; and I am He who knows, and am a witness,’ declares the Lord*” (Jer. 29:23).

III. ADULTERY INVOLVES:

A. EVIL AND WICKEDNESS

❖ *My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother... For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life, To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress* (Prov. 6:20,23-24).

❖ *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness.... All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man* (Mark 7:21-23).

wickedness: poneria = hurtfulness, malice

evil: peneros = hurtful, evil

❖ “*As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness’*” (1 Sam. 24:13).

wicked: ra = bad, evil

wickedness: rasha = a wrong, especially a moral wrong

❖ “*Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?*” (Neh. 13:27).

foreign: nokriy = one who breaks wedlock, alien, non-relative

women: ishshah = women, wives

B. ROBBERY

1. Of Conjugal Rights

❖ *The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.... The immoral man sins against his own body (1 Cor. 7:4, 6:18).*

2. Of Trust

❖ *All of them adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men (Jer. 9:2b).*

treacherous: bagad = to cover, to act covertly, to cheat

C. FOOLISHNESS AND DECEPTION

❖ *"They have acted foolishly in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken words in My name falsely, which I did not command them; and I am He who knows, and am a witness," declares the Lord (Jer. 29:23).*

❖ *"For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it should come to light" (Mark 4:22).*

D. IDOLATRY

❖ *No immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God (Eph. 5:5).*

E. BONDAGE

❖ *"Every one who commits sin is the slave of sin" (John 8:34).*

❖ *Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or in obedience resulting in righteousness?.... For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to*

lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification (Rom. 6:16,19b).

IV. THE THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ADULTERY

A. THE ADULTERESS

❖ *The lips of an adulteress drip honey,
And smoother than oil is her speech;
But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.
Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of Sheol.
She does not ponder the path of life;
Her ways are unstable, but she does not know it (Prov. 5:3-6).*

❖ *An adulteress hunts for the precious life (Prov. 6:26b).*

❖ *The adulteress flatters with her words;
(She) leaves the companion of her youth,
And forgets the covenant of her God;
Her house sinks down to death,
And her tracks lead to the dead (Prov. 2:16-18).*

❖ *One who is pleasing to God will escape from (the adulteress), but
the sinner will be captured by her (Eccl. 7:26b).*

B. THE ADULTERER

❖ *"The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye
will see me'" (Job 24:15).*

❖ *Keep your way far from (the adulteress),
And do not go near the door of her house,
Lest you give your vigor to others,*

*And your years to the cruel one;
Lest strangers be filled with your strength,
And your hard-earned goods go to the house of an alien;
And you groan at your latter end,
When your flesh and your body are consumed;
And you say, "How I have hated instruction!
And my heart spurned reproof!
"And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers,
Nor inclined my ear to my instructors!
"I was almost in utter ruin
In the midst of the assembly and congregation."
For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress,
And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?
For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord,
And He watches all his paths.
His own iniquities will capture the wicked,
And he will be held with the cords of his sin.
He will die for lack of instruction,
And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray (Prov. 5:8-14,20-23).*

❖ *All of them are adulterers,
An assembly of treacherous men.
"And they bend their tongue like their bow;
Lies and truth prevail in the land;
For they proceed from evil to evil,
And they do not know Me," declares the Lord (Jer. 9:2-3).*

C. THE MATE AGAINST WHOM THE ADULTERY IS COMMITTED

❖ *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'If any man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him, and a man has intercourse with her and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband and she is undetected, although she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her and she has not been*

caught in the act, if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has defiled herself.. “ (Num. 5:11-14a).

❖ *Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us;
Look, and see our reproach!
Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,
Our houses to aliens* (Lam. 5:1-2).

strangers: uwr = adultery, adulterers, strangers

aliens: nokriy = foreigner, non-relatives, adulterers

❖ *“For the Lord has called you,
Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected,”
Says your God* (Isa. 54:6).

❖ *For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly... If when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God* (1 Pet. 2:19,20b).

❖ *Then the Lord said to (Hosea), “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods”* (Hos. 3:1).

D. ADULTERY’S CONSEQUENCES

A. Adultery Diminishes One’s Knowledge of God

❖ *No one who sins has seen Him or knows Him* (1 John 3:6).

❖ *All of them are adulterers.... “And they do not know Me,” declares the Lord.... “Through deceit they refuse to know Me,” declares the Lord* (Jer. 9:2b,3b,6).

❖ *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,”*

and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 John 2:3-4a).

keep: tereo = to guard from loss or injury, maintain

B. ADULTERY AFFECTS ONE'S LOVE OF GOD

❖ *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"* (John 14:15).

❖ *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me"* (John 14:21).

has: echo = to hold, possess

keeps: tereo = to guard from loss or injury, keep an eye on

❖ *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word"* (John 14:23).

❖ *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love"* (John 15:10).

❖ *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith* (1 John 5:3-4).

❖ *Whoever keeps (God's) word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected* (1 John 2:5a).

keeps: tereo = to guard from loss or injury, maintain

C. ADULTERY IS ENERVATING

❖ *Strangers devour his strength, yet he does not know it* (Hos. 7:9).

strangers: zuwr = adultery, adulterers, strangers

❖ *(Adulterers) weary themselves committing iniquity* (Jer. 9:5b).

D. THE ADULTERER IS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE

❖ *The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He*

who would destroy himself does it (Prov. 6:32).

❖ *“For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? (Matt. 16:26a).*

❖ *“Behold, all souls are Mine.... The soul who sins will die (Ezek. 18:4).*

E. ADULTERY INVITES A CURSE ON SELF AND FAMILY

❖ *Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord (Jer. 17:5).*

❖ *The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit; He who is cursed of the Lord will fall into it (Prov. 22:14).*

❖ *“You shall therefore obey the Lord your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.... Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them” (Deut. 27:10,26).*

❖ *“I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing loving-kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Exod. 20:5b-6).*

F. ADULTERY’S CONSEQUENCES ARE WITHOUT PARTIALITY

❖ *He who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality (Col. 3:25).*

❖ *“But everyone will die for his own iniquity” (Jer. 31:30).*

❖ *The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil (Eccl. 12:13-14).*

G. ADULTERERS HAVE AN UNENVIABLE END

- ❖ *While we were in the flesh, the sinful passions... were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death (Rom. 7:5).*
- ❖ *The present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men (2 Pet. 3:7).*
- ❖ *The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).*

VI. GOD'S RESPONSE TO ADULTERY

A. FOR THE REPENTANT SINNER WHO FORSAKES HIS/HER SINFUL WAYS: FORGIVENESS

- ❖ *And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more" (John 8:11).*
- ❖ *"Return, faithless Israel," declares the Lord;
"I will not look upon you in anger.
For I am gracious," declares the Lord;
"I will not be angry forever.
Only acknowledge your iniquity,
That you have transgressed against the Lord your God
And have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree,
And you have not obeyed My voice," declares the Lord (Jer. 3:12-13).*
strangers: zuwr = adultery, adulterers, strangers

B. FOR THE UNREPENTANT ADULTERER

1. Invitation to God's Wrath

- ❖ *The wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience (Eph. 5:6).*
- ❖ *This is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to pos-*

sess his own vessel in sanctification and honor... and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things (1 Thess. 4:3-4,6).

2. Punishment

❖ *Can a man take fire in his bosom
And his clothes not be burned?
Or can a man walk on hot coals
And his feet not be scorched?
So is one who goes in to his neighbor's wife;
Whoever touches her will not go unpunished (Prov. 6:27-29).*

❖ *"Why should I pardon you?...
(Your sons) committed adultery
And trooped to the harlot's house.
They were well-fed lusty horses,
Each one neighing after his neighbor's wife.
Shall I not punish these people?" declares the Lord (Jer. 5:7,8,9).*

❖ *Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and truth... who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished" (Exod. 34:6-7).*

❖ *"If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do harm and consume you after He has done good to you" (Josh. 24:20).*

3. Judgment

❖ *The Lord knows how to... keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority (2 Pet. 2:9-10a).*

❖ *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage*

bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4).

