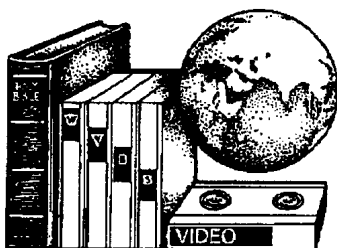


World Video Bible School®

Established 1986



MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARriage



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Marriage.	1
An Unscriptural Divorce Is Not The Answer.	9
Foolish Reasons For Getting A Divorce.	17
How To Fight Within Your Marriage.	23
The Role Of The Husband.	29
The Role Of The Wife.. . . .	35
Marriage, Divorce And Remarriage.	41
The Right Time To Get A Divorce.. . . .	51
Are All Men Amenable To the Gospel Of Christ?.. . . .	61
Can The Guilty Party Remarry?.	75
Does Baptism Wash Away An Adulterous Marriage?.. . . .	83
The Pauline Privilege - A Study Of 1 st Corinthians 7:15.	93
A Study Of 1 st Corinthians 7:39.	99
Homosexual Marriages.. . . .	105
Enemies Of The Home.. . . .	115
Often Asked Questions.. . . .	123
Review Questions On Marriage, Divorce And Remarriage.. . . .	131
What Will You Leave Your Children?.. . . .	135
A Study Of 1 st Corinthians 13.	145
Questions – Pre-Marital Counseling.. . . .	167
Questions – Marriage Problems.. . . .	169

Table Of Contents Continued

Questions – One Seeking Divorce.	171
Questions – Unfaithful Husband.. . . .	173
Questions – One Seeking Unscriptural Divorce.	175

MARRIAGE

By David Smith & Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. Many feel that marriage as we know it must go.
2. The feminists have no use for the home.
3. The humanists have no use for the home.
4. The immoral have no use for the home.
 - a. Homosexuals want to redefine marriage.
 - b. If such is done the home will be destroyed.
5. We cannot let the world destroy the beauty of marriage.
6. What is the definition of marriage?

I. A CREATION OF GOD.

- A. Gen 2:19,20 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. ²⁰And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.
- B. Gen 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
- C. 1 Tim 4:1-4 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ²Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. ⁴For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving.
- D. Prov 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

II. A CONTRACT.

- A. Mal 2:14-16 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.
¹⁵And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. ¹⁶For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.
- B. Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.
- C. This contract is both Divine and human (civil).
- D. It is possible to enter a civil contract which is not in harmony with God's law.
 - 1. Mk 6:17,18 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.
 - 2. Only God can join two people together in marriage.
 - 3. Only God can disjoin two people who have been married.
 - 4. God joins and disjoins in harmony with His written will.

III. CONDITIONED ON QUALIFICATION PRIVILEGE.

- A. Only three classes of people are qualified to marry.
 - 1. Those who have never been married before:
 - a. Matt 19:4,5 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?
 - 2. Those who, being innocent, put their mate away for the cause of fornication:

- a. Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
 - b. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- 3. Those who have lost their mates to death:
 - a. Rom 7:1-3 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.
- 4. Therefore, one must marry one who falls into one of these three classes.

IV. COMMITMENT.

- A. Some want to live together for a while to see if they were made for one another. (This is not Biblical.)
- B. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man **leave** his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- C. Acts 11:23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would **cleave** unto the Lord.
- D. Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
- E. Rom 7:1-3 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another

man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

V. COMPANIONSHIP.

- A. Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- B. Jim Backus said the reason his marriage had survived in Hollywood was because he and his wife were best friends.
- C. Marriage should not be a battle of the sexes.
- D. It takes team work to make a marriage work.
- E. Marriages often fail simply because one of the partners does not want to give it his/her best effort.
- F. Marriage is the only place where one plus one equals one.
- G. A good marriage is as close to heaven as one can get on this earth.
- H. Matt 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.

VI. COMPLETE LOVE.

- A. Agape.
 - 1. Love toward all.
 - a. Strong's definition: NT:25 agapao (ag-ap-ah'-o); to love (in a social or moral sense).
 - 2. This is a love that is extended even when a person is not lovable.
 - 3. This love is commanded.
 - a. Matt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

- b. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

B. Phileo.

1. 1 Sam 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
2. This is friendship love.
 - a. Strong's definition: NT:5368 phileo (fil-eh'-o); from NT:5384; to be a friend to (fond of [an individual or an object]), i.e. have affection for (denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling).
3. This is making your mate your best friend.
4. This is the kind of love that causes you to want to be with your mate.
5. This love allows husbands and wives to communicate with each other.
6. This will allow each mate to promote each other rather than provoke each other.
7. Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.
8. Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.
9. This love is also commanded - 1 Pet 1:7.

C. Storge.

1. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
2. I am devoted to my marriage love.
3. I am devoted to my children love.
4. I am devoted to my family love.

5. This kind of love involves loyalty, commitment, and strong devotion.

D. Eros.

1. We get our word “erotic” from this word.
2. Sex is a beautiful language spoken by married people.
3. Playboy magazine did not create sex, God did!
4. Sex is not dirty. It is beautiful and wonderful.
5. Educate your children in this area.
6. Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
 - a. Marriage comes before the bed.
 - b. All others are whoremongers and adulterers.
7. This kind of love accomplishes several things.
 - a. Produces offspring:
 - (1) Gen 1:27,28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
 - (2) Psa 127:3-5 Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ⁴As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. ⁵Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.
 - (3) Matt 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be **one flesh?**
 - (4) Having children out of wedlock is sinful.

b. Prevents fornication:

- (1) 1 Cor 7:1-5 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. ²Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. ⁴The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. ⁵Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

c. Promotes purity in the realm of sexual relationships:

- (1) Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

d. Provides private, precious moments:

- (1) Gen 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.
- (2) Gen 26:8 And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

E. Love is the glue that keeps marriages together.

1. 1 Cor 13:1-13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. ⁴Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵Doth not behave itself

unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. ¹³And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

VII. CONFINED TO THIS LIFE.

- A. The Mormons believe:
 - 1. They can have their mates in all eternity if they are married in one of the Mormon temples.
 - 2. Their wives are not raised from the dead if they have displeased their husbands.
 - 3. The wives are eternally pregnant.
 - 4. This view is based on lust
- B. Matt 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.
- C. Mk 12:25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.
- D. All physical marriages are limited to this life.

AN UNSCRIPTURAL DIVORCE IS NOT THE ANSWER

INTRODUCTION.

1. In the 1960's, 1 in 4 marriages ended in divorce.
2. In 1975, 44 out of every 100 marriages ended in divorce.
3. In 1976, 47 out of every 100 marriages ended in divorce.
4. In 1977, 50 out of every 100 marriages ended in divorce.
5. Statistics:
 - a. Divorces cost \$28 billion yearly in the US alone.
 - b. For every 2 marriages, 1 will end in divorce.
 - c. From 1970 to 1994, the number of divorces quadrupled.
 - d. "Divorced persons" is the fastest growing marital status category in the USA.
 - e. Persons divorced more than once are almost three times as likely to have drinking problems.
 - f. The suicide rate is almost three times higher among the divorced than among those who have never been divorced.
 - g. The National Institute of Mental Health advises that the divorced are about four times as likely to have problems with depression as are those who have never divorced.
 - h. Studies have shown that the prevalence of suffering from any psychiatric disorder over a lifetime was significantly lower for those in stable marriages.
 - i. Children of divorced parents are much more likely to drop out of school than children from one-time married couples.
 - j. Children from broken homes are much more likely to have a difficult time obtaining and maintaining steady employment.

- k. The children of divorced parents are more likely to become “teen parents,” producing out-of-wedlock babies, than the children of life-long married parents.
- l. The children of divorced parents are three times more likely to have emotional or behavioral problems than they will have if their biological parents stay together.

I. DIVORCE IS A SIN AGAINST:

A. The marriage vows.

- 1. Jas 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.
- 2. Psa 116:14 I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people.
- 3. Jdgs 11:30,31 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, ³¹Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.
- 4. Jdgs 11:34,35 And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. ³⁵And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back.
- 5. Marriage vows:
 - a. Do you take her for better or worse?
 - b. Do you take her in health and sickness?
 - c. Do you promise to keep yourself to her and her alone?
 - d. Do you take this woman to be thy lawful wedded wife?
 - e. Do you take her until death do you part?

6. Psa 22:25 My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.
7. Psa 50:14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.
8. Does your word mean anything?
9. If you did not keep your vows made in the first marriage, what makes you think you will do it the second, third or fourth time?

B. Your mate.

1. Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
2. 1 Cor 7:1-5 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. ²Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. ⁴The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. ⁵Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.
3. Will your mate fornicate because you divorced him/her un-scripturally?
4. We do not want to be guilty of placing one in harm's way spiritually.
5. Matt 18:7-9 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! ⁸Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. ⁹And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

C. Love.

1. 1 Pet 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
2. Rom 12:9,10 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.
3. Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
4. Rom 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
5. Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
6. Gal 5:22,23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
7. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.
8. Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
9. Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.
10. Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
11. 1 Thess 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.
12. Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.

D. Forgiveness.

1. Eph 4:31,32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³²And be

ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

2. Matt 6:14,15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
3. Mk 11:25,26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.
4. Matt 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
5. 1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
6. Lk 17:3,4 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. [4] And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

E. The children.

1. Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
2. Divorces often cause a battle for the children.
3. Children often feel they are the ones who caused the divorce since there is a battle for them.
4. I have had children to tell me to preach on marriage, divorce and remarriage because of what a divorce did to their lives.

F. Society.

1. Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
2. Rom 14:7,8 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. ⁸For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we

die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

3. Ezek 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.
4. God calls upon us to make a difference!

G. The church.

1. 1 Tim 3:1-7 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. ²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ⁴One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ⁶Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
2. Titus 1:6-9 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. ⁷For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; ⁸But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; ⁹Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.
3. When a man gets involved in an unscriptural divorce he disqualifies himself for a leadership role in the Lord's church.

II. THERE IS ONLY ONE SCRIPTURAL REASON FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE.

- A. Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
- B. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

CONCLUSION.

1. Unscriptural divorces destroy homes, our mate, society, children, the church, etc.
2. We husbands must be diligent in ruling well our own homes.
3. We must make our wives the queen of the household.
4. We must train our children the way God wants them trained.
5. The devil has done a good job destroying the home. We do not want to become his helper.
6. May God help us to stand against that which is destroying the home as God would have it.

FOOLISH REASONS FOR GETTING MARRIED

By Wayne Jackson and Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. Marriage is a lifetime commitment.
2. Therefore, it should be taken very seriously.
3. There are many good reasons for getting married.
 - a. It is not good that man should be alone — Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
 - b. To avoid fornication — 1 Cor 7:2 Nevertheless, [to avoid] fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
 - c. To replenish the earth — Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
 - d. To find someone that will help you go to heaven. 1 Kgs 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.
 - e. To find someone who will be your best friend.
 - (1) Jim Backus was asked why his marriage had survived in Hollywood when others did not? He said, "My wife and I are best friends."
4. Marriage is an option and not an obligation.
 - a. Many well adjusted people never got married.
 - b. Look at the apostle Paul.
5. Marriage is to be taken very seriously. This is the second most important decision one will ever make.
6. However, some enter this relationship in a very foolish way.

7. Look at all the people who are sorry they rushed into marriage.
8. Will this be your mind-set ten years from now?
9. We want to look at some foolish reasons to get married.

I. PHYSICAL ATTRACTION.

- A. Many people “fall in lust” rather than love.
- B. Prov 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman [that] feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
- C. Prov 11:22 As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.
- D. George Reeves (the original “Superman”) lost his life possibly over a woman.
- E. In Hollywood, when the women’s beauty starts to fade, the male movie stars desert them.
- F. Would you give your soul for a woman?
- G. “Beauty is only skin deep, and if some were ‘skinned’ how hideous they would appear.”
- H. Prov 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
- I. Prov 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

II. DESPERATION.

- A. There are those who feel pressured to get married.
- B. Sometimes it comes from the parents. (They want grandchildren.)
- C. Sometimes it comes from peer pressure.
- D. Some people marry out of panic.
- E. Consider this poem:

At sweet sixteen, I first began
 To ask the good Lord for a man.
At seventeen, as I recall,
 I wanted someone strong and tall.
The Christmas that I reached eighteen,
 I fancied someone blond and lean.
And then at nineteen, I was sure
 I'd fall for someone more mature.
Then at twenty, I thought I'd find
 Romance with someone with a mind.
I retrogressed at twenty-one
 And found the college boys more fun.
My viewpoint changed at twenty-two
 When "one man only" was my cue.
I broke my heart at twenty three
 And asked for someone kind to me.
Then begged at blasé twenty-four
 For anyone not a bore.
Now, Lord, that I am twenty-five,
 Just send me someone who's alive.

F. If you marry in haste a great life you might waste.

III. TO GET OUT OF A BAD ENVIRONMENT.

- A. Some people get married to get away from mom and dad.
- B. I have had people tell me, "I would have married anyone to have gotten out of that mess."
- C. These people rarely find pleasure in marriage.
- D. If one has the mind-set to leave to avoid problems, then what about problems in their new found marriage?
- E. Some "jump out of the frying pan into the fire."
- F. This is the main reason people get a divorce. They want out of a bad environment.

IV. REVENGE.

- A. The "I will show you" attitude.
- B. I have had people tell me this is the reason they got married.

- C. How long can a marriage like this last?
- D. Rom 12:18,19 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
- E. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- F. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

V. TO COVER A MISTAKE.

- A. Have you ever heard of a “shotgun wedding?”
- B. Two mistakes do not make a right.
- C. I know of a congregation that was about to split over this issue.
- D. Some say, “The baby needs a name.”
- E. Eccl 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.
- F. One needs to ask:
 - 1. Will this person make a good mate?
 - 2. Will he/she make a good mother or father?
 - 3. Will he/she help me and the baby to go to heaven?
 - 4. Do I love him/her with all my heart?
 - 5. Do I want to spent the rest of my life with him/her?

VI. IT IS WHAT IS IN VOGUE.

- A. All my friends are married.
- B. I feel left out.
- C. It is the thing to do.

- D. Keep in mind when you make this decision it is for a lifetime.
1. Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
 2. Rom 7:1-3 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

VII. COVER UP THEIR SEXUAL PREFERENCE.

- A. I know those who got married so they could cover up the fact that they were homosexual or lesbian.
- B. Rom 1:24-27 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.
- C. Homosexuality is based on lust!
- D. One is not born a homosexual!
- E. One is not born a rapist or child molester!

CONCLUSION.

1. We are to honor the design of marriage.
2. We are to teach our children to honor the design of marriage.
3. When a pervert marries, he/she perverts God's standards and laws.

HOW TO FIGHT WITHIN MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTION.

1. Disagreements will come.
2. Problems must be settled.
3. An unscriptural divorce is not an option.
4. Therefore, there must be ground rules on how to solve marital problems.
5. When people come to me with marriage problems I ask them, "Will you allow God to settle your marriage problems?"
 - a. If they say yes, then I can help them.
 - b. If they say no, then I do not have the wisdom needed to help them!
6. Husbands and wives do not know how to fight:
 - a. Some blow up,
 - b. Some clam up,
 - c. Some will not shut up,
 - d. Some get up and leave,
 - e. Some divorce, and
 - f. Some kill each other.
7. Consider these points.

I. NO HITTING.

- A. I have been in homes where there were broken dishes, etc.
- B. I have seen the battle scars on the bodies of husbands and wives who did not take God's approach to settling conflicts.

- C. Eph5:28,29 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ²⁹For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.
- D. It takes a "low life" to hit his wife.
- E. 1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

II. NO WITHHOLDING OF THE BODY.

- A. Don't let your children see you sleeping on the couch unless you are sick.
- B. Some people have gone for months, even years, without sleeping with their mates.
- C. This puts your mate in great temptation.
- D. 1 Cor 7:1-5 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman. ²Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. ⁴The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. ⁵Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.
- E. Are you stealing from your mate?

III . DO NOT LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON YOUR WRATH.

- A. Do not go to bed mad at each other.
- B. Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.
 - 1. One can be angry without sinning.
 - 2. Mk 3:4,5 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. ⁵And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the

man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

IV. LOVE YOUR MATE WHEN YOUR MATE IS NOT LOVABLE. (AGAPE LOVE.)

- A. Prov 18:22 *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.
- B. Matt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.
- C. Lk 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.
- D. Lk 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil.

V. FORGIVE EACH OTHER.

- A. Matt 6:14,15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- B. Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
- C. I have known those who claim they will never forgive a certain person.
- D. Lk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.
- E. Why should I forgive my mate?
 - 1. I need forgiveness.
 - 2. God will not forgive me.
 - 3. It makes me a better person.
 - 4. It shows a proper example to others.
 - 5. It aids my prayer life.

VI. NEVER BE ASHAMED TO SAY “I AM SORRY.”

- A. Psa 38:18 For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.
- B. Matt 14:9,10 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded *it* to be given *her*. ¹⁰And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.
- C. One must be willing to express his/her feelings.
- D. Some mates refuse to say they are sorry for anything.
- E. One who cannot say he/she is sorry has too much pride.
- F. Prov 6:16,17 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.

VII. WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT EACH OTHER.

- A. Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
- B. Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
- C. Prov 15:4 A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.
- D. Prov 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.
- E. Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.
- F. Prov 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
- G. Prov 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*
- H. Prov 16:24 Pleasant words *are* as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

- I. Prov 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.
- J. Prov 25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.
- K. Prov 29:20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.
- L. Prov 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.
- M. What have your children heard you call your mate?
- N. Children learn to be good husbands and wives by watching mom and dad.

VIII. ALWAYS COMMUNICATE.

- A. I am amazed by the husbands and wives who claim that they cannot talk to each other.
- B. Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
- C. A husband and wife ought to be able to reason together.
- D. No problem is too large for God.

IX. HAVE THE ATTITUDE THAT YOU WANT BOTH TO COME OUT OF THIS BATTLE AS WINNERS.

- A. Many mates have the attitude, he or she is not going to get the best of me.
- B. Matt 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
- C. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.
- D. Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.

X. REMEMBER WHAT POWER LOVE HAS.

- A. One does not have Bible authority to fall out of love with his or her mate.

- B. 1 Pet 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
- C. 1 Cor 13:1-7 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ²And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. ⁴Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- D. Jn 13:34,35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

CONCLUSION.