❖ *“Thus I shall judge you, like women who commit adultery or shed blood are judged” (Ezek. 16:38).*

❖ *“Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness... against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely... and do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts (Mal. 3:5).*

4. No Heavenly Inheritance

❖ *Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10).*

❖ *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity... and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19,21).*

immorality: moicheia = illicit sexual intercourse with the spouse of another, adultery

impurity: porneia = illicit sexual intercourse, fornication, adultery

❖ *“Not every one who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).*

❖ *And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? (Heb. 3:18).*

VII. OTHER PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ADULTERY

A. CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ADULTERY

1. Come Under a Curse

❖ *“For I, the Lord, am a jealous God, visiting the sins of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those*

who hate Me, but showing loving-kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Deut. 5:9-10).

2. May Be Witnesses

❖ *“Now behold, he has a son who has observed all his father’s sins which he committed, and observing does not do likewise. He does not... defile his neighbor’s wife, or oppress anyone... but executes My ordinances, and walks in My statutes; he will not die for his father’s iniquity, he will surely live” (Ezek. 18:14-17).*

3. Are Loved by God

❖ *“Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mark 10:14).*

B. THOSE WHO CARE FOR CHILDREN

❖ *“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 18:6).*

C. THE REST OF US

1. Those Who Hate the Sin of Adultery

❖ *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil (Prov. 8:13a).*

❖ *Hate evil, you who love the Lord (Ps. 97:10a).*

❖ *Seek good and not evil that you may live;
And thus may the Lord God of hosts be with you,
Just as you have said!
Hate evil, love good,
And establish justice in the gate! (Amos 5:14-15a)*

❖ *Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves (Rom. 14:22b).*

2. Those Who Condone the Sin of Adultery

❖ *“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord and so bring wrath on yourself from the Lord?” (2 Chron. 19:2)*

❖ *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil! (Isa. 5:20).*

❖ *To show partiality to the wicked is not good (Prov. 18:5).*

❖ *If you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors (Jas. 2:9).*

❖ *He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord (Prov. 17:15).*

❖ *“You disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I (the Lord God) did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way and preserve his life” (Ezek. 13:22).*

D. HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND

❖ *Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:21).*

❖ *“Forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions” (Mark 11:25-26).*

❖ *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men (Rom. 12:17).*

❖ *And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the*

fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men (1 Thess. 5:14-15).

VIII. GOD RESPONDS TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ADULTERY

A. HIS PROMISES FOR ALL WHO ARE AFFLICTED AND OPPRESSED

❖ *(The Lord) will have compassion on His afflicted (Isa. 49:13).*

❖ *"Thou dost save an afflicted people" (2 Sam. 22:28).*

❖ *The Lord performs righteous deeds,
And judgments for all who are oppressed (Ps. 103:6).*

❖ *The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen (2 Tim. 4:18).*

❖ *For thus says the high and exalted One
Who lives forever, whose name is Holy,
"I dwell on a high and holy place,
And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit
In order to revive the spirit of the lowly
And to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isa. 57:15).*

B. GOD HOLDS ACCOUNTABLE AS 'PARTAKERS' THOSE WHO CONDONE ADULTERY

❖ *Do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure*

person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them (Eph. 5:3-7).

❖ *“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:18-19).*

❖ *But to the wicked God says,
“What right have you to tell of My statutes,
And to take My covenant in your mouth?
For you hate discipline,
And your cast My words behind you.
When you see a thief, you are pleased with him,
And you associate with adulterers.
You let your mouth loose in evil,
And your tongue frames deceit....
These things you have done, and I kept silence;
You thought that I was just like you;
I will reprove you, and state the case in order before your eyes” (Ps.
50:16-19,21).*

IX. OUR RESPONSE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ADULTERY

A. OUR RESPONSE TO THOSE COMMITTING ADULTERY

1. In General

❖ *“When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die;’ and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood*

I will require at your hand. Yet if you have warned the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself” (Ezek. 3:18-19).

❖ *“If your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer” (Matt. 18:15-17).*

❖ *On the other hand I am filled with power—With the Spirit of the Lord—And with justice and courage to make known to Jacob his rebellious act, Even to Israel his sin (Micah 3:8).*

❖ *Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted (Gal. 6:1).*

❖ *To those who rebuke the wicked will be delight, And a good blessing will come upon them (Prov. 24:25).*

2. More Specifically

a. The Sin Should Be Named or Described

❖ *Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act” (John 8:4).*

❖ *“You have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband” (John 4:18).*

b. There Should Be Neither Judgment Nor Condemnation

❖ *“Did no one condemn you?... Neither do I condemn you” (John 8:10,11).*

❖ *“If anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day”* (John 12:47-48).

❖ *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart* (Heb. 4:12).

c. The Person Should Be Sent Away With an Admonition

❖ *“Go your way. From now on sin no more”* (John 8:11).

B. OUR RESPONSE TO THE OFFENDED MATE AGAINST WHOM THE ADULTERY IS COMMITTED

❖ *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him* (Jas. 5:13-15).

❖ *The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word* (Isa. 50:4).

C. OUR RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ADULTERY

1. Teach Them God's Law

❖ *“Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law”* (Deut. 32:46).

❖ *“You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons (Deut. 4:2,9).*

2. Discipline Them

❖ *Discipline your son while there is hope (Prov. 19:18).*

❖ *(Do not follow Job’s example: he covered up for his children, which enabled them to keep on): For Job said, “Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually (Job 1:5).*

3. Rebuke Them When They Are Wrong, Even When They Are Grown

❖ *“For I (the Lord) have told (Eli) that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them” (1 Sam. 3:13).*

❖ *Reproofs for discipline are the way of life (Prov. 6:23b).*

D. OUR OWN RESPONSE

1. Stay Away from Adulterers

❖ *I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater... not even to eat with such a one (1 Cor. 5:11).*

❖ *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life (2 Thess. 3:6).*

❖ *If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special*

note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame. And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother (2 Thess. 3:14-15).

❖ *Keep your way far from (the adulteress),
And do not go near the door of her house,
Lest you give your vigor to others,
And your years to the cruel one;
Lest strangers be filled with your strength,
Your hard-earned goods go to the house of an alien;
And you groan at your latter end,
When your flesh and your body is consumed;
And you say, "How I have hated instruction!
And my heart spurned reproof!
And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers,
Nor inclined my ear to my instructors!
I was almost in utter ruin
In the midst of the assembly and congregation" (Prov. 5:8-14).*

strangers: zuwr = adultery, adulterers, strangers

alien: nokriy = one who breaks wedlock, an adulterer

2. Do Not Commit Adultery Yourself

❖ *Flee immorality (1 Cor. 6:18).*

❖ *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3).*

3. Warn Others

❖ *"When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his*

way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your life” (Ezek. 33:8-9).

X. HOW TO QUIT ADULTERY

A. RETURN TO GOD

❖ *Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.*

It will be healing to your body,

And refreshment to your bones (Prov. 3:7b-8).

❖ *By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil (Prov. 16:6b).*

❖ *“Return, O faithless sons,*

I will heal your faithlessness” (Jer. 3:22).

❖ *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (Jas. 4:8).*

❖ *The Lord gives wisdom....*

For wisdom will enter your heart,

And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Discretion will guard you,

Understanding will watch over you,

To deliver you from the way of evil...

To deliver you from the strange woman,

From the adulteress who flatters with her words (Prov. 2:6a,10-12a, 16).

B. CONFESS

❖ *Return , O Israel, to the Lord your God,*

For you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

Take words with you and return to the Lord.

Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity,

And receive us graciously,

That we may present the fruit of our lips” (Hos. 14:1-2).

❖ *“Only acknowledge your iniquity,
That you have transgressed against the Lord your God
And have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green
tree,
And you have not obeyed My voice,” declares the Lord (Jer. 3:13).*
strangers: zuwr = adultery, adulterers, strangers

❖ *“Then those of you who escape will remember Me... how I have
been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me...
and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which
they have committed.... Then they will know that I am the Lord”
(Ezek. 6:9-10a).*

❖ *And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the
people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jor-
dan River, confessing their sins (Mark 1:5).*

C. REPENT

❖ *“Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).*
repent: metanoia = to think differently

❖ *“I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance”
(Luke 5:32).*

D. PERFORM DEEDS APPROPRIATE TO REPENTANCE

❖ *“They should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appro-
priate to repentance” (Acts 26:20).*

❖ *“Break away now from your sins by doing righteousness” (Dan.
4:27).*

❖ *Lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with
the lusts of deceit (Eph. 4:22).*

deceit: from apatao = to cheat

❖ *Do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but... be holy yourselves in all your behavior (1 Pet. 1:14-15).*

❖ *Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God (Rom. 6:13).*

❖ *You shall be careful to perform what goes out from your lips, just as you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God, what you have promised (Deut. 23:23).*

Separation

*“May the Lord watch between you and me
when we are absent one from another”*

~Gen. 31:49b

I. GOD’S WILL FOR A COUPLE WHILE SEPARATED

A. FIDELITY

1. Physical

❖ *A Wife is bound as long as her husband lives (1 Cor. 7:39).*
bound: deo = knit, tie, bind

❖ *The wife should not leave her husband... the husband should not send his wife away (1 Cor. 7:10b,11).*

2. Spiritual

❖ *Perhaps he was for this reason parted from you for a while, that you should have him back forever both in the flesh and in the Lord (Philem. 15,16b).*

❖ *For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit (Col. 2:5).*

❖ *Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:12b-13).*

❖ *Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).*

B. PEACE

❖ *Seek peace, and pursue it (Ps. 34:14b).*

❖ *If the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or sister is not **under bondage** in such cases, but God has called us to peace (1 Cor. 7:15).*

leaves: choreo = gives space

under bondage: douleuo = to be/made a servant

❖ *“I dwell on a high and holy place,
And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit
In order to revive the spirit of the lowly
And to revive the heart of the contrite.
I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;
I will lead him and restore comfort to him...
Creating the praise of the lips.
Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near,”
Says the Lord, “and I will heal him” (Isa. 57:15b, 18-19)*

❖ *And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father (Eph. 2:17-18).*

II. SEPARATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING

A. RECONCILIATION

❖ *(God) reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18).*

❖ *Thus says the Lord, "You shall not go up or fight against your relatives; return every man to his house, for this thing is from Me" (2 Chron. 11:4).*

B. GOD DOES ALLOW FOR SEPARATION BUT NOT FOR DIVORCE OR A SECOND MARRIAGE

❖ *But if (the wife) does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband (1 Cor. 7:11a).*

III. MARITAL SEPARATION IS:

A. NOT JUSTIFIED BY REASON OF BEING UNEVENLY YOKED

❖ *If any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away (1 Cor. 7:12).*

live: Greek *dideo* = occupy a house

send: Greek *aphiemi* = send off

❖ *A woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away (1 Cor. 7:13).*

B. NOT LICENSE TO GET A DIVORCE

❖ *Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released (1 Cor. 7:27).*

released: *luo* = loosed

❖ *"Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce," says the Lord (Mal. 2:15b).*

❖ *"Surely, as a woman treacherously departs from her lover, so you have dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," declares the Lord (Jer. 3:20).*

lover: *rea* = companion, husband

IV. ACCOUNTABILITY

A. GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE HOLDS ALL ACCOUNTABLE

- ❖ *The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good (Prov. 15:3).*
- ❖ *“The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His” (2 Chron. 16:9a).*
- ❖ *Have as (your) ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:9-10).*

V. CONDUCT WHILE APART

A. DEPART FROM EVIL

- ❖ *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with malice (Eph. 4:31).*
- ❖ *“Let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,” declares the Lord” (Zech. 8:17).*
- ❖ *Do all things without grumbling or disputing (Phil. 2:14).*
- ❖ *“Let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate,” saith the Lord” (Zech. 8:17b KJV).*
 - false: sheger = untruth, falsehood*
 - oath = something sworn, an oath*
- ❖ *Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it (Ps. 34:14a).*

B. SEEK GOOD

❖ *Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another (Rom. 14:19).*

❖ *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27).*

❖ *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself (Phil. 2:3).*

❖ *Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil (1 Thess. 5:21-22).*

❖ *“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another, judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates” (Zech. 8:16).*

❖ *Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14).*

❖ *And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Eph.4:32).*

C. CONTROL YOUR ANGER

❖ *Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger (Eph. 4:26).*

❖ *A gentle answer turns away wrath (Prov. 15:1).*

❖ *Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God (Jas. 1:19-20).*

❖ *Wise men turn away anger (Prov. 29:8b).*

❖ *For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salva-*

tion through our Lord Jesus Christ.... Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another (1 Thess. 5:9,11).

D. CONFESS AND PRAY

❖ *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion (Prov. 28:13).*

❖ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us (1 John 1:9-10).*

❖ *“Pray that you may not enter into temptation” (Luke 22:40b).*

❖ *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed (Jas. 5:16).*

❖ *“As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you” (1 Sam. 12:23).*

❖ *Grant (your wife) honor as a fellow-heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Pet. 3:7).*

E. BE RECONCILED WITH YOUR MATE

❖ *“If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering” (Matt. 5:23-24).*

❖ *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Eph. 4:32).*

IV. THE ROLE OF OTHERS

❖ *“Whenever any dispute comes to you from your brethren... between blood and blood, between law and commandment... you shall warn them that they may not be guilty before the Lord, and wrath may not come on you and your brethren. Thus you shall do and you will not be guilty (2 Chron. 19:10).*

be guilty: asham = be punished, perish

❖ *Since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects (Col. 1:9-10).*



Divorce

“I hate divorce,” says the Lord.

~Mal. 2:16

I. IT IS WRONG TO DIVORCE A COVENANT MATE

A. PERMISSION TO DIVORCE A COVENANT MATE IS NOT FROM GOD

❖ *To the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband... and that the husband should not send his wife away* (1 Cor. 7:10a,11b).

leave: choreo = give space to

send away: aphiemi = to send off, let go, leave alone, abandon

❖ *(Jesus) said to them, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way”; “I am the beginning and the end”* (Matt. 19:8; Rev. 22:13).

beginning: arche = origin

B. GOD IS A WITNESS BUT NOT PARTICIPANT IN THE DIVORCE OF A COVENANT COUPLE

❖ *“The Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit”* (Mal. 2:14-15b).

C. DIVORCE NEITHER ENDS NOR INVALIDATES THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

❖ *Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man’s covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it* (Gal. 3:15).

II. ADULTERY IS NOT GROUNDS FOR A CHRISTIAN TO DIVORCE

A. JESUS TEACHES US TO FORGIVE THE SIN OF ADULTERY

❖ *Jesus said (to the adulteress), “Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more”* (John 8:10b,11b).

❖ *Then the Lord said to (Hosea), “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods”* (Hos. 3:1).

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCE

A. DIVORCE IS A SIN

❖ *“When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God will surely require it of you”* (Deut. 23:21).

❖ *“If a person sins and does any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, though he was unaware, still he is guilty and shall bear his punishment”* (Lev. 5:17).

B. DIVORCE IS A SIN THAT MAKES ANOTHER SIN

❖ *“Everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery” (Matt. 5:32).*

makes: poieo = to cause, perform, provide

C. DIVORCE MAKES MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE VOWS

❖ *When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools (Eccl. 5:4).*

❖ *“In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit (Jude 18b-19).*

❖ *“You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord” (Matt. 5:33).*

D. DIVORCE IS A DEFEAT

❖ *Is it so that brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that your brethren (1 Cor. 6:6-9).*

❖ *“Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, in order that your opponent may not deliver you to the judge” (Matt. 5:25).*

IV. PROFILE OF THE TWO PARTICIPANTS

A. THE DIVORCER (THE ONE SEEKING A DIVORCE)

1. Treacherous

❖ *“Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherous-*

ly against the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce," says the Lord (Mal. 2:15b-16).

❖ *"Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so you have dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," saith the Lord (Jer. 3:20 KJV).*

❖ *Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good (Eccl. 9:18).*

2. HARD-HEARTED

❖ *(Jesus) said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives" (Matt. 19:8).*

3. HOSTILE TOWARD GOD

❖ *The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:7-8a).*

❖ *Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (Jas. 4:4b).*

B. THE DIVORCEE (THE ONE BEING DIVORCED)

1. Rejected

❖ *"Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected" (Isa. 54:6).*

❖ *"My relatives have failed, And my intimate friends have forgotten me" (Job 19:14a).*

2. A Victim

❖ *"Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee.... O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man*

prevail against Thee" (2 Chron. 14:11).

3. In Need of God's Comfort

❖ *"God does not take away life, but plans ways so that the banished one may not be cast out from him"* (2 Sam. 14:14b).

❖ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 5:3).

❖ *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise* (Ps. 51:17).

❖ *(The Lord) heals the brokenhearted, And binds up their wounds* (Ps. 147:3).