1. Someone must be an example to our children.
2. Someone has to be an example to the church.
3. Someone has to be an example to the world.
4. That someone is you ... and me!!!

THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND

by David Irick and Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. God gives the perfect “recipe” for success in marriage.
2. However, a marriage will only be perfect when everyone involved fulfills his or her role as God requires.
3. We have those today who do not like the roles God has set in place for men and women.

I. THE HUSBAND IS TO BE THE HEAD OF THE HOME.

A. His Role Is One Of Leadership.

1. Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
2. 1 Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
3. **He is the leader, he is in control and he must lead.** I have had women to beg me to talk to their husbands so that they would step out and be the head of the home.
4. The husband establishes by his life (actions) a direction for those under him to follow. Will it be sinful? Luke warm, unconcerned? Or will it be righteous?
5. What is involved in being the head of the home?
 - a. Spiritual leader.
 - (1) Prov 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
 - (2) Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- (3) Gen 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.
- (4) Josh 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- (5) Gen 13,19 Notice the decision that Lot made and look at the result.
- (6) Fathers will answer to God for not training their children correctly.

b. Decision making.

- (1) He is to consider all the facts.
- (2) He is to consider his wife.
- (3) He is to consider his children.
- (4) But most of all he is to consider what is right in the sight of God.

c. Morals.

- (1) One cannot lead where he will not go.
- (2) What has the family seen in you as a moral leader?
- (3) The people of Sodom and Gomorrah would not have made good parents.
 - (a) 2 Pet 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.

- (b) Jude 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
- (4) The people of Noah's day would not have made good parents.
 - (a) Gen 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- (5) Herod and Herodias would not have made good parents
 - (a) Mk 6:17-24 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. ¹⁹ Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: ²⁰For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. ²¹ And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; ²²And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. ²³And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. ²⁴And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

B. The Husband Is To Provide For His Wife and Family.

1. 1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
2. The level of prosperity is NOT what is considered, but that he is to provide an adequate "provision."
3. Husbands Need To Be Careful That This Duty Is Not Abused.
 - a. Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
 - b. Jn 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
 - c. Our jobs should not become our lives.
 - d. Do you work constant overtime?
 - e. Do you work weekends?
 - f. Do you have time for your family?

III. THE KIND OF LOVE THE HUSBAND IS TO HAVE TOWARD HIS WIFE.

A. He Is To Love His Wife As Christ Loved The Church.

1. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.
2. Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
3. Rom 5:6-8 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
4. Jn 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 - a. He loved us when we were not lovable.

- b. He loved us unconditionally.
- c. He loved us sacrificially.
- d. He loved us seeking our best interest.
- e. He loved us unto death.

B. He Is To Love His Wife As He Loves Himself.

- 1. Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- 2. By implication my wife's happiness should mean as much to me as my own happiness!
- 3. Just as I do not want to have another talk to me in an ugly manner, I should never speak to her in an unfriendly tone, etc.
- 4. As men we do not want to be taken for granted, run over or ignored.
- 5. Therefore, we should not want to do this to our wives.
- 6. Matt 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

C. The Husband Must Give Honor Unto His Wife As The Weaker Vessel.

- 1. 1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
 - a. Honor: *"a value, i.e. money paid, or valuables; by analogy, esteem (especially of the highest degree) or the dignity itself."* (Strong.)
- 2. The wife is (generally) the weaker part physically and emotionally.
- 3. She is not weaker intellectually.
- 4. Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.

D. The Husband Is To Be Faithful To His Wife.

1. Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
2. 1 Cor 7:2,3 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.
3. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

E. “But He That Is Married Careth For The Things That Are Of The World, How He May Please His Wife” 1 Cor 7:33.

1. When you consider these things the idea of a husband being a cruel dictator evaporates!
2. The husband should always be genuinely concerned with her desires/interests and needs.
3. Deut 24:5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

CONCLUSION.

1. When the husband fulfills his role and wife fulfills her role you have God's beautiful arrangement of marriage.
2. Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
3. 1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

THE ROLE OF THE WIFE

David Irick and Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. 1 Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
2. The feminist movement has hurt the concept of the role of the wife in marriage.
3. The role of the wife in marriage is a vital link in building a successful marriage.
4. Any marriage can only be as strong as each link in the chain.
5. The husband must do his part and the wife must do her part.

I. THE WIFE IS TO SUBMIT UNTO HER HUSBAND.

A. This command is not cultural in nature as some claim.

1. The husband is to be the head of the home.
2. 1 Tim 2:12-15 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. ¹³For Adam was first formed, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. ¹⁵Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.
3. Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.
4. 1 Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
5. Too many wives wear the pants.
6. Some men have the attitude: "The wife runs things in our house and I bring home the bacon."
7. Many men are "henpecked."

8. Frances Quarles wrote:

Ill thrives the hapless family that shows
A cock that's silent, and a hen that crows;
I know not which live most unnatural lives,
Obeying husbands or commanding wives.

- B. God commands the wife to submit unto her husband.

1. This is not a principle that men have made up to keep their wives under control.
2. The feminist movement opposes this thought with all their might.
3. They believe that this makes a woman a second rate human being.
 - a. 1 Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
 - b. 1 Cor 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.
 - c. I am subject to the police officer which pulls me over, but I am not inferior to him.
 - d. The woman is not inferior to the man.
4. Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
 - a. Submit - *"To arrange under, to subordinate, a military term meaning to arrange in a military fashion under the command of a leader"* (Thayer).
5. Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
 - a. Notice that Paul says wives are to submit in the like manner as the church submits to Christ.
6. 1 Pet 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.

7. 1 Pet 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.

C. This carries the idea of obeying the husband.

1. Titus 2:2-5 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. ³The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, **obedient to their own husbands**, that the word of God be not blasphemed.
 - a. This comes from the same Greek word elsewhere translated "submit."
2. Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.
 - a. Reverence: *"To reverence, to venerate* (venerate - to look upon with feelings of deep respect - Webster).
 - b. *To treat with deference* (deference-yielding in opinion, judgment, wishes, etc. - Webster).
 - c. Reverential obedience (Thayer).
3. Some women do not want the word "obey" in their marriage vows.
4. Women must follow God's pattern on this point!
5. Is this a "hard command?" Consider. Husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church and as he loves himself.
6. He is to nourish and cherish her.
7. Thus, in context to his leadership and her submission this must be considered as God's overall plan. Yes, she is to submit, reverence and obey her husband. When both positions are followed there will be very little tension.
8. He loves her in such a special manner his desire will be nothing but good for his wife and the family, making it easy for her to follow.

9. Sarah is used as an example.
 - a. 1 Pet 3:6 Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.
10. Do you promise to love, honor and obey?

II. THE WIFE IS TO LOVE HER HUSBAND.

- A. Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.
- B. This means that you love them even when they are not lovable.
- C. There is no Bible authority for falling out of love with one's mate.
- D. 1 Pet 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
- E. Matt 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

III. THE WIFE IS TO LOVE THE CHILDREN.

- A. Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.
- B. Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.
- C. Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- D. Notice these quotes:
 1. "All that I am, or can be, I owe to my angel mother" (Abraham Lincoln).
 2. "The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom" (Henry Ward Beecher).
 3. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" (John Gray).
 4. "Youth fades, love drops, the leaves of friendship fall. A mother's secret love outlives them all" (Oliver Wendell Holmes).

IV. THE WIFE IS A KEEPER AT HOME.

- A. Titus 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.
- B. Too many mothers work so that the family can have more material things.
- C. They do this to the peril of their family.

CONCLUSION.

- 1. Whether male or female, may we always seek to follow God's pattern in all things.
- 2. For by doing so we find true happiness!
- 3. A man is not qualified to be an elder unless he rules well his own house.
 - a. 1 Tim 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity.
 - b. Titus 1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.
- 4. The homes in America are in disarray.
- 5. The same is true with the world.
- 6. God has the answer!

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Matthew 19:1-12

INTRODUCTION.

1. When we look at our society today we're living in a day and time when many homes are broken up.
2. As a matter of fact, in many cities, more divorces are granted than marriage licenses.
3. **We are allowing Hollywood to set our standards as far as morals are concerned, rather than the word of God.**
4. We are going to have to go back to the Bible. Otherwise, the home will be destroyed.
5. The sad part is that even some preachers in our great brotherhood have begun to loose the laws of God and advocate that we can fellowship just anyone regardless of how many times they have been married, divorced and remarried.
6. Some elders and churches hold these same views.
7. Some advocate that it doesn't matter what the reason is for divorce, that if one remarries unscripturally then all he has to do is either be baptized into Christ or, if he is a Christian, pray and God will forgive and accept that situation. Is this what the Bible teaches?
8. If this is what the Bible teaches then that is what we want to do. But if it is not what the Bible teaches, then certainly we do not want to do that.

I. JESUS INFLUENCED MULTITUDES.

- A. **Matt 19:1,2 And it came to pass, *that* when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan; ²And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.**
- B. While on earth our Lord influenced multitudes.
- C. He had the golden opportunity to teach the greatest principles ever taught. In so doing, He changed the lives of many people. This shows the power of God's Word.

- D. Jesus always told them what they needed to hear, not what they wanted to hear. This is why they crucified Him.
- E. **It was during His great popularity that He taught the truth on marriage, divorce and remarriage.**
- F. Many preachers will not teach the truth on this subject because they want to be popular.
- G. Jesus wanted to do His Father's will, not be popular with the people.
- H. Today we have the opportunity and technology to preach to multitudes.
- I. Will we tell them what they need to hear, or what they want to hear?
- J. The world is totally confused on this subject.
- K. We must be God's voice ringing forth loud and clear what needs to be heard from God's Word on this subject! If we do not preach the truth on this subject, who is going to do it?

II. **INSINCERE PHARISEES.**

- A. **Matt 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?**
- B. The Pharisees were not interested in truth. The Bible says they came to Him to tempt Him.
- C. I am convinced as a minister of the gospel of Christ that many people have come to me with a marriage problem not looking for truth, but wanting me to sanction their situation.
- D. When I did not give them the answer they wanted to hear they went running to another preacher.
- E. We must be honest and accept the Bible answer. A true Bible student will follow the scriptures wherever they lead him even if the answer is not what he wants to hear.
- F. We must love the scriptures even when they oppose our practice. This can be a hard thing to do.

- G. The Pharisees wanted to know if it was lawful to put away one's mate for every cause. What if we were to ask this question in America today?
- H. The answer from the world would be, "Of course!" However, this is not the Bible answer.
- I. We need to realize, as apparently the Pharisees did, that not all marriages are lawful. They might be lawful in the sight of men, but are they lawful in the sight of God?
- J. They were trying to get Jesus on the wrong side of Herod and others.
- K. John the Baptist told Herod that he unlawfully had his brother Philip's wife: ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. ¹⁹Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not (Mk 6:17-19).
- L. It is possible to unlawfully have someone else's wife. This being true, look at all the people in America who probably have someone else's mate. This is sinful or unlawful!

III. HAVE YE NOT READ?

- A. Matt 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female.
- B. When it comes to marriage, divorce and remarriage, the problem is that people have not read what the Bible says.
- C. Let us read for a minute.
 - 1. Matt 5:32 "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."
 - 2. Matt 19:9 the Bible says, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

3. Lk 16:18 “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from *her* husband committeth adultery.”
 4. Rom 7:1-3, while the contrast is between the two laws, still yet the marriage relationship is used. The Bible says, “¹Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. ³So then if, while *her* husband liveth, (**now watch, WS**) she be married to another man, she shall be **called** an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.”
 5. Many who are divorced have never read these verses.
- D. **From the aforementioned verses, we see that all parties who divorce and marry another are parties that continue to commit adultery. The only exception to the rule is that an innocent party put his or her mate away for the cause of fornication.**
 - E. Many have never taken the time to read God’s Word. Therefore, when they find themselves in violation of His law, they try to find some unscriptural way to fix it. This will not work!
 - F. When one gets married he must think enough of the laws of the land to find out what they require.
 - G. Should we not think just as much of the law of God and find out what God has to say about marriage, divorce and remarriage?
 - H. One often gets married with the attitude that if this one does not work, then he will try another one. Why? Because one does not know what the Bible says and could not care less at that time. However, we have to be honest enough to accept what this Book says.
 - I. The Lord says, “Have you not read that He which made them at the beginning made them male and male?” **No, that’s not what it says, but that is what a lot of people today are advocating.**
 - J. Some say if two men want to get married, that is all right. If two women want to get married, that is all right. I suggest unto you that it is not all right. That is not what the Bible teaches.

- K. Some states are passing laws to recognize homosexual marriages.
- L. God made male and female. He did not make Adam and Eve plus Esther, Ethel and Eileen just in case a divorce occurred.

IV. LEAVE TO CLEAVE.

- A. **Matt 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?**
- B. Many marriages get into trouble because one of the mates will not leave father or mother.
- C. We are to love our mates more than we love our parents.
- D. Some married people never learn to do this. Therefore, there will always be marriage problems. Your mate should not have to compete with your parents for your love. A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways.
- E. **One has to have Bible authority to marry.**
 - 1. **Those who have never been married before - Matt 19:5.**
 - 2. **Those who have been married and as an innocent party have put their mates away for the cause of fornication - Matt 19:9.**
 - 3. **Those who have lost their mates to death - Rom 7:1-3.**
 - 4. If one who falls into one of these three classes wishes to marry, then he must marry one who also falls into one of these three classes.
- F. I want you to notice that word **cleave**.
 - 1. “Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that **with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord**” (Acts 11:23).
 - 2. Just as you and I are to cleave unto the Lord, in just that way, we are to cleave unto our mates. The Bible plan is one man for one woman for a lifetime.

3. Now young people, you better listen. **You need to pay attention because once you say, “ I do,” in the sight of God, you did.**
- G. The husband and wife are to become one flesh; one in love, purpose, aim, goal, etc.
1. This was God’s original plan: And Adam said, “²³This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen 2:23,24).
 2. They are not to pull against one another. They are to be a loving team.

V. PUT NOT ASUNDER.

- A. **Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**
- B. We need to realize that God, and God only, can join two together in marriage. He joins only those who comply with His marriage laws.
- C. In like fashion God, and God only, can disjoin those who are married. He disjoins only those who comply to His divorce law, the only scriptural reason being fornication.
- D. **I wish every judge in this great country would believe this verse. Then, they would quit coming down with their gavel saying, “Divorce granted”!!!**
1. They should realize that they do not have the right to put marriages asunder.
 2. You and I must realize that we do not have that right either, unless fornication is involved.
- E. God says no man has the right to put asunder what He has joined together. Will we listen to God?

VI. FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS NOT SO.

- A. **Matt 19:7,8 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ⁸He saith unto them,**

Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

- B. Divorce is brought about because of the hardness of hearts toward God and one's mate.
- C. God has always frowned upon divorce.
- D. Jesus Christ goes all the way back to the beginning to endorse God's original plan: one man for one woman for a lifetime.

VII. EXCEPT IT BE FOR FORNICATION.

- A. **Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.**
- B. The only reason for a scriptural divorce and remarriage is fornication.
- C. Envision **fornication** as a large word which takes into consideration all illicit sexual acts. This would include homosexuality, lesbianism, adultery, incest, bestiality, etc.
- D. Thank God Jesus used a word that would include all these things.
- E. We know that a mate does not have to tolerate his/her mate committing adultery. However, it is also true that one does not have to put up with his/her mate being involved in homosexuality. This is the beauty and import of the word fornication.
- F. Now just forget you have ever heard any teaching on marriage, divorce and remarriage. What would this verse mean to you? I think one can understand it if he will just forget about what he has heard. If a person puts away his mate, not for the cause of fornication, and marries again, he commits adultery. If the put away mate marries again, she commits adultery.
- G. The word "commits" means "keeps on committing" adultery just as long as one is in that state.
- H. Roy Deaver puts it this way:

1. “Everybody who knows anything about Greek tense knows that the normal, regular, general, meaning of present tense is continuous action.” (Biblical Notes, June, 1981, p. 27.)

On page 11 of ESSENTIALS OF NEW TESTAMENT GREEK Dr. Ray Summers uses the words “progressive” and “continuous” synonymously, and then makes this statement: “The present tense indicates progressive action at the present time.” In his BEGINNER’S GRAMMAR OF THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT William Hersey Davis says: “Continued action, or a state of incompleteness, is denoted by the present tense, - the kind of action is called durative or linear. The action of the verb is shown in progress, as going on.” Burton says: “The Present Indicative is used of action in progress in present time...The most constant characteristic of the Present Indicative is that it denotes action in progress.” (Ernest DeWitt Burton, SYNTAX OF THE MOODS AND TENSES IN NEW TESTAMENT GREEK, pgs. 7,8.)

2. **Some preachers today, and I’m talking about ministers in the Lord’s church, say that one cannot live in adultery.**

- a. Rom 6:1,2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- b. Col 3:5-7 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

- I. If the innocent party puts away his mate for the cause of fornication, the guilty party cannot marry again without committing adultery. The guilty party has no right to remarry. **There is no Bible authority for the guilty party to ever remarry.**

1. There are grave consequences for being an unfaithful mate! Where is the verse or any Bible authority for the guilty party to remarry?
2. One cannot be guilty of destroying a marriage and be rewarded by God with the right to remarry.
3. If this is the case, then if one does not want to stay in his current marriage, all he would need to do would be commit fornication and

after his wife divorced him he would be free to remarry. Nothing could be farther from the truth!

J. If both parties in a marriage participate in an unscriptural divorce, then both parties will have to remain single or be reconciled to each other.

1. “And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife” (1 Cor 7:10,11).
2. I have had divorced people say to me, “Do you mean that I cannot remarry? Is my only hope found in returning to my mate?” What do these verses teach?

VIII. THE DISCIPLES’ VIEW.

- A. **Matt 19:10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with *his* wife, it is not good to marry.**
- B. The disciples said, “If this is the case, then it would be better if a man did not get married.”
- C. Now this is a hard commandment and I know it hits close to many of us. It hits close to me. I have people in my immediate family who are in an adulterous situation.
- D. It hurts to preach this. It hurts when I talk to them about their marriage. However, if I love the Lord and if I want to go to heaven, I have to preach the truth on this subject.
- E. It is the same way with baptism. Every time I read about baptism, marriage, divorce, remarriage, the one church, and the one way to worship God, I realize more and more the Lord told the truth when He said, “... few there be that find it”, speaking of salvation. He told the truth. The Lord knows. If we want to be among the few, then we must obey the commandments of God Almighty.