❖ *(God) will deliver the needy when he cries for help, The afflicted also, and him who has no helper* (Ps. 72:12).

❖ *(The Lord) will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation* (Ps. 149:4b).

V. THE STATUS OF ALL DIVORCED PERSONS

A. THEY ARE STILL BOUND BY THEIR COVENANT

❖ *The Law... does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise* (Gal. 3:17).

B. THEY ARE SEPARATED BY LAWS OF THE LAND YET STILL UNDER THE LAWS OF GOD

❖ *The married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband* (Rom. 7:2).

C. THEY ARE NOT "SINGLE" AGAIN

❖ *"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate"* (Matt. 19:6).

❖ *A wife is bound as long as her husband lives (1 Cor. 7:39).*

D. THEY ARE NOT FREE TO MARRY ANOTHER WITHOUT SIN

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery” (Mark 10:11-12).*

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife... and marries another woman commits adultery” (Matt. 19:9).*

❖ *“Whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (Matt. 5:32).*

* See Chapter 6—A Second Marriage

VI. ALL DIVORCED PERSONS FACE THREE CHOICES:

1. Remain Unmarried and Chaste

* See Chapter 5—Divorced Yet Faithful

2. Be Reconciled With Your Covenant Mate

❖ *The Lord gives instructions: let (the wife) remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband (1 Cor. 7:10-11a).*

* See Chapter 5—Divorced Yet Faithful

* See Chapter 8—Reconciliation

3. Commit Adultery

❖ *“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery” (Luke 16:18).*

* See Chapter 6—A Second Marriage

VII. OTHERS AFFECTED BY DIVORCE

A. CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

1. They Are Changed Forever

- ❖ *“The women of My people you evict,
Each one from her pleasant house.
From her children you take My splendor forever (Micah 2:9).
evict: garash = to divorce, drive out
splendor: hadar = honor, splendor*

2. They May Be Witnesses

- ❖ *(A son) who has observed all his father’s sins which he committed,
and observing does not do likewise ... will not die for his father’s iniquity,
he will surely live (Ezek. 18:14,17).*

B. THE REST OF US

1. We Are Partly Responsible

- ❖ *“On the day that you stood aloof,
On the day that strangers carried off his wealth,
And foreigners entered his gate...
You too were as one of them” (Obad. 11).
strangers: zuwr = adulterers, adultery
foreigners: nokriy = those who have broken wedlock, aliens*

2. We Should Respond

- ❖ *This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world (Jas. 1:27).*
- ❖ *“The priest shall make atonement before the Lord for the person who goes astray when he sins unintentionally, making atonement for him that he may be forgiven” (Num. 15:28).*

Divorced, Yet Faithful

*Peace... faithfulness... self-control;
against such things there is no law*

~Gal. 5:22-23

I. RESTORING FIDELITY AFTER DIVORCE

A. CONFESS THE SIN OF DIVORCE

1. As One Who Willingly Participated In the Divorce

❖ *“Repent and believe in the gospel”* (Mark 1:14).

2. As One Who Was Divorced Against One’s Will

❖ *If I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me* (Rom. 7:20).

❖ *“Repent and believe in the gospel”* (Mark 1:14).

B. HEAR GOD’S CALL

❖ *“For the Lord has called you,
Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,*

*Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected,
Says your God (Isa. 54:6).*

❖ *For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification (1 Thess. 4:7).*

❖ *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).*

C. KNOW GOD'S WILL

❖ *So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17).*

❖ *Remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to (your) husband (1 Cor. 7:11).*

❖ *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3).*

❖ *Let marriage be held in honor among all (Heb. 13:4).*

D. PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD

❖ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight (Prov. 3:5-6).*

❖ *We are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3).*

❖ *Those who are according to the flesh set their minds on things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit (Rom. 8:5).*

D. CHOOSE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD AND YOUR MARRIAGE COVENANT

❖ *“I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him (Deut. 30:19-20a).*

❖ *To (God) the vow will be performed (Ps. 65:1).*

❖ *“That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord” (Jonah 2:9b).*

D. FOLLOW THE LORD GOD, NOT THE WAY OF THE WORLD

❖ *Your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God (1 Cor. 2:5).*

❖ *I hate the work of those who fall away;
It shall not fasten its grip on me.
A perverse heart shall depart from me;
I will know no evil (Ps. 101:3b-4).*

❖ *Walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:12).*

❖ *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom. 12:1-2).*

❖ *Be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all*

power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (Col.1: 9-12).

II. GOD PROMISES GOOD FOR THE COVENANT KEEPER

❖ *“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine” (Exod. 19:5).*

❖ *The loving-kindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,
And His righteousness... to those who keep His covenant (Ps. 103:17-18a).*

❖ *For from of old they have not heard nor perceived by ear,
Neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee,
Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him (Isa. 64:4).*

❖ *“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard,
And which have not entered the heart of man,
All that God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9).*

III. CONDUCT OF A COVENANT KEEPER

A. PURIFY YOURSELF

1. Spiritual Purification

❖ *“Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves” (Gen. 35:2b).*

❖ *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded (Jas. 4:8).*

❖ *We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself; just as He is pure (1 John 3:2b-3).*

❖ *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren (including your covenant mate), fervently love one another from the heart (1 Pet. 1:22).*

❖ *Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Eph. 4:23-24).*

2. Physical Purification

a. Ask God to Remove All Ungodly Desires

❖ *“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7).*

❖ *“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive” (Matt. 21:22).*

b. Have No Fear of Celibacy

❖ *The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation (2 Pet. 2:9).*

❖ *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it (1 Cor. 10:13).*

B. FEED ON THE SCRIPTURES

❖ *“Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord” (Deut. 8:3b).*

❖ *Revive me, O Lord, according to Thy word (Ps. 119:107b).*

❖ *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you (Col. 3:16).*

C. HAVE A FULL PRAYER LIFE

1. Praise and Thanksgiving

❖ *I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being (Ps. 104:33).*

❖ *I will praise the Lord while I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being (Ps. 146:2).*

❖ *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father (Col. 3:17).*

❖ *Praise the Lord!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
For it is pleasant and praise is becoming (Ps. 147:1).*

2. Prayers for Self

❖ *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Phil. 4:6).*

❖ *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ (Phil. 1:9-10).*

3. Prayers for Mate

❖ *Perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will (2 Tim. 2:25b-26).*

❖ *If any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way*

will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins
(Jas. 5:19-20).

4. Forgiveness

❖ *“Lord, do not hold this sin against (my covenant mate)!”*
(Acts 7:60).

❖ *“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing”*
(Luke 23:34).

❖ *As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you* (Col. 3:12-13).

5. Spiritual Warfare

❖ *“Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”* (Matt. 18:18).

❖ *“No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord* (Isa. 54:17).

❖ *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord* (Rom. 12:19).

❖ *Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places* (Eph. 6:11-12).

D. DISCIPLINE YOURSELF

❖ *Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness, for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (1 Tim. 4:7b-8).*

❖ *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law (Rom. 13:8).*

❖ *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful (Col. 3:15).*

❖ *Put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him (Col. 3:10).*

❖ *Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful (Col. 3:14-15).*

❖ *In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say (Titus 2:7-8).*

❖ *So then, my beloved... work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world (Phil. 2:12-15).*

E. WALK IN LOVE

❖ *Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love (1 Cor. 16:13-14).*

❖ *Whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected* (1 John 2:5).

❖ *The one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment* (1 John 4:16b-17a).

❖ *Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma* (Eph. 5:2).

❖ *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends”* (John 15:13).

❖ *Love never fails* (1 Cor. 13:8a).

F. BE PATIENT

❖ *Love is patient* (1 Cor. 13:4).

❖ *Be patient with all men* (1 Thess. 5:14).

❖ *“And I gave her time to repent”* (Rev. 2:21a).

❖ *Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord* (Jas. 5:7).

G. ENDURE TO THE END

❖ *You have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised* (Heb. 10:36).

❖ *“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end shall be saved”* (Matt. 24:12-13).

❖ *It is better, if God should will it so, that you should suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong* (1 Pet. 3:17).

❖ *We endure all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ (1 Cor. 9:12).*

❖ *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm (Eph. 6:13b).*

V. PERSONAL BENEFITS OF KEEPING COVENANT AFTER DIVORCE

A. TURN A CURSE INTO A BLESSING

❖ *Before I was afflicted I went astray,
But now I keep Thy word.
It is good for me that I was afflicted,
That I may learn Thy statutes (Ps. 119:67,71).*

❖ *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive” (Gen. 50:20).*

B. INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF THE POWER AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE COVENANT

❖ *“(God) has made an everlasting covenant with me,
Ordered in all things and secured,
For all my salvation and all my desire,
Will He not indeed make it grow?” (2 Sam. 23:5b).*
grow: tsamach = to sprout, spring forth

VI. GOING THE EXTRA MILE: STANDING IN THE GAP

A. GOD HONORS THOSE WHO STAND IN THE GAP FOR OTHER PEOPLE

❖ *"I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it" (Ezek. 22:30).*

❖ *(Aaron) took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the plague was checked (Num. 16:48).*

❖ *(God) said that He would destroy them,
Had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him
To turn away His wrath from destroying them (Ps. 106:23).*

❖ *And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. Now then let Me alone, that my anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them".... Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord... Turn from Thy burning anger and change Thy mind about doing harm to Thy people".... So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people (Exod. 32:9-10a,11a,12b,14).*

B. REASONS TO STAND IN THE GAP FOR YOUR MATE

1. Standing in the Gap Is Expected

❖ *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 19:19b).*

❖ *"Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them" (Matt. 7:12).*

2. Standing in the Gap May Save a Soul

❖ *For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your hus-*

band? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife? (1 Cor. 7:16).

❖ *The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much (Jas. 5:16b).*

❖ *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who is wise wins souls (Prov. 11:30).*

C. BENEFITS FOR THE STANDER

❖ *If you remove... the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,*

Then your light will rise in darkness

And your gloom will become like midday.

And the Lord will continually guide you....

And you will be called the repairer of the breach (Isa. 58:9b,10b-11a,12b).

❖ *The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends (Job 42:10a).*

❖ *Whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord (Eph. 6:8).*

D. BENEFITS FOR THE PRODIGAL MATE

❖ *The unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband (1 Cor. 7:14a).*

❖ *"If there is an angel as mediator for him,
One out of a thousand,
To remind a man what is right for him,
Then let him be gracious to him, and say,
'Deliver him from going down to the pit,
I have found a ransom';*

*Let his flesh become fresher than in youth,
Let him return to the days of his youthful vigor;
Then he will pray to God, and He will accept him,
That he may see His face with joy,
And He may restore His righteousness to man.
He will sing to men and say,
'I have sinned and perverted what is right,
And it is not proper for me.
He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit,
And my life shall see the light'" (Job 33:23-28).*



A

Second Marriage

*“It is not lawful for you to have
your brother’s wife”*

~Mark 6:18

I. MARRIAGE TO A SECOND PARTNER IS TWO THINGS IN ONE:

A. A SECOND MARRIAGE IS A MARRIAGE

❖ *Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another... “ (Luke 16:18a).*

❖ *“If (a wife) divorces her husband and marries another man... “ (Mark 10:12).*

B. A SECOND MARRIAGE IS ADULTERY

1. A Divorced Woman In a Second Marriage Is Committing Adultery

❖ *“If (a wife) divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery” (Mark 10:12).*

❖ *A wife is bound as long as her husband lives (1 Cor. 7:39).*

❖ *If, while (a woman's) husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress (Rom. 7:3a).*

2. A Divorced Man Who Marries A Second Partner Commits Adultery

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her” (Mark 10:11).*

❖ *“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery” (Luke 16:18a).*

3. A Man Who Marries a Divorced Woman Commits Adultery

❖ *“Whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (Matt. 5:32b).*

❖ *“He who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery” (Luke 16:18b).*

II. THE QUESTION OF AN EXCEPTION

A. IN MARK AND LUKE THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE ADULTERY OF A SECOND MARRIAGE

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery” (Mark 10:11-12).*

❖ *“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery” (Luke 16:18).*

B. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL APPEARS TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION, BUT DOES IT?

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery”* (Matt. 19:9).

except: me = unless, by no means, not

1. When the word “except” is interpreted to mean “with the exception of” or “unless”, the verse contradicts Mark 10:11-12 and Luke 16:18.

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife, (unless) for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”*

2. When the word “except” is interpreted to mean “not” or “by no means”, the verse agrees with Mark 10:11-12 and Luke 16:18 (see A. above) and other biblical teachings.

❖ *“You shall not commit adultery”* (Exod. 20:14).

❖ *“Whoever divorces his wife, (certainly not, by no means) for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”*

❖ *“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate”* (Mark 10:9).

❖ *The married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband* (Rom. 7:2).

❖ *If (the wife) does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband* (1 Cor. 7:11a).

❖ Jesus teaches us to forgive adultery (John 8:3-11).

❖ *The Scripture cannot be broken* (John 10:35b).

III. A SECOND MARRIAGE IS DIFFERENT FROM A FIRST MARRIAGE

A. IT HAS NO COVENANT

❖ *For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives (Heb. 9:16-17).*

❖ *For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man (Rom. 7:2-3).*

B. IT DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF THE COVENANT OF THE FIRST MARRIAGE

❖ *The Law... does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise (Gal. 3:17).*

❖ *They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being... disobedient (Titus 1:16).*

❖ *"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matt. 19:6).*

C. IT NEGLECTS THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

❖ *"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.... You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition" (Mark 7:8-9).*

❖ *"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin" (John 15:22).*

IV. A SECOND MARRIAGE INVOLVES:

A. A STATE OF SIN (AS OPPOSED TO A SINFUL ACT)

1. For As Long As the Second Marital Relationship Continues

❖ *If, while (a woman's) husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress (Rom. 7:3).*

❖ *"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery" (Mark 10:11-12).*

2. Because the Bonds of the First Marriage Still Exist

❖ *A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes (1 Cor. 7:39).*

B. DAMAGE TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

❖ *"Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely... and then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered!'" (Jer. 7:9-10).*

❖ *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:23).*

C. SIN ADDED TO SIN

❖ *"Woe to the rebellious children," declares the Lord,
"Who execute a plan, but not Mine,
And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit,
In order to add sin to sin" (Isa. 30:1).*

❖ *The law is ignored
And justice is never upheld.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
Therefore, justice comes out perverted (Hab. 1:4).*

D. A FALSE PEACE

❖ *Though the wicked is shown favor,
He does not learn righteousness;
He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness,
And does not perceive the majesty of the Lord (Isa. 26:10).*

❖ *“(Your Father who is in heaven) causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matt. 5:45).*

❖ *God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness (2 Thess. 2:11-12).*

E. TEMPORARY HAPPINESS

❖ *To enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (Heb. 11:25).*

❖ *“You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes, for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you” (Deut. 12:8-9).*

F. VAIN CONFIDENCE

❖ *I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord (1 Cor. 4:4).*

❖ *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matt. 7:21-23)*

V. CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY A SECOND MARRIAGE

A. AFFECTED AS ISRAEL WAS WHEN SEPARATED FROM GOD

❖ *Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us;*

Look, and see our reproach!

Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,

Our houses to aliens,

We have become orphans without a father,

Our mothers are like widows (Lam. 5:1-3).

strangers: zuwr = adulterers

aliens: nokriy = non-relatives, those who have broken wedlock

B. CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

❖ *“Your sons and daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes shall look on and yearn for them continually; but there shall be nothing you can do” (Deut. 28:32).*

C. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PARENTS’ SIN

❖ *“The fathers shall not be put to death for the sons, nor the sons be put to death for the fathers; but each shall be put to death for his own sin” (2 Kings 14:6).*

❖ *“When the son has practiced justice and righteousness, and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity” (Ezek. 18:19b-20).*

D. CHILDREN ARE BLESSED BY JESUS

❖ *And in the house the disciples began questioning (Jesus) about this again. And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries*

another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery." And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:10-14).

❖ *Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray (Matt. 19:13a).*

❖ *And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He might touch them (Luke 18:15a).*

Divorcing a Second Partner

“Drive out this maid and her son” And the matter distressed Abraham greatly... But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid.