IX. NOT ALL CAN RECEIVE THIS COMMANDMENT.

- A. **Matt 19:11,12 But he said unto them, All *men* cannot receive this saying, save *they* to whom it is given. ¹²For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from *their* mother’s womb: and there are some**

eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive *it*, let him receive *it*.

- B. Some people are not able to enter marriage because they were born eunuchs. Others were made eunuchs by men. Then some have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. Paul made himself a eunuch for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He did this in a voluntary way. He chose not to get married.
- C. However, there are others who will have to make themselves eunuchs because they found themselves in an unscriptural marriage.
 - 1. Paul put it this way: "And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife" (1 Cor 7:10,11).
- D. It is so hard to walk out of an unscriptural marriage. I have known those who loved God and their mates enough to do this. They are to be commended!

CONCLUSION.

- 1. The time to fix all marriage problems is before they arise.
- 2. We must teach our children the truth about marriage, divorce and remarriage before they find themselves in unscriptural marriages.
- 3. Very few people will pay the price of giving up a mate to go to heaven. May God help us in this endeavor.

THE RIGHT TIME TO GET A DIVORCE

by Thomas Eaves, Andy Kizer and Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. The word “divorce” means “to put away, to separate from.”
 - a. “Divorce” (def.): “1. legal and formal dissolution of a marriage. 2. complete separation; disunion . . . ” (*Webster’s New World Dictionary of the American Language*).
 - b. We are going to use the second part of the dictionary definition in this lesson.
2. When one is dating and sees in his or her friend those things which will cause major trouble after marriage, then the time to “divorce” or separate from that person is before marriage.
3. Remember this is the second most important decision that will be made in your life.
4. You must marry someone who is going to help you go to heaven.
 - a. If you are:
 - (1) Dating someone,
 - (2) Dating someone on a regular basis,
 - (3) Going steady,
 - (4) Unofficially engaged,
 - (5) Officially engaged, (bought ring, given and received),
 - (6) Engaged with wedding date set, wedding plans made, invitations mailed, shower gifts received,
 - b. AND you determine that your fiancée cannot help you go to heaven, divorce them (Thomas Eaves).
5. Here are some of the trouble areas that should cause red flags to go up in your mind.

I. IF HE/SHE IS TRYING TO GET YOU TO COMPROMISE TRUTH.

- A. Prov 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.
- B. Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
 - 1. If truth is more important than my life, then it has to be more important than my mate.
 - 2. Matt 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- C. Andy Kizer's true life experiences:
 - 1. John Doe came to me in Howe, TX: "My girlfriend and I want to get married and we want you to conduct the ceremony." My reply: "Fine, but I insist on having pre-marital counseling, first." He agreed and a date for the first session was set. In the first session, I talked about marriage, the importance of it, etc. I talked about beginning "as one." I spoke of being in agreement in religion, and told the young lady that I was going to do all I could to help her to become a Christian before the wedding got near. The next time I saw John Doe, he said the wedding was off. She had changed her mind. I said, "John, it is better to see something like this now (as hard as it is) rather than after you are married." But, in a few weeks, the wedding was back on with someone else conducting the ceremony, someone who would not talk to the young lady about becoming a Christian, and they were married. In just a few months after that, John fell away from the Lord and is away from Him to this day.
 - 2. John Doe was engaged to be married. He had been engaged for quite some time. His fiancée often came to worship with him. She was in many Bible classes, but she was not a Christian. John often studied the Bible with his girlfriend in her home and whenever he could. He told her how important it is to be a child of God. The wedding date was set. The church had a bridal shower for the couple. Invitations were sent out. In a matter of a few weeks, however, before the wedding, the young lady called the whole thing off. John had made it clear to her that the Lord would be first in their lives and that His body would be of major importance to them as a

family. Denominationalism would not do. It had to be the Lord's church; and finally, she decided she could not do that. The wedding was called off . . . for good. John is still not married. He is about 30 years old. He is still faithful to the Lord.

- D. Two teenagers in Saltville, VA were just as faithful to God as they could be until they married mates who were not members of the body of Christ.
- E. They have been unfaithful for years.
- F. David Sain (Florence, AL) has a video-taped lesson he calls, "Time to Get a Divorce." In it he tells of an interview Barbara Walters had with Donnie Osmond. "What if you marry someone who is not a Mormon?" Osmond: "That is not going to happen."

II. IF HE/SHE IS PRESSURING YOU FOR PREMARITAL SEX.

- A. Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
- B. If your mate will not respect you now, why will he respect you later?
- C. They often say, "If you love me, you will."
- D. If an individual does not honor God's moral law before marriage how can you trust him to do so after marriage?
 - 1. Is this the person you want rearing your children?
 - 2. What is he going to teach your children?
 - 3. Will he want some young man having pre-marital sex with his daughter?
 - 4. What will you tell your children if they ask you if you engaged in pre-marital sex?
- E. Girls, how do you know he won't go to bed with your sister?
- F. Boys, how do you know she won't go to bed with your brother?
- G. It has happened.
- H. Fornication is a sin.

1. 1 Cor 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.
2. Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
3. “But he/she loves me and I love him/her.”
4. 1 Cor 13:5 Love does not behave itself unseemly.
5. The “living together” arrangement does not work!

C. Premarital sex is a sin against:

1. God: Gen 39:9 *There is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?
2. You: Eccl 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.
3. The other person.
4. Your parents.
5. Your reputation: Prov 22:1 A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.
6. Society: Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

III. IF HE/SHE IS ABUSING YOU.

- A. If your mates hits you now, he will hit you after you are married.
- B. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- C. Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- D. Matt 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

- E. This is such a bad problem that there are homes for battered women.
- F. If he/she is abusive now, what makes you think saying marriage vows will change such conduct? In fact, in most cases, such conduct becomes worse after the wedding. Why borrow trouble like this?
- G. "The FBI indicates that spousal physical abuse occurs every 15 seconds in the U.S. This is the leading cause for women visiting Emergency Rooms. The estimated medical cost alone may be \$5 billion" (*The Weekly Visitor*, Central Church of Christ; McMinnville, TN; Vol. 16, No. 44, p. 1).
- H. Hitting, throwing a wife, throwing something at her are physically dangerous. However, some other forms of abuse are harmful also, and all should be stopped.
 - 1. Solomon was an abuser simply by having more than one wife. Forget the fact that it was common; it was wrong!
 - 2. Jacob put one wife down in favor of another.
 - 3. A man who habitually insults his wife, shouts at her, or withholds himself or his possessions from her is an abuser.
 - 4. Gender reversal makes the wife an abuser.
 - 5. All abuse is wrong and must be stopped!

IV. IF HE/SHE CONSTANTLY NAGS YOU.

- A. Prov 21:9 *It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*
- B. Prov 25:24 *It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.*
- C. Prove 19:13 A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.
- D. Prove 27:15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

V. IF HE/SHE CANNOT LEAVE MOM AND DAD.

- A. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

- B. A “mommie’s boy” spells trouble.
- C. Some women cannot leave mom.

VI. IF HE IS LAZY.

- A. One must be gainfully employed to support a family.
 - 1. One cannot feed his family simply by saying, “I love you.”
 - 2. Do not get married and move in with mom and dad.
 - 3. Do not try to start out where you mother and father are financially. It took them years to get to where they are.
 - 4. Remember, money problems is one of the leading causes for divorces.
 - 5. Prove 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.
- B. Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.
- C. 1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
- D. 2 Thess 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
- E. I have had to try to encourage some husbands to work to support their families.

VII. IF HE/SHE USES DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

- A. Prove 20:1 Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
- B. I have had women beg me for the right to divorce their husbands because they were alcoholics.
- C. Prov 23:29-33 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? ³⁰They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

³¹Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. ³²At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. ³³Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

- D. Recent studies show that alcohol is involved in 50% of all spousal abuse cases and 40% of all children's deaths (Tim Hatfield, "There is Nothing Social about Alcohol" in *Banner of Truth*, Vol. 45, No. 49).
- E. Drinking and drug abuse ranks high among the reasons people divorce.
- F. Do you want a drunk rearing your children?
- G. Are you going to teach your children not to drink? What about your mate? Will the teaching be by both word and practice?

VIII. IF HE/SHE IS CRUEL TO OLD PEOPLE OR CHILDREN.

- A. One can learn a lot about people by watching the way they treat other people.
- B. Lev 19:14-18 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I *am* the LORD. ¹⁵Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: *but* in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour. ¹⁶Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I *am* the LORD. ¹⁷Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. ¹⁸Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD.
- C. Prove 14:31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.
- D. If your date will not treat other people the way they ought to be treated, what is he going to do to you?

IX. IF HE/SHE HAS BEEN DIVORCED UNSCRIPTURALLY.

- A. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it* be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

- B. Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
- C. It will be hard to leave that unscriptural mate after being married ten years and bearing five children to him.
- D. The time to get out of an unscriptural marriage is to never enter one.
- E. How many people do you know that would leave their mate to go to heaven?
- F. Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

X. IF YOU NEED TO CHANGE HIM OR HER.

- A. “I counseled with two sisters when preaching in Bedford, TX. The first planned to marry a Catholic. ‘I’m going to change him.’ I begged her not to do it. She did, and fell away. The second told me she was marrying an atheist. I said, ‘Remember your sister.’ She said, ‘I know, but I’m going to do better. I’m going to change him.’ She fell away” (Andy Kizer).
- B. Why enter a marriage to do battle all your life?
- C. If he will not change now to win your heart, what makes you think he will change later?
- D. Many times those who were going to change their mates became the ones changing!
- E. Continue to ask the question, “Will this person help me to go to heaven?”
- F. Also ask, “Is this the person I want to be the mother/father of my children?”
- G. What if they do not change?

XI. OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER.

- A. If he cannot get along with people,
- B. If he cannot handle money,
- C. If he will not take care of himself,

- D. If he is not truthful (trust is a must in marriage),
- E. If he is not faithful to you while dating, and
- F. If he has no morals.

CONCLUSION.

1. "Divorce" a bad mate before you marry him.
2. "Divorce" a bad mate before you marry him and bear his children
3. "Divorce" a bad mate before you marry him and bear his children and all of you lose your souls.
4. A bad mate can encourage you to do wrong:
 - a. 1 Kgs 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.
5. Mk 6:16-28 But when Herod heard *thereof*, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead. ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. ¹⁹Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: ²⁰For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. ²¹And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief *estates* of Galilee; ²²And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give *it* thee. ²³And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give *it* thee, unto the half of my kingdom. ²⁴And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. ²⁵And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. ²⁶And the king was exceeding sorry; *yet* for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.

ARE ALL MEN AMENABLE TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

INTRODUCTION.

1. There are those who claim that all men are not amenable to the gospel of Christ.
 2. There is a reason many take this view.
 3. They are trying to get around God's laws on marriage, divorce and remarriage.
 4. The argument goes like this: If the person out in the world is not amenable to the law of Christ, then he is not amenable to God's law on marriage, divorce and remarriage.
 5. Therefore, if one in the world has been married eight times and learns the truth about the plan of salvation and the one true church, then all he has to do obey the gospel and he can keep wife number eight.
 6. They also teach that the law of Christ is not retroactive. Therefore, one cannot tell a man that he needs to repent of divorcing and remarrying unscripturally because the law of God did not apply to him.
 7. This doctrine is totally false.
 8. Here are a few problems:
 - a. What about the Mormon with eight wives? Can he keep all of them?
 - b. What about homosexual marriages?
 - c. What about group marriages?
 9. The advocates of the aforementioned false doctrine claim that the alien sinner is subject only to the invitation of our Lord. This means the gospel plan of salvation.
 - a. He must prove that this is the case, but he cannot!
- I. IF ONE IS NOT AMENABLE TO THE LAW OF CHRIST THEN THERE CAN BE NO SIN ON THEIR PART.**
- A. False teachers had to come up with a new law for the alien to violate so that he could become a sinner. This is the law of the heart.

- B. They misuse Rom 2:14,15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;).
1. There is not a law written on the heart that directs our lives.
 2. We have a conscience and it must be educated.
 3. Jere 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.
 4. Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
 5. Prov 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.
 6. Prov 21:2 Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.
- C. Rom 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.
- D. Rom 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.
- E. Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.
- F. Rom 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- G. 1 Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- H. Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
- I. If all have sinned, then all are subject to the law of Christ.
1. Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

II. IF ONE IS SUBJECT TO ANY PART OF THE LAW, THEN HE IS SUBJECT TO ALL OF IT.

- A. Those who teach that the alien sinner is not subject to the gospel of Christ except the invitation choose the part of the law to which they want to subject the alien.
- B. They claim **we** are not under all the law.
 - 1. A husband is not commanded to be a good wife.
 - 2. A wife is not commanded to be the head of the home.
 - 3. Women are not subject to the qualifications to be an elder.
 - 4. Children are not subject to the commands to be a good mother or father.
- C. They also claim that the **alien sinner** is not commanded to:
 - 1. Partake of the Lord's supper.
 - 2. Honor a withdrawal from a member of the church.
 - 3. Attend all services.
 - 4. Expose false teachers.
- D. Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.
- E. Jas 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.
- F. The religious world has striven to take certain things from the law of Moses.
 - 1. Sabbath,
 - 2. Instrumental music,
 - 3. Burning of incense,
 - 4. Priesthood,

- 5. Polygamy,
- 6. Woman cannot wear that which pertains to a man,
- 7. Tithing.
- G. It is all or none.
- H. We will not grant to these false teachers the invitation of our Lord.

III. ALL MEN ARE UNDER A WORLDWIDE COMMISSION.

- A. Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.
- B. Mk 16:15,16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
- C. Lk 24:47-49 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And ye are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
- D. Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- E. Acts 10:34,35 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.
- F. Who did Paul preach to on his missionary journeys?

IV. ALL MEN ARE COMMANDED TO REPENT.

- A. Acts 17:30,31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man

whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

1. What sin had they committed?
 2. Not one time were they called upon to repent for violating the law of the heart.
- B. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- C. Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.
- D. Lk 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
- E. 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

V. ALL MEN WILL BE JUDGED BY THE SAME STANDARD FOR THIS AGE.

- A. Jn 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:
- B. Jn 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.
- C. Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- D. Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.
- E. Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

VI. QUESTIONS.

A. Some teach that the alien sinner is not amenable to the Bible. Consider these true or false questions.

- _____ 1. God joins together in marriage only those who have met His marriage laws as set forth in the New Testament.
- _____ 2. It is proper to bind 1 Cor 7:2 on an alien sinner.
- _____ 3. God disjoins only those who comply with His divorce laws as set forth in the New Testament.
- _____ 4. All people who marry are bound both to his/her mate and to the law of God.
- _____ 5. Billy Graham sins against the teachings of the New Testament in teaching that men are saved by faith only.
- _____ 6. The Bible teaches that if a man is subject to any part of a covenant then he is subject to all of it.
- _____ 7. Joseph Smith sinned against the teachings of the New Testament by writing the book of Mormon.
- _____ 8. The law of the heart (all questions on the law of the heart are to be answered as per your understanding of Rom 2:14,15) gives the positive qualifications for marriage, divorce and remarriage for alien sinners.
- _____ 9. All men (responsible people) are obligated to become Christians and glorify God through Christian living and worship.
- _____ 10. The law of the heart teaches that it is wrong to have more than one wife.
- _____ 11. The alien sinner can put away his wife for the cause of fornication and be right in the sight of God.
- _____ 12. If the alien sinner marries five wives (in harmony with civil law), then God joins all of those wives (alien sinners) to him (the alien sinner).
- _____ 13. I (John Doe) know that God will not join five wives (alien sinners) to one husband (alien sinner).

- _____ 14. When the gospel was taught to every creature in the first century, every creature was amenable to the gospel (Col. 1:23).
- _____ 15. The alien sinner who adds to or takes from God's word commits no sin in so doing.
- _____ 16. The law of Christ is retroactive to the alien sinner who is desirous of becoming a Christian.
- _____ 17. It would be sinful to make even one New Testament passage on marriage, divorce and remarriage retroactive on an alien sinner desiring to become a Christian.
- _____ 18. If one passage in the New Testament can be made retroactive on the alien sinner, then all can.
- _____ 19. If a man is ignorant of a law, then he has no obligation to keep it.
- _____ 20. An alien sinner who puts away his mate for a cause other than fornication and marries again does not sin against the teachings of the New Testament.
- _____ 21. An alien sinner upset because the church has withdrawn from his mother bursts into a worship service and curses out the preacher, elders and members, but in so doing committed no sin.
- _____ 22. A responsible Jew (42 years of age) was amenable to the law of Moses if, and only if, he cared enough to learn it.
- _____ 23. An alien sinner (42 years of age) today is amenable to the New Testament if, and only if, he cares enough to learn the law.
- _____ 24. Marriage (for the alien sinner) is governed only by the law of the heart and civil law. (In other words, if one thinks in his heart he is married, and if the civil law says he is, then God is obligated to join the people together in marriage.)
- _____ 25. A church of Christ that teaches that homosexuals (alien sinners) sin against the teachings of the New Testament in being homosexuals is a church that teaches false doctrine and if it does not repent will be lost.

- _____26. A church of Christ that teaches that women (alien sinners) who abort children are women who sin against the teachings of the New Testament and, therefore, is a church which teaches false doctrine and if it does not repent will be lost.
- _____27. An alien sinner who encourages a Christian in a sinful act (murder) sins in so doing.
- _____28. An alien sinner who has read the Bible over and over is under no obligation to obey the gospel and partake of the Lord's supper.
- _____29. Frank, a Christian, and his friend Joe (alien sinner), both of whom attend the same congregation, decided that they were going to pervert the Lord's supper and, in so doing, only Frank sinned.
- _____30. If one lives in harmony with the law of his heart and kills another, and civil law does not condemn it, then no sin was committed. (Consider Saul of Tarsus.)
- _____31. All churches which teach that the alien sinner is under obligation to the teachings of the New Testament are churches which teach false doctrine, and if they do not repent will be lost.
- _____32. Two alien sinners (man and woman) who feel in their hearts that it is not wrong to live together (and do so), and this does not violate civil law, do not commit sin.
- _____33. A church of Christ that teaches that a woman (an alien sinner) who preaches violates the teachings of the New Testament sins in teaching this, and if it does not repent will be lost.
- _____34. The law of the heart teaches that in a marriage of two alien sinners (man and woman) that the man is the head of the home.
- _____35. A church of Christ that teaches that the man is the head of the home in a marriage where two alien sinners are married teaches false doctrine in applying these verses to alien sinner sinners and will be lost if it does not repent.