~Gen. 21:10-12

I. GROUNDS FOR LEAVING A SECOND PARTNER

A. GOD HAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO DIVORCE A SECOND PARTNER

❖ *(Sarah) said to Abraham, “Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac.” And the matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named” (Gen 21:10-12).*

drive out: *garash* = to divorce

distressed: *ra'a* = to be wrong, seem to be wrong

❖ *“Cast out the bondwoman and her son,
For the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of*

the free woman" (Gal. 4:30).

cast out: ekballo = to divorce, drive out

❖ "We have been unfaithful to our God, and have married **foreign** women from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. So now let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law" (Ezra 10:2b-3).

foreign: nokriy = strange, non-relative, adulterous

B. CONCERN FOR YOUR SOUL

❖ Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

❖ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: **immorality**, impurity, sensuality... Those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19,21b).

immorality: moicheia = adultery

❖ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matt. 7:21-23).

II. STUMBLING BLOCKS TO AVOID

A. DO NOT STAY IN A SECOND MARRIAGE JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE CHILDREN

❖ *The sons of the priests who had married foreign wives... pledged*

to put away their wives, being guilty... All these had married foreign wives, and some of them had wives by whom they had children (Ezra 10:18a,19,44).

❖ *“Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life (Luke 18:29-30).*

❖ *“Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life” (Matt. 19:29).*

B. DO NOT LET PAIN PREVENT YOU FROM DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

❖ *It is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong (1 Pet. 3:17).*

❖ *For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Pet. 2:15).*

❖ *Let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right (1 Pet. 4:19).*

❖ *If when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God (1 Pet. 2:20b).*

III. BENEFITS OF LEAVING THE ADULTERY OF A SECOND MARRIAGE

A. RESTORE RIGHTEOUSNESS

❖ *“It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the Lord our God, Just as He commanded us” (Deut. 6:25).*

B. SANCTIFICATION

❖ *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality, that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor (1 Thess. 4:3-4).*

❖ *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were your in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:14-16).*

C. SALVATION AND LIFE

❖ *If you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live (Rom. 8:13).*

❖ *"To him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God" (Ps. 50:23).*

❖ *"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live" (Deut. 30:19b).*

❖ *"When a wicked man turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices justice and righteousness, he will save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all his transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die" (Ezek. 18:27-28).*

D. THE END OF CAPTIVITY AND BONDAGE TO SIN

❖ *"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will restore the fortunes of My people.... And it shall come about on that day," declares the Lord of hosts, "that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer*

make them their slaves. But they shall serve the Lord their God”
(Jer. 30:3,8-9).

fortunes: shebuwth = the former state

strangers: zuwr = adultery

yoke: ol = a yoke, as imposed on the neck

bonds: moser = chains, fetters, shackles



Reconciliation

It was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

~Col. 1:19-20a

I. GOD'S WILL FOR ALL PEOPLE

A. BE RECONCILED TO GOD

❖ *(God) reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19).*

❖ *On behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20).*

❖ *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment" (Matt. 22:37-38).*

B. BE RECONCILED TO OTHERS

❖ *“The second (commandment) is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole law and the Prophets” (Matt. 22:39-40).*

❖ *“If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering” (Matt. 5:23-24).*

❖ *If they do not continue in their unbelief, they will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall those who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree? (Rom. 11:23,24).*

II. GOD’S ROLE IN RECONCILIATION

A. GOD AS PROVIDER

1. The Mediator

❖ *There is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:5-6).*

❖ *Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one (Gal. 3:20).*

2. Power and Might

❖ *“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26).*

- ❖ *“For nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1:37).*
- ❖ *For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power (1 Cor. 4:20).*
- ❖ *That you may know... what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (Eph. 1:19).*
- ❖ *(The gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith (Rom. 1:16-17a).*

3. The Equipment we Need

- ❖ *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).*
- ❖ *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever (Heb. 13:20-21).*
- ❖ *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth,
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it
(Isa. 55:10-11).*

4. Grace, Forgiveness, Lovingkindness and Compassion

❖ *God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed (2 Cor. 9:8).*

❖ *Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity
And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?
He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in unchanging love.
He will again have compassion on us;
He will tread our iniquities under foot (Micah 7:18-19a).*

❖ *Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities;
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from the pit;
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion....
The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness (Ps. 103:2-4,8).*

B. GOD AS ENACTOR

1. Jesus Mediates

❖ *(The Lord Jesus Christ) will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself (Phil. 3:21).*

❖ *(Jesus) came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father (Eph. 2:18).*

2. God Empowers Us

❖ *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”* (Acts 1:8).

❖ *Be filled with the Spirit* (Eph. 5:18).

❖ *God is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us* (Eph. 3:20).

3. God Acts on Our Behalf

❖ *“And it will come about that after I have uprooted them, I will again have compassion on them; and I will bring them back, each one to his inheritance and each one to his land”* (Jer.12:15).

❖ *As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you* (Zech.9:11-12).

❖ *(He) is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy* (Jude 24).

❖ *For from of old they have not heard nor perceived by ear, Neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him* (Isa. 64:4).

III. THE ROLE OF EACH PERSON IN RECONCILIATION

A. ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Acknowledge God's Omnipotence

❖ *“I know that Thou canst do all things, And that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted”* (Job 42:2).

❖ *“Be it done to me according to your word”* (Luke 1:38).

2. Repent and Turn to God

❖ *“You have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first”* (Rev. 2:4b-5).

❖ *“They should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance”* (Acts 26:20b).

❖ *“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19).

3. Believe in the Power of God To Heal You

❖ *“Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness”* (Jer. 3:22).

❖ *Your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God* (1 Cor. 2:5).

❖ *Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “Be it done to you according to your faith.” And their eyes were opened* (Matt. 9:28b-30a).

❖ *“Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well”* (Matt. 9:22).

❖ *He had faith to be made well* (Acts 14:9b).

4. Believe in the Power of God to Heal Your Loved One

❖ *(A certain royal official) went to (Jesus), and was requesting Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death....*

Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he started off. And as he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living (John 4:47b,50-51).

❖ *And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." And he rose and immediately took up the pallet and went out in the sight of all (Mark 2:5,12a).*

B. ESTABLISH A GODLY DISCIPLINE

1. Forgive

a. With Moses There Was Neither Forgiveness Nor Reconciliation

❖ *"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife, and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife (Deut. 24:1-4a).*

b. With Jesus Forgiveness Enables Reconciliation

❖ *And Jesus said (to the adulteress), "Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more" (John 8:11b).*

❖ *"Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him" (Luke 17:3).*

❖ *"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions" (Matt. 6:14-15).*

2. Pray

❖ *The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends (Job 42:10a).*

❖ *“Call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the places where I have driven you” (Jer. 29:12-14).*

fortunes: shebuwth = the former state

❖ *Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed (Jas. 5:16).*

3. Obey

❖ *“Whatever (Jesus) says to you, do it” (John 2:5).*

❖ *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27).*

❖ *We know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully (1 Tim. 1:8).*

4. Allow God's Power to Work Within You

❖ *Be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man (Eph. 3:16b).*

❖ *“Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man” (1 Sam. 10:6).*

❖ *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).*

5. Endure to the End

❖ *Let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and*

complete, lacking in nothing (Jas. 1:4).

❖ *For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised* (Heb. 10:36).

❖ *“For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay”* (Hab. 2:3).

❖ *Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful* (Jas. 5:11).

IV. BENEFITS OF RECONCILIATION

A. HONOR AND GLORY TO GOD

❖ *Many therefore, who had... beheld what (God) had done, believed in Him* (John 11:45).

❖ *“I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me”* (Ps. 50:15).

❖ *“At that time I will bring you in,
Even at the time when I gather you together;
Indeed, I will give you renown and praise
Among all the peoples of the earth,
When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,”
Says the Lord* (Zeph. 3:20).

fortunes: shebuwth = the former state

❖ *They will call them, “The holy people,
The redeemed of the Lord”* (Isa. 62:12).

B. LIFE, GLADNESS, JOY AND BLESSING

❖ *God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He*

loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (Eph. 2:4-5).

❖ *The ransomed of the Lord will return,
And come with joyful shouting to Zion,
With everlasting joy upon their heads.
They will find gladness and joy,
And sorrow and sighing will flee away (Isa. 35:10).*

❖ *Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth (Prov. 5:18).*

C. THE OPPORTUNITY TO MINISTER TO OTHERS

1. In General

❖ *Also, O Judah, there is a harvest appointed for you,
When I restore the fortunes of My people (Hos. 6:11).*
fortunes: shebuwth = the former state

❖ *How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10:14).*

❖ *I have spoken of Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation;
I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation (Ps. 40:10b).*

❖ *Having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore also we speak.... For all things are for your sakes, that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:13,15).*

2. By Word

❖ *(Jesus) sent him away, saying, "Return to your house and describe*

what great things God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him (Luke 8:38b-39).

❖ *Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary (Ps. 107:2).*

❖ *“Give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons” (Deut. 4:9).*

3. By Deeds

❖ *Respect what is right in the sight of all men (Rom. 12:17).*

❖ *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).*

D. PROVIDE HOPE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

❖ *I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever;
To all generations I will make known
Thy faithfulness with my mouth (Ps. 89:1).*

❖ *Tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord,
And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done (Ps.
78:4b).*

❖ *Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God (Ps. 90:2b).*

“BIBLICAL EXAMPLES”

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come (1 Cor. 10:11)

Chapter 1—COVENANT COUPLES		
The Married Couple	Their Children	Reference
Adam and Eve	Cain, Abel, Seth	Gen. 2:20;4:1-2,25
Noah and his wife	Shem, Ham, and Japheth	Gen. 6:10
Shem and his wife	Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram	Gen. 10:22
Ham and his wife	Cush, Mizraim, Put, Canaan	Gen. 10:6
Japheth and his wife	Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, Tiras	Gen. 10:2
Abram and Sarai	Isaac	Gen. 21:2-3
Lot and his wife	2 daughters	Gen. 19:15
Isaac and Rebekah	Jacob and Esau	Gen. 25:20,24-26
Ishmael and his wife	12 sons, 1 daughter	Gen. 25:13-15,28:9
Amram and Jochebed	Aaron, Miriam, and Moses	Num. 26:59
Moses and Zipporah	Gershom and Eliezer	Exod. 2:21, 18:2-4
Othniel and Achsah		Josh. 15:16-17; Judg. 1:12-13
Lapidoth and Deborah		Judg. 4:4
Heber and Jael		Judg. 4:17
Manoah and his wife	Samson	Judg. 13:2,24
Elimelech and Naomi	Mahlon and Chilion	Ruth 1:1-2
Boaz and Ruth	Obed	Ruth 4:13,17
Obed and his wife	Jesse	Ruth 4:17
Saul and Ahinoam	Jonathan, Ishvi, Malchi-shua, Merab, Michal	1 Sam. 14:49-50a

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Jesse and his wife	Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, 3 unnamed sons, and David	1 Sam. 17:12-13
David and Michal		1 Sam. 18:27
Nabal and Abigail		1 Sam. 25:3
Ahab and Jezebel	Ahaziah, Jehoram ¹	Kings 16:30-31, 22:51; 2 Kings 3:1
Shallum and Huldah		2 Kings 22:14
Jeiel and Maacah	Abdon, Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, Mikloth, and Gibeon	1 Chron. 9:35-37
Haman and Zeresh		Esther 5:10
Job and his wife	7 sons, 3 daughters; 7 sons, Jemimah, Keziah, and Keren-happuch "son of my vows"	Job 1:2; 2:9; 42:13-14
King Lemuel and his wife		Prov. 31:2
Zacharias and Elizabeth	John	Luke 1:5-6,57,60
Joseph and Mary	Jesus	Matt. 1:18,24-25
Zebedee and Salome	John and James	Matt.27:56/ Mark 15:40 Mark 1:30
Simon Peter and his wife		John 19:25
Clopas and Mary		Acts 5:1
Ananias and Sapphira a husband and Eunice	Timothy	Acts 16:1; 2 Tim.1:5
Aquila and Priscilla		Acts 18:2
Felix and Drusilla		Acts 24:24
King Agrippa and Bernice		Acts 25:13

Chapter 2—LUST AND ADULTERY

One Sinned Against	Adulterer	Adulteress	Reference
Sarah	Abimelech		Gen. 20:2-4a
Shuah	Judah	Tamar	Gen. 38
Samson	Samson's Companion	Samson's wife	Judg. 14
Phineas' pregnant wife	Phineas	temple prostitutes	1 Sam.2:22, 4:19
Uriah	David	Bathsheba	2 Sam. 11:2-4
Hosea	men	Gomer	Hosea 2:1-2, 3:1
Amaziah, the priest	a man or men	Amaziah's wife	Amos 7:17
her first husband	4 husbands and a lover	the woman at the well	John 4:18
the adulterer's wife	an adulterer	the woman caught in adultery	John 8:4

Chapter 3—MARITAL SEPARATION

The Husband	The Wife	Children	Reference
a man	a woman	a sinful child	Isa. 50:1
Moses	Zipporah	Gershom and Eliezer	Exod. 18:2b

Chapter 4—THE DIVORCE OF A COVENANT COUPLE

The Husband	The Wife	Children Involved	Reference
a man	a woman		Deut. 24:1
Hosea	Gomer	Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, Lo-ammi	Hos. 2:2a

Chapter 5—DIVORCED YET REMAINING FAITHFUL

Faithful One	Prodigal Spouse	Child Witnesses	Reference
Hosea	Gomer	Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, Lo-ammi	Hos.2:2-3:1

Chapter 6—A SECOND MARRIAGE

The Offended Mate the first husband	Covenant Mate a woman	The Second Partner another man	Reference
Samson	Samson's wife	Samson's companion	Deut. 24:2 Judg. 14:20-15:2
David	Michal	Paltiel	2 Sam. 3:14-15
Hosea	Gomera	second husband	Hos. 2:7b
Philip	Herodias	Herod	Mark 6:17-18

**Chapter 7—DIVORCING A PARTNER OTHER
THAN THE COVENANT MATE**

Covenant Mate	Second Partner	Children	Condition	Reference
Abraham	Hagar	Ishmael	in spite of Abraham's distress	Gen. 21:9-12
a wife Michal	the latter husband Paltielin		spite of weeping	Deut. 24:3a 2 Sam. 3:15-16

Chapter 8—THE RECONCILIATION OF COVENANT COUPLES				
Husband	Wife	Conditions	Child Witnesses	Reference
Abraham	Sarah	after Abimelech's lust		Gen. 20:7,14
Moses	Zipporah	after separation	Gershom and Eliezer	Exod. 18:2-6
The Lord God	Israel	after divorce		Jer. 3:8a,12-13
David	Michal	after a second marriage		2 Sam. 3:14-15
Hosea	Gomer	after a second marriage	Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, Lo-ammi	Hos. 3:1-3

"QUIZ"

"Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin" (Exod. 20:20).

Chapter One—MARRIAGE

1. Who joins the couple in marriage?

- the minister or priest the couple themselves God

2. What binds a couple in marriage?

- church wedding sex wedding vows

3. What moment in the ceremony initiates the covenant?

- the pronouncement that they are 'man and wife'
 speaking the vows the kiss

4. Can you have a first marriage without a covenant?

- yes no

5. What is the physical token or sign of the spiritual marriage vows?

- a ring a white dress placing hands on a Bible

6. What is God's part in the marriage covenant?

- witness both witness and participant no part

7. When does a first marriage have no covenant?

- when you marry the wrong person
 when a believer marries an unbeliever
 never

8. In what way is the marriage relationship like that of Christ and the Church?

- the husband is the head of the wife
- they get along well
- they depend on each other a lot

9. If a person or persons have a marriage annulled, does the covenant still exist?

- yes no

10. How long does the marriage covenant last?

- until love grows cold until divorce until death

Essay: Describe ways in which a married couple should reflect God's relationship to the church?

"QUIZ"

Chapter Two—ADULTERY

1. Is adultery a sin?

- yes no

2. What is the minimum number of people involved in adultery?

- 4 just 2 at least 3

3. Even if your spouse is unaware, does God know you're committing adultery?

- yes no

4. How does God feel toward adulterers?

- He hates them
 He loves them but hates their sin if they sin
 He doesn't care

5. What does the person committing adultery lose?

- his/her reputation
 inheritance in the kingdom of God
 all chance of being forgiven

6. To what are adulterers in bondage?

- the sin of adultery a marriage each other

7. Can infidelity (adultery) be healed?/ Is it possible to quit adultery?

- yes no

8. Which of the following is impossible to do while committing adultery?

- praise God keep God's law love your spouse

9. How do you describe a person who repents of adultery yet remains in the adulterous relationship?

- fearful of God loving lawless

10. What does one have to do to be free of the sin of adultery?

- say "I'm sorry" repent repent and quit the adultery

Essay: Explain why adultery is idolatry and idolatry like adultery.