- _____ 36. The law of the heart teaches the alien sinner mother and father that their child is to be brought up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord.
- _____ 37. God has put all mothers and fathers under an obligation to bring their children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord.
- _____ 38. A church of Christ that teaches alien sinners that they have a God-given obligation to bring their children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord is a church which sins, and if it does not repent will be lost.
- _____ 39. An alien sinner is under a God-given obligation to obey the laws of the land.
- _____ 40. The law of the heart teaches man that one must obey the laws of the land.
- _____ 41. The alien sinner, who dies an alien sinner, will be judged by the laws of the heart on judgment day.
- _____ 42. The alien sinner, who dies an alien sinner, will be judged by the words of Christ on judgment day.
- _____ 43. A church of Christ that teaches the alien sinner that he must obey the laws of the land, (those in harmony with God's law) because this is what the New Testament binds on all men, sins in teaching this and if it does not repent will be lost.
- _____ 44. An alien sinner who put away his mate for a reason other than fornication and marries another has God's approval in this matter for God will join him together with his new mate.
- _____ 45. A Christian who puts away his Christian mate for a reason other than fornication and marries another has God's approval in this matter for God will join him together with his new mate.
- _____ 46. A Christian (being innocent) who puts away his mate for the cause of fornication and marries another (qualified to be married) has God's approval in this matter for He will join him together with his new mate.

- _____ 47. An alien sinner who cheats on his income taxes commits no sin against the teachings of the New Testament.
- _____ 48. There is Bible authority for a Christian (being innocent) to put away his mate (alien sinner) for the cause of fornication and marry again.
- _____ 49. All alien sinners who do not obey the gospel will go to hell.
- _____ 50. All churches of Christ who bind on alien sinners the New Testament doctrine of hell are churches who teach error and if they do not repent will be lost.
- _____ 51. I (John Doe) tell the Baptist that I am trying to teach that he is not amenable to the teachings of the New Testament.
- _____ 52. If a Baptist asks me (John Doe) if he sins in using instrumental music in worship to God, I tell him no, because he is not amenable to the New Testament.
- _____ 53. All churches of Christ that teach that the Baptist church sins in using instrumental music in worship to God are churches that sin for binding the New Testament on alien sinners, and if they do not repent will be lost.
- _____ 54. Only Christians can teach doctrines contrary to the New Testament and be held accountable.
- _____ 55. All alien sinners who teach doctrines contrary to the New Testament (partaking of the Lord's supper on Thursday night) are people who violate New Testament law in so doing, thus committing sin.
- _____ 56. If I (Wesley Simons) can prove to you (John Doe) that you will make part of the law of Christ retroactive, then you will give up your false view on this matter.
- _____ 57. Any person (and he has had knowledge of this for years) who attends a church of Christ and binds the New Testament on all people, sins in so doing.
- _____ 58. If two alien sinners (husband and wife) come to me (John Doe) arguing over who is the head of the house, I will gladly tell them that the New Testament does not address this issue - for they are alien sinners.

- _____ 59. I (John Doe) am amenable to all of the New Testament in some since.
- _____ 60. I (John Doe) am amenable to all of the Old Testament law as a tool from which to learn (Rom 15:4).
- _____ 61. A man can be amenable to an entire body of law without having the same relationship or accountability to each individual law. (Consider the constitution of the USA.)
- _____ 62. The New Testament teaches that all who violate the law of the heart will be lost in a devil's hell.
- _____ 63. The New Testament clearly teaches that there is such a thing as the law of the heart.
- _____ 64. If a gainsayer (alien sinner) teaches that which is contrary to New Testament law, then we are under a God-given obligation to stand against him, but also to teach him that he is not amenable to that which he has perverted.
- _____ 65. A Christian married to an alien sinner who becomes a homosexual may put that mate away for the cause of fornication and marry another who is qualified.
- _____ 66. There is sometimes a conflict between the law of the heart and the teachings of the New Testament.
- _____ 67. Every law of the New Testament is covered by the blood of Christ.
- _____ 68. Every law in the law of the heart is covered by the blood of Christ.
- _____ 69. If there is a conflict between the law of the heart and the law of Christ, and if the alien sinner keeps the law of the heart and ignores the law of Christ, then he has sinned by adding to the blood-covered law of Christ.
- _____ 70. It would be right (in the sight of God) for a government composed of all alien sinners to pass a law that one could divorce and re-marry for any reason.

- _____71. The law makers of America will have to give an account on judgment day for passing laws allowing people to divorce and remarry for any reason.
- _____72. Alien sinners have a God-given obligation to seek God.
- _____73. All men have the same body of truth in the law of the heart.
- _____74. An alien sinner can live and die a Baptist and the fact that he was a Baptist would not be sinful.
- _____75. Madalyn Murray O'Hare sinned when she declared the Bible to be a bunch of garbage that needs to be burned.
- _____76. Marriage is a spiritual blessing and is located in Christ.
- _____77. A church of Christ involved in benevolence has an alien sinner come to them who will not work, but asks for help. The church refuses to help him by applying 1 Tim 5:8 and, in so doing, commits sin.
- _____78. In the case where two alien sinners are married, their marriage does not become "holy" until at least one of them becomes a Christian.
- _____79. All people whom God has not joined together in marriage sin if they have sex.
- _____80. All alien sinners who will not honor their mother and father sin against what the Bible teaches on this point.
- _____81. Two homosexuals (alien sinners) who believe with all their heart they were born that way, and feel that they cannot change their sexual preference, commit sin.
- _____82. If a thing is said to be against nature, then all responsible people in their own hearts will automatically understand the thing to be sin.
- _____83. Sometimes a man might have do those things which go against his own heart's desire to be pleasing to God.
- _____84. A man could live in total harmony with the law of the heart and be saved.

- _____ 85. I (John Doe) first became a sinner because I violated New Testament law.
- _____ 86. The New Testament says that the law of the heart can be violated.
- _____ 87. The law of the heart and natural revelation are two different things.
- _____ 88. The Jews who persecuted Paul in the first century sinned.
- _____ 89. A Jew in the first century could deny the Christ and His words without committing sin.
- _____ 90. Elymas sinned against the teachings of the New Testament in trying to turn the deputy from the faith (Acts 13:8).
- _____ 91. The Catholic church sins against the teachings of the New Testament in praying to Mary.
- _____ 92. A church withdraws from a brother for being a homosexual, an alien sinner takes up for the homosexual and slanders the Lord's church in the local newspaper. I (John Doe) declare that the alien sinner committed no sin in so doing.
- _____ 93. God will not join two alien sinners (male and female), who are both eligible, in marriage.
- _____ 94. In 1 Cor 5, a man had his fathers wife - he sinned. It appears that the woman was not a member of the Lord's church, but she still sinned against the teachings of the New Testament.
- _____ 95. When I see the people of Hollywood (alien sinners) divorcing and remarrying over and over (for any reason), then I can truthfully tell my children this is pleasing to God.
- _____ 96. The Stoney Creek church of Christ is a congregation that teaches false doctrine on marriage, divorce and remarriage and needs to be marked if it will not repent.
- _____ 97. The alien sinner sins when he takes God's name in vain.
- _____ 98. The alien sinner who involves himself in social drinking sins.

_____ 99. When I see the people in Hollywood (alien sinners) divorcing and remarrying over and over again (for any reason), then I can truthfully tell my children that these people have sinned personally against the teachings of the New Testament.
(Some of these questions are from Roy Deaver.)

B. These question expose the ungodly doctrine which says that the alien sinner is not amenable to the gospel of Christ.

CAN THE GUILTY PARTY REMARRY?

INTRODUCTION.

1. We have those who have begun to declare that the guilty party can remarry after being put away for the cause of fornication.
2. This false doctrine allows for “spouse-swapping.”
3. God’s general rule on marriage: Lk 16:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from *her* husband committeth adultery.
4. This means that all parties who divorce their mates are parties who commit adultery.
5. However, the Lord gives one exception in Matt 19:9.
6. The Lord’s attitude is that the one who has chosen to be unfaithful to his marriage vows and corrupt the marriage bed can be put away for that cause.
7. By fornication we mean all illicit sexual intercourse such as: adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, etc.
8. God will not demand that an innocent party live with a fornicator.
9. A fornicator sets the innocent mate up for:
 - a. Venereal diseases.
 - b. If a woman, illegitimate children; if a man, children outside of marriage.
 - c. A lying mate.
 - e. Ridicule from community.
10. If both parties are free to remarry then Matt 19:9 has no application.

I. WHO HAS A RIGHT TO GET MARRIED?

- A. **Those who have never been married before:** Matt 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

- B. **Those whose mates have died:** Rom 7:1-3 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. ³So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.
- C. **The innocent party who puts his mate away for the cause of fornication:** Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- D. Where is Bible authority for the guilty party to remarry?

II. **WHAT THREE CLASSES OF PEOPLE COMMIT ADULTERY ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 19:9?**

- A. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- B. One cannot assume the right to remarry.
- C. Classes which commit adultery:
 - 1. Those who divorce for trivial reasons and remarry.
 - 2. Those who have been divorced for trivial reasons and remarry.
 - 3. The guilty party, because of no Bible authority.

III. **IS SIN PROFITABLE?**

- A. What if an innocent party is divorced without an appeal to fornication?
 - 1. 1 Cor 7:10,11 And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.
- B. We are told by some that one can commit fornication, be divorced and remarry and that marriage be scriptural.

- C. Here is a man who has found a lady he is interested in, but he has not committed fornication with her. If he divorces his wife and marries this woman he will then commit adultery.
- D. However, according to some, he can commit fornication and be divorced by his innocent wife, then he will have a right to remarry without committing adultery.
- E. Sin becomes a very helpful friend!

IV. OBJECTIONS.

A. The innocent party is given too much power over the guilty party.

- 1. The innocent party has no power except what God has given him/her.
- 2. This shows the view of God toward marriage.
- 3. When one commits fornication, he sins against his own body.
- 4. This severe penalty shows those involved in a marriage the importance of faithfulness.

B. It makes the guilty party do penance for the rest of his life.

- 1. Some state: "Surely he will not have to pay for this one mistake for the rest of his life!"
- 2. Heb 12:14-17 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. ¹⁷For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.
- 3. Some sins have to be paid for with a life spent in prison.
- 4. Some sins (murder) might cost one his own life.
- 5. Marriage is important to God and society.

C. The “handcuff argument.”

1. If one is free, then both are free!
2. It is like taking handcuffs off.
 - a. A police officer walks into a cell handcuffed to a crook. The police officer takes the handcuffs off and is free, but the crook is bound by the cell.
 - b. In marriage one is not only bound to his mate, but also to the law of God.
 - c. One might be free from his mate, but not free from the law of God.
3. Rom 7:1-3 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. ³So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

D. The exception clause refers to both the innocent and the guilty parties.

1. **The verse would have to read:** Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away (**except *it be* for fornication**) doth commit adultery. (This is a gross perversion of the verse.)
2. The verse does not read that way!
3. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
4. If the exception clause refers to both parties, then God does not have a law on marriage, divorce and remarriage.

E. The put away fornicator is not married, therefore can be married.

1. This is a must to avoid fornication.
2. 1 Cor 7:2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
3. Fornication is the reason he cannot be remarried.
4. Shall he be rewarded for committing fornication?
5. We are not saying that he cannot remarry, because he is married.
6. We do not believe that he is married.
7. If he is still married to his first mate, then the innocent party could not remarry because she would have a mate.
8. The guilty party is bound by the law of God.
9. Some believe that if the guilty party's ex-mate dies then the guilty party is free to marry.
 - a. Such is false!
 - b. Again, the guilty party is not bound to the innocent party.
 - c. Do not fall into this error.

F. If the put away fornicator cannot remarry, then he could not remarry the innocent party.

1. The key here is the word "another."
2. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry **another**, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
3. Remember, one must have Bible authority to marry.

G. What if you are wrong and the guilty party could remarry with God's approval, then you have sentenced him to a life of celibacy.

1. We are not wrong.

2. We can know the truth on marriage, divorce and remarriage.
3. Since we are playing the “what if” game, “what if” you assure the guilty party that he can remarry with God’s approval and such is false? Then you have two souls damned to hell. You also have destroyed God’s marriage laws!
4. Which is worse, a celibate life or and eternity in hell?
5. Again, we ask for Bible authority for the right of the guilty party to remarry.

H. Where is the Bible passage which says the guilty party cannot remarry?

1. This is a wrong approach to Bible authority.
2. We have those who want to know:
 - a. Where does the Bible say one cannot use instrumental music?
 - b. Where does the Bible say one cannot baptize babies?
 - c. Where does the Bible say cannot partake of the Lord’s supper on Tuesday night?
3. The key is the Bible tells us what to do and then says do not add to or take away from the Word of God.
4. We must respect the silence of the scripture:
 - a. Heb 7:14 For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.
 - c. Lev 10:1,2 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. ²And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.
5. The Bible tells who can marry:
 - a. Those who have never been married before (Matt 19:5).

b. Those who have been married, but their mates died (Rom 7:1-3).

c. Those who, being innocent, have put their mates away for the cause of fornication (Matt 19:9).

6. No one else has Bible authority to marry.

7. We cannot add to the Word of God!

8. It is a matter of Bible authority.

I. There is no such thing as an innocent party, therefore both parties have a right to remarry.

1. The Lord did not know that.

2. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

3. Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

DOES BAPTISM WASH AWAY AN ADULTEROUS MARRIAGE?

INTRODUCTION.

1. There are those who believe that one can divorce and remarry as many times as they so please prior to obeying the gospel, then obey the gospel and keep their last wives.
2. They claim we make unscriptural marriages the “unpardonable sin.”
3. All sins are pardonable if one will repent.
4. Can one live in sin and be pleasing to God?
 - a. Rom 6:1,2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
 - b. Col 3:5-7 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

I. ARGUMENTS THEY USE TO TRY TO PROVE THEIR POINT.

- A. They claim that the “committeth adultery” of Matthew 19:9 is a one time act.
 1. The term “committeth adultery” is present tense and denotes continuous action still in the process of taking place.
 2. 1 Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
 3. If the adultery is a one time action, when did it take place?
 4. If it was at the first time the couple had sex, then God would not join together two fornicators.
 - a. Why wasn’t it adultery the second time and third, etc.?

- b. If one says the adultery was when the marriage ceremony was said, then this gives a new definition to adultery.
 - c. When did God join the two adulterers together?
 - 5. Will God honor His own laws on marriage, divorce and remarriage?
 - 6. The God of heaven cannot involve Himself in a sinful act: Psa 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.
 - 7. Is it scriptural for a gospel preacher to perform the ceremony for two people who are entering into an adulterous marriage?
 - 8. Is it scriptural for the God of heaven to join two people together in an adulterous marriage?
- B. They claim that the government recognizes them as married.
 - 1. Just because one is recognized as being married by the government does not mean that the marriage is lawful in the sight of God.
 - a. What about gay marriages recognized by the government?
 - b. What about lesbian marriages recognized by the government?
 - c. What about polygamous marriages recognized by the government?
 - 2. Mk 6:17-19 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. ¹⁹Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not.
 - 3. We must obey God.
 - a. Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.
 - b. Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

- C. The blood of Jesus covers all sins.
1. The blood covers all sins for which one repents.
 2. One cannot stay in a sin and claim that he has repented.
 3. Let us treat unscriptural marriage just as we would any other sin:
 - a. Murderer ("hit man").
 - b. Thief.
 - c. Liar.
 - d. Drug dealer.
 - e. One who is shackled-up.
 - f. Homosexuality.
 4. Lk 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
 5. Acts 17:30,31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
 6. Repentance is turning from that which one knows to be wrong to accept that which one knows to be right - moved and motivated by godly sorrow.
- D. There cannot always be restitution
1. They cite such things as:
 - a. Murder.
 - b. A lie that destroyed a person.
 - c. Drugs given to a person, destroying his mind.
 2. So they argue that they cannot go back to their first mate.

- a. 1 Cor 7:10,11 And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.
- b. The Bible says remain single or be reconciled to the scriptural mate.

E. Marriage is supposed to be permanent.

- 1. They will make the statement that we believe in more divorce than they do, because a person has to divorce one more time to be right in the sight of God.
- 2. Marriage is to be permanent. However, we are talking about a scriptural marriage that is to be permanent.
- 3. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- 4. Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

F. We are happy and God wants us to be happy.

- 1. Many people in religious error are happy, but that does not make it right.
- 2. Happiness is not the standard for right and wrong. God's Word is!
- 3. Christians in the first century might not have been too happy to have laid down their life for the cause of Christ, but they did the right thing!
- 4. Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- 5. Two homosexuals might be happily married, but this is not the issue.
- 6. A man might be happy with eight wives, but this is not the issue.

7. Herod might have been happy with Herodias, but that was not the issue.
 8. Mk 6:17-19 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. ¹⁹Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not.
- G. Where in the Bible does one read about an apostle asking someone to leave an unscriptural marriage?
1. Where in the Bible does the Bible command one to leave a denominational church?
 2. Where in the Bible does it tell two homosexuals who are happily married to divorce?
 3. Where in the Bible does it tell the African chief to leave four of his five wives whom he has married?
 4. Where in the Bible does it tell the drug dealer that he must quit selling drugs to be right in the sight of God?
 5. When the Bible shows a thing to be sinful, then one must come out of that sin to be right in the sight of God.
 6. Otherwise, one has God endorsing sinful actions!
 7. What does it mean to "repent?"
 8. **Repentance is turning from that which one knows to be wrong to accept that which one knows to be right - moved and motivated by godly sorrow.**
 9. Repentance is a change of mind with a view to do better.
- H. According to this position one half of the world is lost to any evangelistic effort.
1. All are subject to the gospel of Christ and can be saved if they will repent.
 2. Shall we take this same view toward religious error?