"QUIZ"

Chapter Three—SEPARATION

1. Does physical separation alter the marriage covenant?
 yes no
2. Does separation lead inevitably to divorce?
 yes no
3. If one suffers physical abuse from one's mate and seeks a respite from pain and injury through separation, is he/she still bound by the marriage covenant?
 yes no
4. If a person is abandoned by his/her mate, is he/she still bound by their marriage covenant?
 yes no
5. If I learn after I am married that my spouse is homosexual, what does God expect of me?
 divorce her/him
 pray for healing and reconciliation
 find someone else
6. Is God aware of your thoughts and feelings toward your mate during separation?
 yes no

7. Which thought pleases God?

- "He/she'll never change"
- "I'll never go back; my marriage is over"
- "God heals"

8. How should a married couple end their separation according to God's will?

- leave the marriage
- remain separated
- be reconciled

9. In order to end a marital separation according to God's will, what must one do?

- forgive and seek forgiveness
- stay separated for the rest of your life
- proceed with divorce

10. How should family and friends help a couple while they are separated?

- advocate divorce
- encourage reconciliation
- leave them alone to work it out

Essay: Describe ways in which separation can bring healing and lead to the reconciliation of a covenant couple.

“QUIZ”

Chapter Four—DIVORCE

1. What is divorce?

- a civil law designed by men
- a holy law that comes from God
- a necessary evil

2. Under today's 'no-fault' divorce laws is it possible to be divorced against one's will?

- yes no

3. What degree of guilt does a person bear when divorced against his/her will?

- completely innocent
- sort of innocent
- guilty of participating in a divorce

4. Why does God hate divorce?

- He doesn't understand the world today
- He's hard-hearted
- He joined the couple for life and has the power to save their marriage

5. What does God see in the person seeking a divorce?

- hardness of heart wisdom compassion

6. When deciding whether or not to divorce, what concern should have top priority?

- obeying God's commandments finances personal pleasure

7. What right choice does a divorced person have for marriage in the future?

- marriage to another partner who is a believer
- none
- reconciliation with the original, covenant mate

8. Does divorce set you free to marry another partner without sin?

- yes
- no

9. What happens to the marriage covenant after a couple is divorced?

- it dies
- it remains the same
- it is nicely set aside with God's permission

10. Although a divorced person is “unmarried” and may feel “single”, is he/she completely unattached?

- yes
- no

Essay Question—As a woman is bound as long as her first husband lives, the husband is equally bound to her. By what is he/she bound? Describe the consequences of having a covenant when deciding what to do next after a divorce?

“QUIZ”

Chapter Five—DIVORCED YET FAITHFUL

1. God is a covenant keeper who keeps His promises, and we are created in His image. What does He expect of us?

- to sin anyway
- to settle for second best
- to keep covenant and be perfect, even as He is perfect

2. What do the divorce laws control?

- love
- legal marital status
- faith

3. When a divorced person chooses to remain faithful to his/her mate, who is rejected?

- Satan
- God

4. How does a divorced person restore the love in his/her heart for the covenant mate?

- it is impossible
- through forgiveness
- by just waiting and hoping

5. What benefit does the divorced person gain by keeping covenant?

- righteousness
- financial success
- approval from everyone

6. Can you remain faithful to your covenant and not pray for reconciliation?

- yes
- no

7. Can the example of a covenant keeper's godly behavior eventually win back the prodigal mate?

yes no

8. If you are divorced and your mate marries another partner, what should you do?

marry someone else, too

forget him/her

remain unmarried; pray for his/her salvation

9. Does God have the power to heal a covenant marriage even after divorce and a second marriage?

yes no

10. How long should a covenant keeper have hope that God is working to bring about reconciliation?

until one's mate marries another

until death

until one sees nothing happening toward that end

Essay: Describe ways in which God can use a covenant keeper in the economy of an prodigal mate's salvation.

“QUIZ”

Chapter Six—A SECOND MARRIAGE

1. Is a second marriage both “a marriage” and “adultery” at the same time?

yes no

2. Who defines divorce and a second marriage as adultery?

Moses Jesus the dictionary

3. Can a person in a second marriage have two marriage covenants at the same time, each pledging to love one person only in his/her lifetime?

yes no

4. Where does a second marriage stand in relation to God’s Commandments?

in opposition outside untouched

5. Does God make a marriage covenant with adulterers?

yes no

6. When a second marriage takes place in a church, who is responsible for iniquity?

the pastor, bride, and bridegroom

the pastor or priest

the pastor and the bridegroom

7. If a husband should say to his first wife, "Because I am no longer married to you but have married someone else, therefore I am no longer bound by our covenant," is he for this reason any less a part of the covenant?

yes no

8. When is the adultery of a second marriage committed against the covenant mate?

- while making the second marriage vows
- every day, as long as the second marriage lasts
- never

9. Does being 'born again' alter or erase a marriage covenant?

yes no

10. If I repent of marrying a second time yet stay in the second marriage, what should I expect to hear Jesus say at the end?

- "Enter heaven, you lawless one, and have eternal life."
- "Depart from me, you lawless one."
- "Maybe in heaven you'll marry the right person."

Essay Questions: When a divorced person marries another partner, what becomes of the offended covenant mate? If a second marriage is wrong, why are so many people doing it?

“QUIZ”

Chapter Seven—A SECOND DIVORCE

1. Which is the greater sin?

- divorce the adultery of a second marriage

2. When God says, “I hate divorce,” to which divorce is He referring?

- the divorce of a first marriage any/all divorces

3. Which divorce causes more harm?

- the 1st, divorcing the right partner for the wrong reason
 the 2nd, divorcing the wrong partner for the right reason

4. How do you assess a second marriage that appears to be “successful”?

- The sun rises on evil and good; God sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
 The Bible is wrong.
 God didn't know what He was talking about.

5. Can one restore oneself to righteousness by quitting the adultery of a second marriage?

- yes no

6. What should one do after quitting a second marriage if your covenant mate is married to another partner?

- find another partner
 lose faith and all hope of reconciliation
 remain unmarried

7. If a husband divorces his wife and marries another, must he divorce the second wife in order to quit his adultery?

yes no

8. Should parents stay in a second marriage for the sake of children born to it?

yes no

9. If a person's first marriage is to a divorced person and this marriage ends in divorce, what should the person do?

pretend you've never been married

remain unmarried

look for another partner

10. What godly reason might there be to terminate a second marriage?

It wasn't working anyway for the gospel's sake

Essay Question: Why would God prefer that a second marriage end by divorce rather than continue on in adultery?

"QUIZ"

Chapter Eight — RECONCILIATION

1. Does *reconciliation* mean restoring a dysfunctional marriage to its dysfunctional state?

yes no

2. Who brings about reconciliation?

God man God working with man

3. What is man's role in reconciliation?

Tell God what to do and when to do it
 Pray and trust God to bring restoration
 Just wait and wish

4. If I don't want to be reconciled to my covenant mate and cannot imagine it ever happening, is reconciliation still God's best plan for us?

yes no

5. If I seek reconciliation yet my mate is set against it, is it still God's plan for us?

yes no

6. What force makes reconciliation come to pass?

luck the power of Jesus to heal will power

7. My mate has married three times since our divorce. Is there any hope for a reconciliation?

yes no

8. How long must I wait for a reconciliation?

- 7 years
- until we both marry a second partner
- 'til death do us part

9. Who did God send as the Mediator in reconciliation?

- concerned parents
- Jesus
- pastors and counsellors

10. What is the greatest benefit of a healed marriage?

- honor and glory given to God
- renown as recipients of a miracle
- a happy couple

Essay: Describe ways a restored marriage pleases God and honors Him and the Church.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

Chapter 1
MARRIAGE

1.
2.
3.
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8.
9.
10.

Chapter 2
ADULTERY

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Chapter 3
SEPARATION

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Chapter 4
DIVORCE

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Chapter 5
DIVORCED YET
FAITHFUL

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
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10.

Chapter 6
SECOND
A MARRIAGE

1.
2.
3.
4.
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10.

Chapter 7
A SECOND DIVORCE

1.
2.
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Chapter 8
RECONCILIATION

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10.

*Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave Himself for our sins
that He might deliver us out of this present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.*

Gal. 1:3-5

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