3. Billions are involved in religious error. Shall we write them off as lost and forget it?
 4. Sin is the reason man needs the Lord.
 5. Lk 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
 6. Jn 4:16-18 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. ¹⁷The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.
- I. What about the children?
1. We are sorry for the innocent children who get caught up in divorce.
 2. However, what about the children in the first marriage? Do they not have a right to both a mother and a father?
 3. Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

II. WHAT IS BIBLICAL REPENTANCE?

- A. Can a person say he has repented if he has not changed his mind toward the sinful acts in which he was involved?
- B. Can a man say he has repented if he says that he has changed his mind toward the sinful acts in which he was involved and continues to do them?
- C. Rom 6:1,2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, **live** any longer therein?
- D. Rom 6:12 Let not sin therefore **reign** in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- E. Rom 6:16-18 Know ye not, that to whom ye **yield** yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷But God be thanked, that ye were the **servants of sin**, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

- F. Remember that repentance is a change of mind with a view to do God's will.
- G. Repentance is turning from that which one knows to be wrong to accept that which one knows to be right, moved and motivated by godly sorrow.
- H. Let us treat the subject of unscriptural marriages just as we would all sins.
 - 1. The Mormon who has eight wives.
 - 2. The African chief who has five wives.
 - 3. The homosexuals.
 - 4. The lesbians.
 - 5. The drug dealers.

III. QUESTIONS.

- A. Should we baptize those in unscriptural marriages who refuse to repent?
Answer: NO!
- B. Should we baptize those in homosexual marriages who refuse to repent?
Answer: NO!
- C. Should we baptized those who are involved in polygamy if they refuse to repent?
Answer: NO!
- D. Should we baptize a drug dealer who will not quit selling drugs?
Answer: NO!
- E. Should we baptize anyone who refuses to repent?
Answer: NO!
- F. Lk 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

- G. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- H. Acts 17:30,31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
- I. One might ask, "Where is Bible authority for a refusal to baptize anyone?"
- J. I can baptize only those who are qualified for baptism.
1. I cannot baptize babies,
 2. I cannot baptize atheists,
 3. I cannot baptize one who does not believe in Jesus,
 4. I cannot baptize one who will not confess the Christ,
 5. I cannot baptize one who will not repent.
- K. Those who claim we do not have Bible authority to refuse baptism to anyone, will they:
1. Baptize babies?
 2. Baptize atheists?
 3. Baptize those who do not believe in Christ?
 4. Baptize practicing homosexuals?
 5. Baptize people who are shackled-up?
 6. Baptize a Mormon who has ten wives?
 7. Baptize a person who says he is not going to leave denominational error?

CONCLUSION.

1. Let us treat unscriptural marriages just as we do all sins.
2. Let us call upon men and women to repent so they can be saved.
3. Unscriptural marriages are not unpardonable!
4. However, one must repent of them in order to be saved.
5. Acts 17:30,31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
6. We must teach our children now so that they will not find themselves in unscriptural marriages.
7. Some things are extremely hard!
8. It is also hard to leave a denominational church and all of one's friends, but one must repent!

THE PAULINE PRIVILEGE: A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS 7:15

by Wayne Jackson and Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. 1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.
2. There are those who believe that Paul gives another reason for divorce.
3. "... What does 'not in bondage' mean? The fathers, at least to some extent, the Catholic and older Protestant interpreters, understood it to mean *not in bondage* to keep up the marriage connection, and hence, at *liberty* to contract a new one." (McClintock, John & Strong, James, Eds., **Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological & Ecclesiastical Literature**, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968, II, p. 841).
4. Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
 - a. The Lord gave only one exception.
5. All parties who divorce and remarry are parties that continue to commit adultery except those who being innocent put their mates away for the cause of fornication.
6. John 3:3-5 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
7. In this age, all responsible parties are lost and doomed to hell except those who have been born again.
8. One cannot make a second way into the kingdom. Neither can one find a second reason for divorce and remarriage.
9. Roy Deaver put it this way:
 - a. Maj. Prem. If it is the case that John 3:5 teaches that the only way one can get into the kingdom is to be baptized, then it is the case that any interpre-

tation of any passage which contradicts that teaching is an erroneous interpretation.

- b. Min. Prem. It is the case that John 3:5 teaches that the only way one can get into the kingdom is to be baptized.
 - c. Conc. It is the case that any interpretation of any passage which contradicts that teaching is an erroneous interpretation.
10. So then, the religious world is wrong when they try to use passages which say one is to believe as proof that one enters the kingdom by faith alone.

I. ARGUMENTS USED TO SHOW THAT THE DESERTED PARTY IS FREE TO REMARRY.

A. Supplemental Revelation

- 1. They claim that 1 Corinthians 7:15 is supplemental revelation.
- 2. They claim that God did not have divorce in view in Genesis 2:24: Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- 3. Therefore, the giving of Matthew 19:9 is supplementary revelation.
- 4. In like manner, according to these false teachers, 1 Corinthians 7:15 is supplementary revelation.
- 5. Roy Deaver came up with the following syllogism to show how wrong the aforementioned statements are.
 - a. Maj. premise: If it is the case that Matthew 19:9 teaches that the **only scriptural ground for divorce and remarriage** is the ground of one's having put away his companion because of that companion's fornication, then it is the case that any interpretation of any passage which contradicts that teaching is an erroneous interpretation.
 - b. Min. premise: It is the case that Matthew 19:9 teaches that the **only scriptural ground for divorce and remarriage** is the ground of one's having put away his companion because of that companion's fornication.

- c. Conc. It is the case that any interpretation of **any passage which contradicts that teaching is an erroneous interpretation.**

6. Therefore, those who misuse 1 Corinthians 7:15 are wrong.

B. Presupposes fornication

- 1. Some brethren have argued that if one leaves his believing wife, then he will eventually fornicate and this is what Paul had in mind.
 - a. “Verses 15-16, in the case of the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever, whereby the believer is “not under bondage” and is therefore set free. If the bondage here does not refer to the marriage bond, then the believer would still be in the bondage of it. To advocate, as some do, that the passage means the believer is not bound to live or remain with the departing unbeliever would be a truism, for it is set forth as a case of abandonment and the abandoned one obviously *could not* abide with the one who had departed. It appears evident that when the unbeliever so departs it presupposes a state of adultery which exists in the principle previously discussed, and here the apostle’s inspired teaching is again projected beyond the Lord’s own strictures and declares the abandoned believer “not under bondage.” If that does not mean that the believer in these circumstances is free to marry, then it cannot mean anything, for if the one involved is not altogether free the bondage would still exist.” (Foy Wallace, ***The Sermon on The Mount and The Civil State***, p.45).
- 2. There is not a person living that knows this.
- 3. Just because one walks off and leaves his mate does not mean that he is going to commit fornication.
 - a. Even if he did, how would the innocent party know this?
 - b. When would the innocent party pursue the divorce, before or after the fact?

C. If one does not grant the Pauline privilege, then he is assigning to the deserted mate a life of celibacy.

- 1. 1 Corinthians 7:10,11 And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if

she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

2. Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

II. CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DOCTRINE.

A. Contradicts the Lord's teaching

1. Matthew 5:32 But I say unto you, **That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
2. He did not say, "**saving for the cause of fornication, and desertion.**"
3. Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
4. He did not say, "**except it be for fornication, and desertion.**"
5. Matthew 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
 - a. According to this false interpretation the disbelieve can put asunder what God has joined together by leaving his believing mate!
6. If it contradicts the Lord's teaching, it cannot be right.
7. Was the Lord right when He gave **only one exception for divorce and remarriage?**

B. Contradicts the teachings of Paul

1. 1 Cor. 7:10,11 And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the **wife depart from *her* husband:** ¹¹But and if she

depart, **let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband:** and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

2. 1 Cor. 7:12-14 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. ¹³And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

C. It makes God a respecter of persons:

1. Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
 - a. A put away innocent party cannot remarry without committing adultery.
2. 1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.
 - a. We are told by some that if one's mate deserts him, then he is free to remarry.
 - b. One better hope that his mate leaves him rather than divorcing him unscripturally.

D. It makes the marriage law void. All one has to do is to state my mate deserted me.

E. It destroys the teaching of Matthew 19:9.

III. MEANING OF PASSAGE.

- A. "The word "bound" is **not** the word used for the marriage bond. The word used here is *douloo*. Of the 133 times this word is used in the New Testament, it never refers to marriage. The word used for the marriage bond is *deo*, as in Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:29,39, and means to tie, bind." (Max Patterson.)

- B. “The form of the verb prohibits reference to marriage. It is a perfect passive indicative verb form [with a negative] and its force is “was not, and is not bound.” Whatever the bondage is, the believer is not now, nor have they ever been in it. It could not refer to the marriage, because if it did, one would have Paul saying you are not now married, nor have you even been in the past.” (MP.)
- C. “The context shows the relationship to be one with Christ. In verses 21 and 22, the noun form of this verb has reference to being a servant of Christ. Therefore, one has not now, nor has he ever been bound **to Christ** in fulfilling the commitments of marriage when that person to whom we are married is no longer pleased to dwell with us. The answer to the question, “What, then?” will have to be answered by other verses, as this verse does not deal with that question.” (MP.)
- D. “One cannot place an interpretation on a verse that contradicts another clearly stated law, such as Matthew 19:9.” (MP.)
- E. “1 Cor. 7:10, 11 clearly shows the alternatives to marriage. “Let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband.” Is it not amazing that God always uses the exact word needed to convey his will? The problem is not in what is said, but our trying to wrest what is said, and that to our own destruction.” (MP.)
- F. It is a huge assumption to conclude from 1 Corinthians 7:15 that Paul has added revelation to what the Lord has taught in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9.
- G. J. D. Bales added a new dimension to this verse.

A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS 7:39

INTRODUCTION.

1. The verse states: 1 Cor 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.
2. Notice, the Bible teaches that there are laws that bind relative to marriage.
3. As long as the husband lives, the wife is bound.
4. The same thought is found in Rom 7:1-3: Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.
5. We want to talk about God's law on marriage.
6. There are those who contend that a Christian widow must marry a Christian.
7. If this is true then this, too, is a law of God on marriage.
8. All who violate this law would be guilty of sin. If not, why not?
9. We want to show some arguments that we are convinced proves that the Bible does not teach a Christian widow must marry a Christian.

I. POINTS TO PONDER.

- A. Why doesn't a virgin have to marry a Christian?
- B. Why doesn't a widower have to marry a Christian?
- C. Why does a widow who becomes a Christian not have to marry a Christian?
- D. Why doesn't the widow who is non-Christian have to marry a Christian?

- E. Why does Paul say that it is all right for a Christian to be married to a non-Christian? 1 Cor 7:12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

II. QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ANSWERED.

- A. These true or false questions are very important.

- _____ 1. 1 Cor 7:39 teaches that a Christian widow must marry a Christian.
- _____ 2. God joins only those in marriage that comply to His marriage laws.
- _____ 3. If the laws of the land say that a person is married then, in the sight of God, they are married.
- _____ 4. God joins together two homosexual men in marriage.
- _____ 5. God joins together two lesbians in marriage.
- _____ 6. God joins together an unscripturally divorced man to an unscripturally divorced woman in marriage.
- _____ 7. The Christian widow who marries a non-Christian violates God's law on marriage.
- _____ 8. God joins together a Christian widow to a non-Christian man.
- _____ 9. God has one marriage law for the Christian widow and another marriage law for the non-Christian widow.
- _____ 10. I agree that there is one law for the Christian and another for the non-Christian.
- _____ 11. God disjoins only those who comply with His laws.
- _____ 12. If the laws of the land say that a person is divorced then, in the sight of God, they are divorced.
- _____ 13. If the laws of the land say that a Christian widow can take a non-Christian man for her husband, and they marry, then they are married even though (according to some) it violates God's word.

- _____ 14. The laws of the land are always in harmony with God's laws on marriage, divorce and remarriage.
- _____ 15. All marriages that comply with civil law, but are out of harmony with God's law, are scriptural.
- _____ 16. A person who marries unscripturally involves himself in sin.
- _____ 17. A person who divorces unscripturally involves himself in sin.
- _____ 18. The only way a person has a right to get married is that God gives them that right or authority.
- _____ 19. A Christian widow who marries a man not qualified (one unscripturally divorced, though a Christian) must get out of that relationship.
- _____ 20. Sin is a violation of God's law.
- _____ 21. All unscripturally married people must come out of those unscriptural conditions.
- _____ 22. We can fellowship only those who are married in harmony with God's law.
- _____ 23. We must withdraw from all widows who marry non-Christians if they will not repent.
- _____ 24. All churches that teach that "only in the Lord" means to marry in harmony with God's will are churches which teach false doctrine.
- _____ 25. A church which takes into fellowship a Christian widow who has married a non-Christian man sins in so doing.
- _____ 26. I will call upon any Christian widow who has married a non-Christian man to come out of that ungodly relationship or be disciplined by God's people.
- _____ 27. God is in fellowship with a Christian widow who has married a non-Christian man.
- _____ 28. I am in fellowship with a Christian widow who has married a non-Christian man.

- _____ 29. A homosexual who says he has repented and keeps his homosexual lover and continues the same ungodly acts has truly repented.
- _____ 30. A Christian widow who says she has repented but keeps her non-Christian husband has truly repented.
- _____ 31. I am not in fellowship with some brethren because they teach that a Christian widow can marry a non-Christian man.
- _____ 32. I would say the wedding ceremony for a Christian man marrying a non-Christian woman.
- _____ 33. I would say the wedding ceremony for a Christian virgin marrying a non-Christian man.
- _____ 34. I would say the wedding ceremony for a Christian widow marrying a non-Christian man.
- _____ 35. I would mark as a false teacher any preacher who said the wedding ceremony for two homosexuals. (Because it is out of harmony with God's marriage laws.)
- _____ 36. I would mark as a false teacher any preacher who said the wedding ceremony for a Christian widow marrying a non-Christian man. (Because it is not in harmony with God's marriage laws.)
- _____ 37. We must practice to the best of our abilities what we preach.
- _____ 38. A widow out in the world must marry a Christian man.
- _____ 39. God has two different marriage laws; one for the church and another for the world.
- _____ 40. I would tell a Christian widow who has married a non-Christian man that if she will say she is sorry, she can keep her unscriptural mate.

B. One could think of other good questions to ask.

III. IN THE LORD.

A. This phrase appears 107 times in the Bible.

- B. It appears 44 times in the New Testament.
- C. One must prove that this phrase means a Christian man.
- D. Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- E. Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me. Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.
- F. Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

IV. THE GRAMMAR.

- A. "Only in the Lord" is an adverbial phrase modifying the phrase "to be married."
- B. Some try to make "only in the Lord" an adjectival phrase modifying the man to be married.
- C. The speaking is being done by the man in the house. Adjectival in force.
- D. The man is speaking in the house. Adverbial in force.

V. WHAT ONE MUST KNOW, BUT CANNOT KNOW IF HE CONTENDS THAT A CHRISTIAN WIDOW MUST MARRY A CHRISTIAN.

- A. That "only in the Lord" means a Christian.
- B. That "only in the Lord" modifies the one to be married.
- C. That there are two marriage laws for widows. (World and church.)
- D. That if "only in the Lord" means to marry a Christian that it was not limited to the present distress. 1 Cor 7:26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.
 - 1. It is good for a man not to touch a woman. V1.
 - 2. For I would that all men were even as I myself. V7.
 - 3. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I. V8.

4. Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. V27.
5. But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none. V29.
6. 1 Cor 7:34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

CONCLUSION.

1. We must be careful not to make a law which God has not made.
2. Always encourage Christians to marry Christians.
3. Show the pitfalls of not marrying a Christian.
4. We are to help convert the mates of those who have married non-Christian.

HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES

INTRODUCTION.

1. "Homosexuality is defined as sexual relations between like genders (i.e., two males or two females)" (Bert Thompson).
2. Some want to know what is wrong with two women getting married if they love one another?
3. What is wrong with two men getting married if they love one another?
4. God defines what marriage is.
 - a. Gene 1:26,27 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
 - b. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
 - c. 1 Cor 7:2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

I. HOMOSEXUALITY HAS BEEN VIEWED AS:

- A. Mental illness.
- B. A result of bad parental relations.
- C. Sexual perversion.
 1. Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination.
 2. A homosexual on the Phil Donahue program said that one cannot believe in both the Bible and homosexuality.
- D. Now, we are told one is "born that way."

E. They want us to accept them as they are:

1. Born that way.
2. God loves all people.
3. So that they can adopt children.
4. So that they can marry.

II. HOMOSEXUALS HAVE RECEIVED HELP FROM:

A. Psychiatrists ("Accept who you are.").

B. Hollywood (Rock Hudson, Liberace, Rosie O'Donnell; Ellen Degeneres).

1. "The most widely accepted study of sexual practices in the United States is the National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLS). The NHSLS found that 2.8% of the male, and 1.4% of the female population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
2. "If we were to start a new television sitcom, and wanted to accurately portray homosexual ratios in society, we would need 199 heterosexual actors before we finally introduced one homosexual actor" (Bert Thompson).

C. Government.

1. "Former democratic presidential candidate and Vermont Governor Howard Dean signed a bill legalizing civil unions for homosexuals in Vermont. In defending his actions, he commented: 'The overwhelming evidence is that there is a very significant, substantial genetic component to it. From a religious point of view, if God had thought homosexuality is a sin, he would not have created gay people'" (Bert Thompson).

D. Religious people.

1. "We have reached a place in church history where Roman Catholics, reeling from lawsuits stemming from decades of latent homosexual priests abusing children - are now weeding out homosexuals from their clergy. On the other hand, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations are now welcoming homosexuals to their clergy in defiance of Scripture. Christian ministers are

also 'marrying' homosexuals in defiance of God's design and holy Word."

- E. Values clarification.
- F. Parents: supporting their gay children.

III. HOMOSEXUALS HAVE TRIED TO DEFEND THEIR PRACTICE AND RIGHT TO MARRIAGE BY SAYING:

- A. God loves everyone.
 - 1. We agree.
 - 2. However, we can get involved in things that displease God.
 - 3. Psa 5:5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.
 - 4. Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
- B. One has no right in our bedrooms.
- C. "We are born that way."
 - 1. If one is born that way, then God condemns His own creation.
 - a. Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
 - b. Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination.
 - c. Lev 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
 - d. Is homosexuality inborn or learned?

IV. HOMOSEXUALITY IS BASED ON LUST.

- A. Gen 19:4-7 But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people

from every quarter: ⁵And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. ⁶And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, ⁷ And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

1. The angels did not think these men were born that way.
2. They smote them blind: Gen 19:9-11 And they said, Stand back. And they said *again*, This one *fellow* came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, *even* Lot, and came near to break the door. ¹⁰But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. ¹¹And they smote the men that *were* at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

B. Rom 1:24-27 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the **lusts** of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections**: for even their women did change the **natural use** into that which is **against nature**: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the **natural use** of the woman, burned in their **lust** one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

1. Notice, there is a natural use of the body.
2. A man's body is not designed for another man.
3. A woman's body is not designed for a woman.

V. WHAT HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO.

A. Produce offspring.

1. Gen 1:27,28 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

2. Gen 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep *them* alive with thee; they shall be male and female.
- B. Provide both a mother and father role model.
1. Gen 28:7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram.
 2. Ex 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- C. Provide a pure marriage bed.
1. Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
- D. Provide a spiritual base for participants.
1. Lev 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them.
 2. Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?

VI. WHAT HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES WILL DO.

- A. Destroy the home.
1. If two men can get married, what about three men?
 2. If a man can marry a man, why couldn't he marry his dog?
 3. If a man can marry a man, why couldn't a man marry six women?
 4. The home will be destroyed!
- B. Destroy society.
1. Schools will have to teach that homosexuality is OK.
 2. Books will have to be re-written.
 - a. Little junior will be led to the pond by his two homosexual fathers.

- b. Little Sally will be taken to the farm by her two lesbian mothers.

C. Destroy religious freedom.

1. All preaching against gay marriages will be viewed as hate crimes.
2. "Canada is leading the way on this revolutionary path. Indeed, on April 28, 2004, the Parliament passed bill C 250, which effectively criminalized speech or writings that criticize homosexuality. Anything deemed to be 'homophobic' can be punished by six months in prison or by other severe penalties" (Dobson).
3. "Consider this: A man who owned a printing press in Canada was fined \$3,400 for refusing to print stationary for a homosexual activist organization" (Dobson).
4. "Will a new Bible be mandated that is bereft of 'hate speech?'" (Dobson).

D. Dispense disease.

1. The average life expectancy of a homosexual is 40 years of age.
2. The average life expectancy of a lesbian is 45 years of age.
3. One can say what he wants to, but in America AIDS is a homosexual disease.

E. Bankrupt health care.

1. Some predict that insurance premiums will triple if homosexual marriages are made legal.
2. They know about the disease factor.

F. Destroy morality.

1. Isa 5:20,21 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
2. Prov 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

G. Adoption laws changed.

1. If one adopts a child he will not be able to teach him that marriage is an institution between a man and a woman.
2. Gays will have equal rights to children.

VII. GOD WANTS THEM TO REPENT RATHER THAN MARRY.

1. 1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (NKJV).
2. “Six years earlier, the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) released the results of a two-year study stating: Before treatment, 68 percent of the respondents perceived themselves as exclusively or almost entirely homosexual, with another 22 percent stating that they were more homosexual than heterosexual. After treatment, only 13 percent perceived themselves as exclusively or almost entirely homosexual, while 33 percent described themselves as either exclusively or almost entirely heterosexual (see Nicolosi, 2000, 86:1071)” (Bert Thompson).

VIII. HOMOSEXUALS ARE ASKING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS LIKE WOMEN AND BLACKS.

- A. “Using this camouflage of innate civil liberties, homosexual activists were able to divert attention away from the **behavior**, and focus it on the **‘rights.’**”
- B. “The argument goes like this: ‘Just as a person cannot help being black, female, or Asian, I cannot help being homosexual. We were all born this way, and as such we should be treated equally.’”
- C. “Skin color and other genetic traits can be traced through inheritance patterns and simple Mendelian genetics. Homosexuals are identified not by a trait or a gene, but rather by their actions.
- D. “Without the action, they would be indistinguishable from all other people. It is only when they alter their behavior that they become a group that is recognized as being different.

- E. "If we were to assume momentarily that homosexuality was genetic, then the most one could conclude is that those individuals were not morally responsible for being homosexual. However, that does not mean that they are not morally responsible for **homosexual actions**!
- F. "Merely having the gene would not **force** one to carry out the behavior. For instance, if scientists were able to document that a 'rape gene' existed, we certainly would not blame an individual for possessing this gene, but neither would we allow him to act upon that rape disposition.
- G. "The real issue here is homosexual **actions** that society has deemed immoral and, in many instances, illegal. Since no study has firmly established an underlying genetic cause for homosexuality, arguments suggesting 'equal rights' are both baseless and illogical." (This section by Bert Thompson.)

IX. ALLEGED PROOFS OF ONE BEING BORN A HOMOSEXUAL.

- A. Animals as proof.
 - 1. Some animals are homosexuals (farmer had to sell a bull).
 - a. So, what if this is true?
 - b. Some animals will mate with anything.
 - 2. Some animals will steal your shoes off of the porch (kleptomaniac).
 - 3. Some animals eat each other (Jeffrey Dahmer; cannibalism).
 - 4. Some animals use the bathroom in public (Woodstock).
 - 5. Man is not an animal: Gen 1:26,27 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- B. Genetic link.
 - 1. No gene found.

- a. “On April 14, 2003, the International Human Genome Consortium announced the successful completion of the Human Genome Project—two years ahead of schedule.
- b. “The one piece of information that never materialized from the Human Genome Project was the identification of the so-called ‘gay gene.’
- c. “As the data began to pour in, they allowed scientists to construct gene maps—using actual sequences from the Human Genome Project. And yet, neither the map for the X nor the Y chromosome contains any ‘gay gene.’” (This section by Bert Thompson.)

2. The genome report is in and no “gay gene” was found!!!
3. If a gene was found it only proves that some are predisposed to be homosexuals. It would not sanction the practice. (Rapist gene?)
4. Are rapists born rapists?
5. Are child molesters born child molesters?
6. Is Bill Clinton responsible for his actions?

C. Brain difference between homosexuals and heterosexuals.

1. “In 1991, Dr. (Simon) LeVay reported subtle differences between the brains of homosexual and heterosexual men. LeVay measured a particular region of the brain (the interstitial (inter-sty-see el) nuclei of the anterior hypothalamus—INAH) in postmortem tissue of three distinct groups: (1) women; (2) men who were presumed to be heterosexual; (3) and homosexual men.
2. “LeVay reported that clusters of these neurons (INAH) in homosexual men were the same size as clusters in women, both of which were significantly smaller than clusters in heterosexual men.
3. “LeVay reported that the nuclei in INAH 3 were ‘more than twice as large in the heterosexual men as in the women. It was also, however, more than twice as large in the heterosexual men as in the homosexual men’ (1991, 253:1034). This difference was interpreted as strong evidence of a biological link to homosexuality.

4. “LeVay has admitted: ‘**It’s important to stress what I didn’t find. I did not prove that homosexuality is genetic, or find a genetic cause for being gay. I didn’t show that gay men are born that way, the most common mistake people make in interpreting my work. Nor did I locate a gay center in the brain.**’
5. “Many have argued that what LeVay discovered in the brains of those he examined was only a **result** of prior behavior, not the **cause** of it.
6. “Being homosexual himself, it is no surprise that LeVay observed: ‘...[P]eople who think that gays and lesbians are born that way are more likely to support gay rights.’” (This section by Bert Thompson.)

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

INTRODUCTION.

1. Homes in America are being destroyed.
2. Politicians speak of family values. One man asked, "Whose values?" then affirmed that there are no absolute values. This is one of the major problems.
3. Satan knows that if he can destroy the home then he will destroy the nation and the church.
4. The following has become acceptable in America: abortion, homosexuality, lesbianism, shacking up, divorce for any reason, no discipline, social drinking, pornography, etc.
5. The only way to fight the aforementioned problems is a knowledge and an obedient respect for God and His word.
6. Let us look at some of the things destroying the home.

I. HUMANISM.

- A. The humanists teach that man is the center of everything, that there is no God, and that if man is going to rise he will have to pull himself up by his own boot-straps. They teach that anyone who believes in God is mentally crippled and trying to use God as a crutch.
 1. There are no absolutes.
 2. The home is not important.
- B. They teach such things as values clarification, evolution, the passing out of condoms to our children, etc.
- C. Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.
- D. Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
- E. You might ask, when are they afforded the opportunity to speak to our children? Answer: in our schools, TV, songs, etc.

F. Humanism is a religion.

II. EVOLUTION.

A. This is the theory that man evolved from a lower life form.

B. Our nation has begun to act like a bunch of animals.

1. If there is no God then why not live the way one wants?

2. To them value is the product of the human mind.

3. What ever feels good one ought to be able to do.

C. Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

D. Rom 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

E. Psa 19:1-3 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. ²Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. ³*There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.

III. MATERIALISM.

A. The average American is into "things."

B. Fathers do not have time for their children.

C. Mothers have gone to work.

D. Children are coming home to empty houses.

E. Some join gangs just to have a family.

F. 1 Jn 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of

life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- G. Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
- H. Matt 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
- I. Lk 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
- J. Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

IV. HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES.

- A. Who would have thought that this would ever have become a problem?
- B. Rom 1:24-27 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.
- C. Homosexual marriages are an abomination to God.
- D. Some nations have legalized them.
- E. Homosexual marriages cannot:
 - 1. Produce children,
 - 2. Produce a moral society,
 - 3. Give children a mom and a dad, or
 - 4. Produce proper role models.

V. WORKING MOTHERS.

- A. Why do we have gangs in many cities? Children are coming home to empty houses! Many children are rearing themselves.
- B. Immorality in America rose when women went to work.
- C. Titus 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵*To be* discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.
- D. Mothers, why do you work?
- E. Some mothers say they want their children to have more than what they themselves had.
- F. Children want a mother and father who have time for them.
- G. Give your children love.
- H. Mom, never apologize for being a mother and housekeeper.
- I. Because both husband and wife work, in some cases they rarely see each other because they work different hours.

VI. PLEASURE.

- A. Husbands and wives spend more time with their buddies in clubs than they do with their mates.
- B. Lk 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
- C. Heb 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

VII. "MACHO" FATHERS.

- A. Some believe themselves too "manly" to love God. They have a "John Wayne" attitude - "I don't need God."
- B. **The only verse some husbands know is:** Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
 - 1. These husbands usually have a "Hitler concept" of being the head of the home.
- C. The husband is to be the spiritual leader of the home:
 - 1. Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - 2. Where would the church be if the mothers hadn't brought the children to services when the father would have nothing to do with the Lord's church?
- D. Some fathers sit at home, drink beer and watch football, leaving the rearing of the children to the wife.
- E. They like to shout out orders.

VIII. E.R.A.

- A. "Marriage has existed for the benefit of men and has been a legally sanctioned method of control over women.... The end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the Liberation of Women.... Therefore, it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not live individually with men.... Now we know it is the institution that has failed us and we must work to destroy it" (The Document, Declaration Of Feminism).
- B. 1 Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.
- C. 1 Tim 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.
- D. Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

- E. One “gospel preacher” said, “It is stupid to think that the man should be the head of the home.” He further stated, “If a women had to submit to her husband, then she would feel like she was marrying her father.” The Bible says: Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

IX. DENOMINATIONALISM.

- A. Denominationalism sets family member against family member.
- B. 1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- C. Jn 17:20,21 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

X. MARRIAGE - DIVORCE - REMARRIAGE.

- A. Americans are divorcing and remarrying for any and every reason.
- B. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- C. Matthew 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
- D. Thus, the Bible teaches that there is only one scriptural cause for divorce and remarriage.

XI. DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN.

- A. Rom 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents.
- B. 2 Tim 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.
- C. There is a lack of respect for authority in this country. Respect for authority must start at home.

- D. The sad part is that these children will not have respect for God or their mates.

XII. OTHERS ENEMIES.

- A. Alcohol.
- B. Drugs.
- C. Television.
- D. Telephone.
- E. "Workaholics."
- F. In-laws.
- G. Money.
- H. Sex.
- I. The devil.
- J. Anything that robs a family of time together.

CONCLUSION.

- 1. A good home is as close to heaven as one will get in this life.
- 2. There are many friends to the home:
 - a. God,
 - b. The truth,
 - c. The church,
 - d. Romance,
 - e. Communication,
 - f. The kitchen table,
 - g. Those who truly love their mates,

- h. Those who truly love their children,
- i. Home Bible study and
- j. Prayer. The family who prays together stays together.

OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION.

1. People have a lot of questions about marriage, divorce and remarriage.
2. We will answer some of the most often asked questions.
3. We wish we had the time to deal with all of your questions.

I. CAN ONE HAVE A MARRIAGE ANNULLED?

- A. Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
- B. Annulments presupposes that one is not married until the sexual act.
- C. What if a couple is going on their honeymoon and get involved in a car wreck and the bride is in a comma two months before she dies. Were they married?

II. IS ONE CONSIDERED MARRIED BEFORE THE MARRIAGE IS CONSUMMATED?

- A. Matt 1:24,25 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: ²⁵And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.
- B. If not married when the first sexual act occurs, why wouldn't that be fornication?
- C. Does one have to commit a sexual sin to be married?

III. HOW MUCH INFORMATION MUST ONE HAVE BEFORE HE CAN DIVORCE HIS MATE FOR FORNICATION?

- A. Does God expect one to conclude that He is without visual confirmation?
- B. Psa 19:1-3 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. ²Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. ³*There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

- C. If I can conclude there is a God without visual confirmation, then I can conclude that my mate is guilty of fornication without visual confirmation.
- D. We send people to prison and even the gas chamber without visual confirmation.
- E. However, one must be fair with the evidence.
- F. Just because one's husband was seen in the company of another female does not prove unfaithfulness.
- G. On the other hand, if one's husband spend a week in the same motel room out of town with a woman, then that is good evidence.

IV. MUST FORNICATION APPEAR ON THE DIVORCE DECREE?

- A. No!
- B. However, the divorce must be for the cause of fornication.
- C. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- D. Keep the elders and congregation informed about your involvement in a divorce.

V. MUST I FORGIVE MY MATE IF HE/SHE REPENTS AND ASKS FOR FORGIVENESS?

- A. Yes.
- B. Matt 6:14,15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- C. One can forgive his mate and still exercise the right to put that mate away for fornication.
- D. One can forgive a man for killing his family and still testify against him in court for the crime he had committed.
- E. A congregation can forgive a penitent treasurer for stealing money from the church treasury and still not return him to that office!

VI. IF MY HUSBAND IS PUT IN THE PENITENTIARY FOR LIFE MAY I REMARRY?

- A. No!
- B. The only cause for divorce and remarriage is fornication.
- C. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

VII. DOES FORNICATION AUTOMATICALLY BREAK THE MARRIAGE BOND?

- A. No!
- B. The prerogative of what to do with the guilty party is given to the innocent party.
- C. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall **put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- D. If fornication automatically broke the marriage bond, a man might fornicate two years before the innocent party discovers such. Therefore, the innocent party would have been sleeping with one to whom she was not married.
- E. The innocent party must be prudent in the way in which she deals with a fornicating mate.
 - 1. If she forgives him and takes him back each time he chooses to get involved in fornication, then she becomes a source of encouragement to his sin!

VIII. IF A COUPLE DIVORCES UNSCRIPTURALLY AND FIVE YEARS LATER ONE OF THEM DIES IS THE OTHER FREE TO REMARRY?

- A. Yes.
- B. Rom 7:1-3 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. ³So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is

free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

- C. I don't like the sound of such, but I cannot bind where God has not bound!

IX. CAN ONE LIVE IN ADULTERY?

- A. Rom 6:1,2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, **live any longer therein?**
- B. Col 3:5-7 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷**In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.**

X. DOES 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14 HAVE REFERENCE TO A BELIEVER MARRYING A NON-BELIEVER?

- A. **Not as such!**
- B. 2 Cor 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- C. **Paul has already addressed this issue:** 1 Cor 7:13,14 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.
- D. There is a difference in being yoked and being unequally yoked!
- E. **If one is unequally yoked when he is married to a non-believer, then he would have to get out of that marriage to right in the sight of God:** 2 Cor 6:17,18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, ¹⁸And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
- F. **Is it possible for one to be unequally yoked to a non-believer in marriage? Yes!**

- G. **What would the Christian have to do in such cases? Come out from among him/her!**

XI. IF I DO NOT LIKE MY MATE CAN'T I DIVORCE HIM IF I REMAIN UNMARRIED?

- A. **There is always sin in divorce.**
- B. **God hates divorce:** Mal 2:14-16 ¹⁴Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. ¹⁵And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. ¹⁶For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for *one* covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.
- C. **Unscriptural divorces puts each mate in peril:** Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
- D. Other problems with unscriptural divorces:
1. Violates marriage vows (Jam 5:12).
 2. Withholding of bodies (1 Cor 7:1-5).
 3. Children (Eph 6:1-4).
 4. Example (Matt 5:16).

XII. MY MATE FORNICATED ON ME TWO YEARS AGO AND I TOOK HIM BACK. WE ARE HAVING MARITAL PROBLEMS NOW. CAN I PUT HIM AWAY FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED FORNICATION?

- A. No!
- B. If you forgave him and took him back, then you cannot use that as the cause of a divorce that is two years after the fact.
- C. Think about seriously before you take your mate back!

- D. Think about seriously before you put your mate away for the cause of fornication.

XIII. IF ONE HAS PUT HIS MATE AWAY FOR THE CAUSE OF FORNICATION AND THEN DECIDES HE WANTS TO FORGIVE HER AND TAKE HER BACK CAN HE?

- A. Yes.
- B. This is the only one the guilty party can marry.
- C. The key word is **another!**
- D. Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, **and shall marry another**, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

XIV. IF MY WIFE AND I ARE MARRIED UNSCRIPTURALLY CAN'T WE BE FORGIVEN?

- A. Yes!
- B. However, you must repent.
- C. This means that you must come out of your unscriptural marriage.
- D. It is possible to unlawfully have someone else's mate.
- E. Mk 6:17,18 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to **have** thy brother's wife.
- F. 1 Cor 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should **have his father's wife**.

XV. YEARS AGO MY HUSBAND AND I DIVORCED UNSCRIPTURALLY, NEITHER OF US HAVE REMARRIED. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT WANT TO RECONCILE. I WANT TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN. AFTER I BECOME A CHRISTIAN AND AM FORGIVEN FOR THE PAST, CAN I REMARRY?

- A. No! Because you are already married!

- B. 1 Cor 7:10,11 And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.
- C. In the sight of God you are still married to your first husband.
- D. Continue to work with him.

XVI. IF TWO NON-CHRISTIANS GET MARRIED ARE THEY MARRIED IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?

- A. Yes
- B. Marriage is not a church ordinance.
- C. **Matt 19:9** And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

XVII. MUST A CHRISTIAN MARRY A CHRISTIAN?

- A. No.
- B. However, one ought to marry one who is going to help him go to heaven.
- C. Who is going to help you rear your children? What will they teach them?
- D. The divorce rate is much higher among those who do not marry Christians.
- E. Those who become unfaithful are greater increased among those who do not marry Christians.

XVIII. CAN I SEPARATE FROM MY HUSBAND IF HE IS BEATING ME?

- A. Yes.
- B. Try to work out the problem. Go to counseling, try to get help to solve the problem.
- C. A husband beating his wife has become her enemy. Psa 64:1 Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS ON MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

ALL STATEMENTS ARE EITHER TRUE OR FALSE.

- _____ 1. Only God can join two together in marriage.
- _____ 2. God only can disjoin two in divorce.
- _____ 3. All people who divorce and marry again commit adultery.
- _____ 4. All people who divorce for reasons other than fornication and marry again commit fornication.
- _____ 5. One can divorce and remarry for any reason.
- _____ 6. One can live in adultery.
- _____ 7. God hates divorce.
- _____ 8. All divorces are wrong and sinful.
- _____ 9. Those who have divorced and remarried in harmony with God's law should be viewed as second rate Christians.
- _____ 10. The put away fornicator can remarry.
- _____ 11. The put away innocent party can remarry.
- _____ 12. Divorce is the unpardonable sin.
- _____ 13. Unscripturally divorced and remarried people should stay together because of the children.
- _____ 14. An unhappy wife should divorce her husband because God wants her to be happy.
- _____ 15. Divorces must be authorized by God.
- _____ 16. There is always sin in divorce.
- _____ 17. When one obeys the gospel of Christ, then one may keep his unscriptural mate because all sins have been forgiven.

- _____ 18. All divorces granted by the laws of our land are in harmony with God's law.
- _____ 19. If two people cannot get along it is better to divorce.
- _____ 20. A divorce is more apt to occur if I marry one in the world.
- _____ 21. Divorce is more apt to happen if I marry a member of the church.
- _____ 22. If a member of the church gets an unscriptural divorce we should support them.
- _____ 23. One who seeks an unscriptural divorce sins in so doing.
- _____ 24. If one's husband is a drunk, then the wife should divorce him.
- _____ 25. We should help those who have to pursue a scriptural divorce.
- _____ 26. The innocent mate has to forgive an unfaithful mate and not pursue a divorce.
- _____ 27. A divorced person should never teach a Bible class.
- _____ 28. We should fellowship all divorced people.
- _____ 29. We should fellowship no divorced people.
- _____ 30. We should fellowship the innocent party in a divorce who has put his mate away for the cause of fornication.
- _____ 31. We should not teach our young people about divorce.
- _____ 32. It is none of the church's business why the members divorced.
- _____ 33. A church member's divorce becomes all of our business.
- _____ 34. Both parties are always wrong in a divorce because it takes two to fight.
- _____ 35. I do not know anyone who has divorced.
- _____ 36. I do not know anyone in our congregation who has divorced.
- _____ 37. If a husband and wife cannot get along, divorce should be their first thought.

- _____ 38. When we divorce unscripturally we break a vow we made with both God and man.
- _____ 39. When we divorce scripturally we break a vow we made with both God and man.
- _____ 40. Unscripturally divorced people must remain single or be reconciled to their mates.
- _____ 41. Hollywood has proven that divorce is all right.
- _____ 42. If I divorce my mate for the cause of fornication, it must appear on the divorce papers.
- _____ 43. 1 Cor 7:15 is another scriptural cause for divorce.
- _____ 44. We must catch our mate in the very act of fornication, otherwise we cannot put him/her away for the cause of fornication.
- _____ 45. All men are amenable to God's marriage laws.
- _____ 46. God has some marriage laws for the church and some for the world.
- _____ 47. Homosexual marriages are scriptural.
- _____ 48. It is unloving to stand against those who are unscripturally married.
- _____ 49. There are such things as unlawful marriages.
- _____ 50. One might have to leave his mate to be right in the sight of God.

WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN?

by James Boyd and Wesley Simons

INTRODUCTION.

1. I want them to have more than what I had.
2. Prov 13:22 A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.
3. There is coming a day when you will leave your children.
4. Will you leave them:
 - a. Money?
 - b. Land?
 - c. Business?
5. Matt 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
6. We want to leave for our children something that will bless them in all eternity.
7. Matt 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
8. We succeed toward our children if we leave them something that will cause them to be faithful to the Most High God.
9. You need to leave them something that will out live you and them.
10. You need to leave them something that can be passed on to their children's children.
11. We need to leave them something to live for and something to live by.

I. PRIORITIES.

- A. Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- B. I want to teach them to love God more than they love us: Matt 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- C. Give them a deep love for God's Word:
 - 1. Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.
 - 2. Psa 119:97 O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day.
 - 3. Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

II. THE MEMORY OF A CHRISTIAN HOME (WITH BOTH A MOTHER AND A FATHER).

- A. SPIRITUAL SUPPORT.
 - 1. How are your children going to make the tough decisions that they have to make at school, work, play, etc.
 - 2. Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
 - 3. Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- B. SECURITY.
 - 1. There is no place like home.
 - 2. Prov 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- C. SUSTENANCE.

1. 1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

D. SCENES IN THE MIND.

1. Holidays.
2. Birthdays.

III. A CHANCE TO BE A CHILD.

- A. My dad never had a chance to be a child.
- B. 1 Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- C. Deut 1:39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.
- D. Isa 7:15,16 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

IV. A WORK ETHIC.

- A. 1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
- B. Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.
- C. Prov 22:2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD *is* the maker of them all.
- D. Prov 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.
- E. 2 Thess 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

V. A RESPECT FOR LIFE.

- A. Gen 1:26,27 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- B. Teach them that abortion is murder.
- C. Teach them to honor their mother and father, not to euthanize them.
- D. Prov 22:2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD *is* the maker of them all.

VI. VALUES.

- A. The value of a dollar.
- B. Work.
- C. Honesty.
- D. Truthfulness.
- E. Soul.
- F. Respect for others.
- G. Pleasing God.

VII. A GOOD EXAMPLE.

- A. 1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.
- B. Parents are role models and so many of these parents are letting their children down.
- C. Gen 42:22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.
- D. Many parents sin against their own children.

- E. Are you an example in:
 - 1. Loving God?
 - 2. Bible study?
 - 3. A great parent?
 - 4. A great human being?

VIII. TEACH HOW TO BE GOOD PARENTS.

- A. Where do children learn to be parents?
- B. Prov 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- C. Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- D. Do you want your child to turn out like you?

IX. TEACH THEM HOW TO FIGHT WITHIN THEIR MARRIAGE.

- A. No hitting.
 - 1. Eph 5:28,29 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ²⁹For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.
 - 2. It takes a "low life" to hit his wife.
 - 3. 1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
- B. No withholding of the body.
 - 1. 1 Cor 7:1-5 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.* ² Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. ⁴ The

wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

⁵Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

2. Don't let your children see you sleeping on the couch unless you are sick.

C. Don't let the sun go down upon your wrath.

1. Do not go to bed mad at each other.
2. Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.
 - a. One can be angry without sinning.
 - b. Mk 3:4,5 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. ⁵And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

D. Love your mate when your mate is not lovable. (Agape love.)

1. Prov 18:22 *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.
2. Matt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.
3. Lk 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.
4. Lk 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

E. Forgive each other.

1. Matt 6:14,15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
2. Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
3. I have known those who claim they will never forgive a certain person.
4. Lk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.
5. Why should I forgive my mate?
 - a. I need forgiveness.
 - b. God will not forgive me.
 - c. It makes me a better person.
 - d. It shows a proper example to others.
 - e. It aids my prayer life.

F. Never be ashamed to say, "I am sorry."

1. Psa 38:18 For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.
2. Matt 14:9,10 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded *it* to be given *her*. ¹⁰And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.
3. One must be willing to express his feelings.
4. Some mates refuse to say they are sorry for anything.
5. One who cannot say he is sorry has too much pride.

G. Watch what you say about each other.

1. Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

2. Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
3. Prov 15:4 A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.
4. Prov 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.
5. Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.
6. Prov 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
7. Prov 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*
8. Prov 16:24 Pleasant words *are* as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
9. Prov 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.
10. Prov 25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.
11. Prov 29:20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.
12. Prov 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

H. Always communicate.

1. Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
2. A husband and wife ought to be able to reason together.
3. No problem is too large for God.

X. THE BEAUTY OF SEX.

- A. Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
- B. Sex is a beautiful language that is spoke between a husband and a wife.
- C. Playboy magazine did not create sex.

XI. A GOOD NAME.

- A. Prov 22:1 A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.
- B. One wants a good reputation. Reputation is what people *think* you are. Character is *what* you are.
- C. Will you leave your children something to live up to, or something to live down?
- D. Rom 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

XII. TEACH TO LIVE A SELFLESS LIFE.

- A. They are reaching a very high goal in life when they learn to do things for others.
- B. Matt 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.
- C. Matt 23:11,12 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
¹²And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

CONCLUSION.

- 1. We must leave our children that which is most valuable.
- 2. We should strive to accomplish this task.

1 CORINTHIANS 7

INTRODUCTION.

1. The brethren at Corinth had many problems.
2. They had many questions.
3. Paul had already written them one letter: 1 Corinthians 5:11 – But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.
4. Paul is going to deal with many aspects of marriage.

COMMENTARY.

7:1. *Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: [It is] good for a man not to touch a woman.*

- A. The Corinthians had written to Paul asking him some questions. He is now going to answer those questions.
- B. God said: “And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18).
- C. Was Paul contradicting what God had declared?
- D. No! Paul was saying this because of the present distress: 1 Corinthians 7:26 – I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, [I say], that [it is] good for a man so to be.
 1. It would be hard for a man to care for his family if tremendous persecution was being heaped upon the church.
 2. It would be hard for a wife and mother to care for her children if the church was under tremendous persecution.
 3. Paul is saying marriage and parenthood is hard enough. One does not need to start a family under these conditions.

4. Some have tried to use the statements by Paul in this chapter to show that he is anti-marriage and anti-woman.
5. Paul endorses the institution of marriage:
 - a. Hebrews 13:4 – Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
 - b. Ephesians 5:22-33 – Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

2. ***Nevertheless, [to avoid] fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.***

- A. Fornication is a large word that takes in all sexual perversions.
 1. Adultery.
 2. Homosexuality.
 3. Lesbianism.
 4. Bestiality.
 5. Incest.

- B. God has given us our sexual drive. He will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear: 1 Corinthians 10:13 – There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].
- C. Notice, fornication can be prevented: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6 – For this is the will of God, [even] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no [man] go beyond and defraud his brother in [any] matter: because that the Lord [is] the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
- D. Some Americans believe that fornication cannot be prevented.
1. They tell us that our teenagers are going to have sex. So, they pass out condoms.
 2. Why don't we conclude that they are going to use drugs and pass out clean needles?
 3. Why don't we conclude that they are going to smoke and pass out cigarettes?
 4. Why don't we conclude that they are going to drink and pass out alcoholic beverages?
 5. We have those who believe that one is born a fornicator. We have those who believe that one is born a homosexual.
 6. I had an article that said that one had to be born a rapist. Why would one want this repugnant reputation, if he were not born this way?
 7. Fornication is a unique sin:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:13 – Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body [is] not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:18 – Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

8. Fornication is the only sin that I know of – if committed, can cause one to forfeit a natural desire. I am talking about the sexual desire.
9. There is no Bible authority for the put away fornicator to ever marry again: Matthew 19:9 – And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
10. When the Bible says one is to have his own wife, Paul is talking about his lawful wife. One might be on wife number eight.
11. One can unlawfully have someone else's wife: Mark 6:17-19 – For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. 18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. 19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not.

3. ***Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.***

- A. This verse is talking about the beautiful sexual relationship that is to be enjoyed by husband and wife.
- B. This is truly a case where benevolence is to start at home and stay at home.
- C. Sex is a beautiful language that is to be spoken between husband and wife and no one else.
- D. Hebrews 13:4 – Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
- E. “Notice that the word ‘wife’ is singular as opposed to polygamy.”¹
- F. God's original plan was one husband for one wife for a lifetime.

4. ***The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.***

- A. The wife does not have control over her body. Neither does the husband have control over his body.

¹ Chuck Horner, *Notes on 1 Corinthians*

- B. It is a sin to unscripturally withhold your body from your mate.
 - C. In doing marriage counseling, I ask the parties if they are willing to do things God's way? They usually say, yes. However, sometimes they find it hard to agree with God.
 - D. If the wife has been withholding her body, she is told what God says about that. If the man has been withholding his body, he is told what God says about that.
 - E. "In the marriage union each spouse owes the other sexual privilege to prevent fornication (any form of sexual immorality)."²
 - F. "Notice that in verse 3 the husband is mentioned first, but here it is the reverse. Husband and wife are treated equally in this matter of authority."³
 - G. How many men or women have become unfaithful (sexually) to their mates because of the unlawful withholding of their bodies? Only eternity will tell.
5. ***Defraud ye not one the other, except [it be] with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.***
- A. To withhold ones body from ones mate is said to be defrauding that mate.
 - B. Jesus told the rich young ruler: "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother" (Mark 10:19).
 - C. Paul told the Corinthians that were going to law against each other: "Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that [your] brethren" (1 Corinthians 6:8).
 - D. Notice, one can withhold his or her body from their mate only for a short time. This has to be with consent.
 - E. Please notice that the examples given are spiritual – prayer and fasting.
 - F. There would be other reasons – sickness.
 - G. The men in our prison ministry have spoken of this very point. What are their mates to do while they are in prison? They must remain faithful. There would be added temptations here.

² Chuck Horner

³ Chuck Horner

- H. What about our military men? Many of our soldiers have babies over seas.
- I. Some of the wives have been unfaithful while their husbands were fighting for our freedom.
- J. This proves the point Paul is trying to make.
- K. When husband and wife are separated, it creates a new and stronger temptation.
- L. 1 Peter 5:8,9 – Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.
- M. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 – Abstain from all appearance of evil.
- N. 1 Corinthians 7:5 – Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control (NKJV).
- O. This is one reason why unscriptural divorces are wrong. Because there is a defrauding of the bodies.

6. *But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.*

- A. Paul is giving some inspired advise because of the coming distress.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 7:26 – I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.
- B. Paul has all the respect in the world for the marriage relationship.
- C. A marriage started under great stress has less chance of survival.
- D. We have many of our military men getting married as they go off to war.
- E. Deuteronomy 24:5 – When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.
- F. Luke 14:20 – And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

7. *For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.*

- A. Paul was not married: 1 Corinthians 9:5 – Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?
- B. Paul was not trying to make a law stating that one could not marry. Because, he said such was the doctrine of devils: 1 Timothy 4:1-3 – Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.
 - 1. The Catholics and others have made laws that certain people cannot marry. This is a doctrine of devils.
 - 2. They have had problems with their priests in respect to homosexuality.
 - 3. Paul says marriage helps to avoid fornication: 1 Cor. 7:2 – Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
- C. Not all people have the “gift” to stay single.
- D. Matthew 19:12 – For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother’s womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.
- E. 1 Thess. 4:4 – That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

8. *I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.*

- A. Paul is saying this because of the present distress.
- B. He wants them to abide in their single state only during this time.

- C. Timothy 5:14 – I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
9. ***But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.***
- A. The word “burn” has reference to desire.
- B. If the desire is too great, Paul says it is better to marry.
- C. This proves that Paul is not trying to make a law against getting married.
10. ***And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:***
- A. Paul is telling these people that they will have a better chance during the present distress if they are single.
- B. However, if one is already married, he is not to leave his mate.
- C. He makes it plain that this is a command.
- D. Where did the Lord command this? Matthew 19:5,6 – And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
- E. It would be great if America and the rest of the world believed this.
11. ***But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.***
- A. If one should depart (divorce) without a scriptural cause, then she is to remain unmarried.
- B. The only other choice she has is to be reconciled to her husband.
- C. Some people often ask the question, “Where is Bible authority to tell someone that they will have to remain single?”
- D. Notice, this person is unmarried by the laws of the land but married according to God’s laws.

- E. The Lord is serious: Matthew 19:9 – And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. Matthew 5:32 – But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
- F. One can unlawfully have someone else's wife: Mark 6:17,18 – For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. 18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

12. *But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.*

- A. This verse has been perverted by some.
- 2. J. D. Bales tried to use this verse to prove that there are commands to Christians on MDR that do not apply to the alien sinner.
- C. He tried to use verses 10 and 11 as applying to the case where a Christian was married to a Christian. He did the same with Matthew 19:9.
- D. Therefore, if non-Christians got involved in several divorces prior to becoming a Christian, then Matthew 19:9 had no application.
- E. J.D. Bales understood the statement, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord" to have reference to cases where Christians were married to non-Christians.
- F. Paul is talking about the rest of the cases about which the Corinthians had made inquiry.
- G. He is stating that the Lord did not specifically address a Christian marrying a non-Christian.
- H. The principle of Matthew 19:9 taught that once a couple was married, the only scriptural cause for divorce and remarriage would be fornication. However, they wanted to know if a Christian should be married to a non-Christian.
- I. Paul then states that if a brother has a non-believing wife and she is pleased to dwell with him, then do not put her away.

- J. Again, Paul is showing the importance of the marriage relationship.
- K. A Christian is/was not to put a disbeliever away.
13. ***And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.***
- A. The same principle is bound on the woman (Christian) who has a non-believing husband.
- B. Paul is teaching that this marriage is to continue.
- C. Marriage is not a church ordinance.
- D. Paul is not encouraging Christians to marry non-Christians. He is telling what the case is if a Christian is married to a non-Christian and what the case would be if a Christian should marry a non-Christian.
14. ***For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.***
- A. The unbelieving mate is sanctified (set apart) by the Christian mate.
- B. This simply means that they have been joined in marriage by God.
- C. If they have not been joined together by God, then their children would be illegitimate (unclean).
- D. Their children are not illegitimate but are holy.
15. ***But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.***
- A. Now the question arises, What if the unbelieving mate departs?
- B. Paul states that the believing mate is not in bondage in such cases.
- C. There are those that pervert this verse and try to say that Paul is giving another reason for divorce and remarriage.
- D. In studying for this lesson, I read where some members of the church thought that this would give the deserted mate the right to remarry.

- E. I also read (and this a common view) where non-members believe that this is a second reason for divorce and remarriage.
- F. The Lord gave only one reason for divorce and remarriage: Matthew 19:9 – And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- G. The not under bondage in this verse does not have reference to the marriage bond but to bondage of responsibilities of a mate.
- H. If a Muslim wanted to go to Afghanistan and support Osama Ben Laden, a Christian mate is not under bondage to go.
- I. Consider this syllogism:
 - Maj. Prem. If it is the case that Matthew 19:9 teaches that the only scriptural ground for divorce and remarriage is the ground of one's having put away his companion because of that companion's fornication, then it is the case that any interpretation of any passage which contradicts that teaching is an erroneous interpretation.
 - Min. Prem. It is the case that Matthew 19:9 teaches that the only scriptural ground for divorce and remarriage is the ground of one's having put away his companion because of that companion's fornication.
 - Concl. It is the case that any interpretation of any passage which contradicts that teaching is an erroneous interpretation (Roy Deaver).
- J. What does except mean?
- K. STOP EXCEPT RIGHT TURN.
 - 1. All people must stop unless they are turning right.
 - 2. One can continue to go, if and only if, he is turning right.
- L. NO PARKING EXCEPT EMPLOYEES.
 - 1. No one can park here unless they are employees.
 - 2. One can park here, if and only if, he is an employee.

- M. John 3:5 – Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
16. ***For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?***
- A. Hopefully, the Christian might be able to convert the unbelieving mate.
- B. 1 Peter 3:1,2 – Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.
- C. One's unbelieving mate should be viewed by the Christian mate as the best prospect for conversion that he has.
17. ***But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.***
- A. Some things should not be changed upon becoming a Christian. A scriptural marriage is one such thing.
- B. God calls one through the gospel: John 6:44,45 – No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.
- C. One is to continue in the walk he currently has upon being called to be a Christian, unless something in that walk is unscriptural.
- D. This was a law for all churches (meaning congregations).
18. ***Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.***
- A. There are some things that one might have done in days gone by that will not hurt, nor help him in becoming a child of God.
- B. EXAMPLES:
1. Galatians 5:6 – For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

2. Galatians 3:28 – There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

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

- A. Christians do not have to be circumcised.
- B. Acts 15:1ff.
- C. However, we are to keep the commandments of God: 1 John 2:3,4 – And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- D. Luke 6:46 – And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
- E. Hebrews 5:8,9 – Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
- F. John 14:15 – If ye love me, keep my commandments.
- G. John 15:14 – Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
- H. Matthew 7:21 – Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- I. Revelation 22:14 – Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

20. *Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.*

- A. Some have concluded from this verse, that whatever state a person might be in marriage wise....upon conversion let him there remain.
- B. That is totally false:
 1. What about two homosexuals who have gotten married?
 2. What about two lesbians who have gotten married?

3. What about a Mormon with six wives?
 4. What about an African chief with five wives?
 5. What about people just living together.
 6. What about incest?
 7. Mark 6:17,18 – For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. 18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.
- C. This verse is saying, that one does not have to break any social ties that are not sinful in themselves just because he became a Christian.
 - D. One can remain in any situation which is scriptural.
 - E. All sinful ties must be repented of: Luke 13:3 – I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Acts 17:30,31 – And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
21. ***Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.***
- A. One's scriptural social status does not hinder one from being a good Christian.
 - B. Upon becoming a Christian, one is not to start a life of rebellion.
 - C. Each one is to remain in the relationship in which he is called. (The entire context of the Bible shows that this relationship must be scriptural.)
 - D. If one were a slave, he could be in a right relationship with God if he so desired.
 - E. If one could legally obtain his freedom, he would be at greater liberty to serve the Lord.
22. ***For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.***

- A. A servant is made free by God: John 8:32 – And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
- B. A master becomes a servant to Christ: Colossians 4:1 – Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.
- C. Ephesians 6:5 – Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;
- D. Ephesians 6:9 – And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.
- E. Titus 2:9,10 – Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.
- F. Romans 6:16 – Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

23. *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*

- A. We are bought with a price: 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 – What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Peter 1:17-19 – And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- B. We are to serve God: Romans 6:16 – Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

24. *Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.*

- A. Paul makes the same point again.

- B. To abide with God, one has to repent.
 - C. We are talking about those things which are scriptural.
- 25. *Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.***
- A. The apostle Paul is admitting that the Lord did not give him a commandment which said that virgins could not marry.
 - B. The Lord did address virgins (Matt. 19:9).
 - C. The problem here is, what should a virgin do under the present distress?
 - D. Paul is going to give his judgment.
 - E. The word virgin here applies to both male and females. See verse 26.
 - F. Paul says that he is one that has obtained mercy from the Lord and that he is faithful to the Lord.
 - G. Paul will have more to say about the Virgin later.
- 26. *suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.***
- A. Much of the advice given in this chapter centers around the present distress.
 - B. Here are some things that Paul taught because of the present distress:
 1. "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (v. 1).
 2. "For I would that all men were even as I myself" (v. 7).
 3. "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I" (v. 8).
 4. "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife" (v. 27).
 5. The father would be better off not to give his virgin daughters in marriage (v. 36-38).
 6. Staying single at this time is better (v. 40).

- C. What is this distress? We do not know!
- D. It might be the destruction of Jerusalem. The problem with this view is how badly would Corinth be affected by the destruction of Jerusalem?
- E. He is encouraging both men and women to stay single during the present distress.

27. *Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.*

- A. If one is already married, then do not seek to be loosed.
 - 1. We have too many people who are married who are seeking to be loosed.
 - 2. God has set the bounds for being loosed.
- B. The husband would have a tremendous obligation to take care of his wife and children during this terrible time.
- C. However, Paul says if one is loosed from a wife, then do not seek one.
- D. Again, this is because of the present distress.
- E. Remember God's view: Genesis 2:18 – And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

28. *But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.*

- A. Paul says if one chooses to marry, then he has not sinned.
- B. He further states, that if a virgin marries, then she has not sinned.
- C. Paul is not giving a commandment not to marry. He is giving his inspired advice.
- D. Marriage is ordained of God: Genesis 2:24 – Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- E. Paul says that those who marry at this time shall have trouble in the flesh.

- F. Jesus taught this same principle: Matthew 24:19,20 – And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
29. ***But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;***
- A. Paul is reminding them that time on earth is short when compared to eternity.
 - B. Therefore, do not make a decision that might cost one his eternal reward.
 - C. There will be no marriage in heaven: Matthew 22:30 – For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.
 - D. Many marry unscripturally and exchange a few years here with an unlawful mate for an eternity of happiness.
30. ***And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;***
- A. There is coming a day of relief for those that weep and who are faithful to God: Revelation 21:4 – And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
 - B. Those that rejoice now but are not faithful to God will have no reason to rejoice judgment day: Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:
 - C. They that buy as though they possessed not: 1 Timothy 6:7 — For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
31. ***And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.***
- A. Matthew 24:35 — Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
 - B. 1 John 2:15-17 — Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world

passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- C. 2 Peter 3:10,11 — But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

32. *But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:*

- A. Paul does not want them to have the additional burden of a family as they try to make it through the present distress.
- B. The unmarried can be more focused.
- C. A married man would need to be concerned for his family.

33. *But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.*

- A. The things of the world here would be needed things.
- B. A man is to take time to please his wife.
- C. A father is to take time for his children.
- D. Deuteronomy 24:5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.
- E. One cannot get married and then forsake his wife.

34. *There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.*

- A. A wife has certain responsibilities to her husband.
- B. She also has responsibilities to her children.

- C. This verse is not teaching that single people are more holy than married people.
- D. Would one want to affirm that Paul (because he was unmarried) was more holy than Peter (who was married).
- E. The Catholics have miss used these verses and bound a law upon their priests and nuns which God has never given.
- F. To forbid marriage to qualified people is called doctrines of demons (1 Tim 4:1-4).

35. *And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.*

- A. Again, Paul is making it plain that he is not making a law against getting married.
- B. Paul says he is saying these things for their benefit or profit.
- C. He is saying this so that during the present distress they can concentrate on serving God.
- D. He did not want them to be distracted.
- E. Marriage is ordained of God. However, Paul did not want it to become a distraction during hard times.
- F. What do we do that is right in and of itself, but we allow it to become a distraction when it comes to our serving God.
- G. What will these things be worth come judgment day.
- H. Matthew 5:29 — And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- I. Are you willing to get rid of anything that distracts you.
- J. The rich young ruler would not do it.

36. *But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.*

- A. If a man's daughter has passed the average age to get married and desires to get married, he does not sin if he lets her.
 - B. A father might think that he has been too rough on his daughter by trying to keep her unmarried during the present distress.
 - C. Paul says this father can do what he wills. He can encourage his daughter to remain single or he can let her marry. He does not sin either way.
37. ***Nevertheless he that standeth steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.***
- A. Paul says the man (father) who remains steadfast in his heart and keeps his virgin (daughter) does well.
 - B. If he has no necessity to let her marry, meaning the daughter is not putting undo pressure on him then he does well to stand fast.
 - C. One is to have power over his own will. When a parent knows a thing is right he/she needs to stand his/her ground.
 - D. Paul says that it is unwise to get married at this time. Therefore, wise parents ought to give that advice to their children.
38. ***So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.***
- A. So then if, one lets his daughter get married he does well.
 - B. However, if he giveth not his daughter in marriage he does better.
 - C. Why? Because of the present distress (26).
39. ***The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.***
- A. See notes in this series.
40. ***But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.***
- A. Paul wants all to abide by his judgment because of the present distress.

B. Paul was giving inspired advice about the present distress.

Questions For Pre-Marital Counseling
By Adam Cozort, Tim Phillips and Wesley Simons

1. Why do you want to get married?
2. What is the purpose of marriage according to the Bible?
3. For how long is one to be married?
4. What would it take to talk you out of getting married?
5. (To the man.) What do you understand your role to be as husband? (Be sure to cover this material. Do not take anything for granted!)
6. (To the woman.) What do you understand your role to be as wife? (Be sure to cover this material. Do not take anything for granted!)
7. Have you discussed your wishes concerning children? (How many, etc.)
8. Have you discussed the process to be used in disciplining your children?
9. How do your parents feel about your marriage?
10. What is your relationship with your future in-laws?
11. What is your upbringing and family background?
12. How will that background influence your marriage?
13. (To the man.) Do you have a job that will allow you to support your family?
14. How do you respond in a disagreement?
15. Do any of his/her habits/practices bother you? Will they effect your relationship later?
16. Do you understand the commitment you are making in marriage (both to each other and to God)?
17. Do you understand the only cause for a scriptural divorce is fornication? (Make sure they understand this point.)
18. (To the man.) What are you goals as the husband and father in your home?
19. (To the woman.) What are your goals as the wife and mother in your home?
20. Do you understand the Biblical principle of not defrauding your mate (1 Cor. 7:3-5)?
21. Have either of you been married before?
22. If so, what was the cause for the ending of that marriage?
23. Does your future spouse know of this situation?
24. Do you understand that pre-marital sex is against God's law?
25. Do you understand the principle of "leave and cleave?"
26. (To the man) What are you religiously? (This is one of the most important points.)
27. (To the woman) What are you religiously? (This is one of the most important points.)
28. If you disagree religiously, how will this be resolved?
29. How are you going to rear your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord if you cannot agree on what it is?
30. Will you study the Bible with me on this issue?

Questions You Would Ask A Couple Having Marriage Problems

By Adam Cozort, Tim Phillips and Wesley Simons

1. How long have you been married?
2. How long have you had this problem?
3. Was this problem present before you got married?
4. Are you willing to let the Word of God solve your marriage problems?
5. What is the problem (ask the husband)?
6. What is the problem (ask the wife)?
7. Does this problem involve infidelity?
8. Do you understand that divorce is not an option unless fornication is involved?
9. Have you discussed these problems between yourselves?
10. Does this problem effect your children?
11. Do you understand the obligation of your roles as husband and wife?
12. Do you understand if you unscripturally divorce you must remain unmarried?
13. Are you willing to put forth an effort to resolve your problem?
14. Have you sought anyone else's advice?
15. Whose advice did you seek?
16. Do you understand that God's word is the only pure source of advice?
17. Is this problem worth destroying your family?
18. Did you understand your marriage vows when you got married?
19. Are you willing to take responsibility for your own actions?
20. Do you understand that withholding your body is sinful?
21. What would it take to solve this problem?
22. Are you separated right now from each other?
23. Do you understand the principle in treating your spouse as your own body?
24. Do you understand the golden rule?
25. Have you considered the effect your problem has caused in relation to the church?
26. Have you been putting God first in your lives?
27. Do you realize that your mate is second only to God?
28. Are your in-laws a problem?
29. Will you agree to spend more time together?
30. Will you let me study the Bible with you and your family?

Questions YOU Would Ask A Person Seeking A Scriptural Divorce

By Adam Cozort, Tim Phillips and Wesley Simons

1. Why are you seeking this divorce?
2. What kind of proof do you have that fornication took place?
3. Can this marriage be saved if the guilty party repents?
4. Have you done all you can to save this marriage?
5. Have you considered the implications of this divorce?
6. Have you thought about the children involved?
7. Do you understand when you put this person away for fornication that he/she cannot remarry?
8. Do you understand that God expects you to be faithful through this process of divorce?
9. Do you understand the responsibility you have after this divorce occurs?
10. Can I say anything that would change your mind about this divorce? (If one's mate has been unfaithful, one does not have to change his mind about pursuing a divorce. They have a God-given right to divorce their mate if they have been faithful).
11. Have you discussed your mate's unfaithfulness with your mate?
12. Does anybody else know about your mate's unfaithfulness?
13. Do you intend to remarry?
14. Do you understand that the person you marry must be qualified for marriage?
15. Do you understand that all of God's laws on the marriage bed still apply?
16. Do you understand the importance of seeking a Christian mate?
17. Do you understand as a Christian the obligations you must uphold before God?
18. Have you sought counseling with your mate?
19. If you pursue another mate will you let me show each of you what the Bible says before you get married?
20. Has your mate cheated on you before?
21. Have you ever cheated on your mate?
22. Do you understand that it is not required that you divorce your mate?
23. Do you understand that if your mate repents that you still can put him/her away for the cause of fornication?
24. Have you withheld your body from your mate?
25. Do you understand the implications if you withheld your body from your mate?
26. Has your mate stopped his unfaithfulness?
27. How long has he been fornicating?
28. Did you catch him, or did someone tell you of his unfaithfulness?
29. Is the person who told you a reliable person?
30. Do your children know their father has been unfaithful?
31. Are you going to tell them why you are getting this divorce?
32. Do you need my help in this area?

Questions You Would Ask A Man Who Has Been Unfaithful To His Wife

By Adam Cozort, Tim Phillips and Wesley Simons

1. Is this the first time you cheated?
2. How long has this been going on?
3. Does your wife know about your unfaithfulness?
4. Does she suspect you are cheating?
5. Does anybody else know about your unfaithfulness?
6. Do you understand that your wife has the scriptural right to put you away for the cause of fornication?
7. Do you understand if she puts you away for the cause of fornication that you cannot remarry?
8. Do you understand if she puts you away for the cause of fornication and she dies that you still are ineligible to remarry?
9. Do you want to save your marriage?
10. What are you willing to do to save your marriage?
11. What caused you to cheat on your wife?
12. Does the person your cheating with have a mate?
13. Does that person's mate know about your relationship?
14. Do you understand the effect your actions will have upon your children?
15. Do you understand the effect your actions will have upon your fellow Christians?
16. Was the person you cheated with a member of the Lord's church?
17. Do you understand that your actions will have an effect on the community?
18. Has your unfaithfulness produced children? (If so, do you understand that you must take care of them? This means spiritually and materially.)
19. Do you understand that your wife will have the scriptural right to remarry if she puts you away for the cause of fornication?
20. Have you contacted any sexually transmitted diseases?
21. Has your mate ever been unfaithful to you?
22. Did you understand your marriage vows concerning faithfulness?
23. Do you understand that you not only cheated on your wife but God as well?
24. Can you be trusted if your wife takes you back?
25. Do you understand that you have forfeited the full trust of your wife forever?
26. Do you think your wife can ever trust you again?
27. What can you do to earn her trust?
28. Will she meet with me about this issue?
29. Will the two of you meet with me together?
30. If the two of you get back together, will you study the Bible with me?

Questions For One Seeking An Unscriptural Divorce

By Adam Cozort, Tim Phillips and Wesley Simons

1. Why are you wanting to get a divorce?
2. How long have you been married?
3. Do you understand the exceptive clause of Matthew 19:9?
4. Are there children involved?
5. Do you understand that the marriage vows are binding for life?
6. Are you willing to work out your differences to save this marriage?
7. Have you discussed these things with your spouse?
8. Do you understand if you do get an unscriptural divorce you must remain unmarried according to 1 Corinthians 7:10,11?
9. Have you considered the consequences upon your children for your actions?
10. Do you understand that God hates divorce?
11. Do you realize that your divorce will effect not only your relationship with your mate but with God as well? (An unscriptural divorce is sinful.)
12. Have you discussed this situation with your parents?
13. Have you received "advice" from outside sources? (What was that advice?)
14. Do you understand the meaning of the terms "fornication" and "adultery?"
15. Do you understand the principle of not defrauding your spouse (1 Cor. 7:3-5)?
16. Do you understand the principle of treating your spouse as you want to be treated?
17. Is your spouse willing to accept help for the problem?
18. Have you sought help for the problem?
19. What would it take to convince you not to pursue this divorce?
20. Have you contemplated the consequences if you pursue a divorce?
21. Have you contemplated the influences upon the church if you follow through with this?
22. Why did you get married?
23. Did you know these problems existed before you got married?
24. Did you discuss these problems before you got married?
25. Are you aware of the situation you are putting your spouse in by performing these actions?
26. Do you still love your mate?
27. Does he/she love you?
28. Why can't this be solved?
29. Will you make changes (scriptural) to save your marriage?
30. Do you believe that your mate would be willing to make changes to save the marriage?
31. If yes, what is the problem?
32. Have the two of you been putting God first in your lives?
33. If so, why this problem?
34. Will the two of you study the Bible with me?

35. Give them a copy of Tom Warren's book, ***Marriage Is For Those Who Love God And One Another.***