

Biblical View of Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

**Written by Ron Adema, Pastor
Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
Birmingham, Alabama.**

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FOREWORD

Ron and Jane Adema

Jane and I have been married since 1959 and here we are almost 50 years later and into the 21st Century. Our marriage has survived cultural changes from “Ozzie and Harriet” to the “Osbornes” and the “Simpsons.”

We met and married in a culture that believed in marriage “until death do us part.” This was a culture that taught couples to stay together and to work through the stress and strains of normal life problems. In this culture we had role models that embraced this thinking and taught it in the church and to our families. Today the attitude seems to be – “until one of us becomes unhappy.”

A few years into our marriage, Jane and I began to pursue the answers to marital problems by studying what the Bible had to say about marriage and then applying it to our marriage. It didn't change the normal stress and strain of life, but it did change our way of dealing with the stress and strain and with each other.

Let me give you one example that comes to mind about how Bible teaching changed our way of dealing with problems. We were struggling with finances and time management and being married with two children and going to college and working and all the things that go along with marriage. I was offered a great traveling job, which was a wonderful opportunity for my career and our finances. However, it kept me away from home and from involvement in rearing our children, which eventually grew from two to four.

During one of my Bible studies on marriage, family, and rearing children, I became convicted regarding my limited involvement as a husband and father and Christian role model. I was overwhelmed with the need to be a part of my children's early development as people. (You can read what we discovered in another booklet entitled “Parenting” on our website at www.doctrinalstudies.com).

After much prayer and discussion, Jane and I agreed that it would be better for us as a family for me to become a full-time husband and father. What happened from that day until now is an unbelievable story of our marriage, family and ministry.

These are the words that still burn in my soul: “What would it profit me as a father, if I gained the whole world and lost my own family.” I placed myself into Mark 8:36-37 and the story of Noah: “God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with SEVEN OTHERS (his family), when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly” (my emphasis added) (2 Peter 2:5).

Jane and I have written this booklet to help you through the different stages of marriage difficulties with Biblical answers. It was also written to point out common conflicts with the hope that you will be encouraged to seek spiritual and marital counsel rather than throw away your marriage or marital happiness. It is our prayer that it will be as helpful to you and your marriage and family as it has been to ours.

PRIOR TO STUDYING EACH CHAPTER

Before studying each of these eight chapters, it is important to evaluate your spiritual relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Your spiritual relationship is the key to the study and application of these biblical principles to your marriage. Each time you study this booklet, begin by reading 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 16:13 and 1 John 1:9. Understand that personal sin hinders the teaching ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Therefore, I encourage you to begin each study with confession of sin and with prayer.

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and 1 John 1:9)

Matthew 19:3-12 and Mark 10:3-12 records Jewish religious leaders challenging Jesus on the subject of Mosaic laws concerning divorce. One point that Jesus made during this discussion was that their problem with divorce was directly related to their problems with marriage (Matt.19: 4-8; Gen.1: 26-27; 2:24; 1 Cor.6: 16; Eph.5: 31). This was part of my motivation in writing this booklet and especially this chapter on the Origin of Marriage.

Many people have no idea how marriage originated. They do not know that it was instituted by God and not by man, because they have never researched it nor read about it in the first book of the Bible (**Genesis 2:18-25**). Yet, there are many interesting things recorded in the first Scriptures on the origin of marriage (Genesis 2:18-25). For example, it is interesting that three different teachers and authorities are required to explain the origin of marriage. The first teacher was the sovereign Lord God (2:18-22). The second teacher was the first spouse, Adam (2:23). The third teacher was the spiritual leader, Moses (2:24-25) [addition of parents]. **This tells me that the origin of marriage was established by a sovereign God before the Garden of Eden and confirmed by a spousal Adam in the Garden and taught by a spiritual Moses after the Garden.**

Jesus and Paul used the canonized writing and teaching of Moses in their teachings on the origin of marriage (Matt.19 and Eph.5).

It is also interesting that in the middle of the lesson on the origin of marriage, God paused to talk about household pets: "The Lord God said, 'it is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him.' (Here God pauses and gives an explanation of His creation of animals, birds and household pets!) Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field, all the birds of the air; He brought them to the man to see what he would name them and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air, the beast of the field." (Gen.2: 18-20a, NIV) An important point can be interjected into the lesson on the origin of marriage. Man's best friend is not Fido (or any other substitutions), because in these verses he tells of the creation of Eve, Adam's Suitable Helper.

At this moment, please let me say that single solitude is a time to become more spiritually and biblically prepared for marriage and life. One needs to become content with single life in order to understand contentment with married life (1 Cor.7: 32-35). I have discovered that people who are not content with single life are not good candidates for marriage at that stage of their lives.

It is interesting that it was the sovereign God and not Adam who declared that it was **not good to be alone and needed a suitable helper** (*neqed ezer* or corresponding counterpart of Gen.1: 26-27). However, God is not suggesting that marriage can somehow dispel single loneliness. Some of the loneliest people I have met have been married. Occupation with Jesus Christ is needed to dispel loneliness and take up the slack of a soul mate. Read 1 Cor.7: 32-35 and then read it again. Now, read 1 Pet.2: 25. Romantic love is not always a rational experience; therefore, Christians need to first experience divine love in their souls (Eph.5: 25-33; 1 Cor.13: 4-8; Gal.5: 16, 22-23).

Adam in single solitude knew scripturally that a suitable helper was missing because the Lord God taught him just as the Lord is teaching us (Gen.2: 18-19). The Lord brought (*bo / hiphil impf*) Adam substitutions that convinced him of the uniqueness of the grace offer of a suitable helper (Gen.2: 19).

In God's perfect timing and grace, God would bring (*bo* / *hiphil impf*) the suitable helper to Adam for marriage (Gen.2: 22; Prov.18: 22).

God gave Adam a special mate not a spare mate (1 Cor.11: 8-12). Today, the Christian church is exchanging special mates like they exchange spare tires. A wife is a special rib not a spare rib. Today, there is no respect for the sanctity of marriage as a **divine** institution. This is obvious by the way people mistreat it (Gen.2: 18-25).

God gave Adam a wife without giving him pain (Gen.2: 21-22). If there is a lot of pain and suffering during the courtship, this is not a healthy relationship for marriage and you should seek counseling NOW!

Here is a brief list of some people who, as Believers in Jesus Christ, should **never marry without professional counseling**.

- An Unbeliever (2 Cor.6: 14-18; 1 Cor.7: 39; 9:5)
- An Unscripturally divorced believer (Matt.19: 4-6; 1 John 3:18-21)
- A Heavy drinker, drug user/ seller, or compulsive gambler (Prov.23: 20-21; Rom.13: 13-14)
- An Extremely jealous believer (Gal.5: 16-26; Prov.12: 18)
- A Neurotic or Psychotic believer (Prov.21: 9; 27:15)
- A Chronically unemployed believer (Prov.14: 23; 21:25-26)

Genesis 2:18-25 records the first wedding ceremony of human history between Adam and Eve. Three different Hebrew words are used to describe Adam and Eve in regards to marriage (*ish*, *ishah*, and *ha adam*).

In the wedding, the husband becomes (*ish*) and wife becomes (*ishah*): "For this cause a husband (*ish*) shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife (*ishah*); and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) [Monogamous].

Leaving for independence and cleaving for dependence are important parts of the marriage becoming one flesh. This is symbolized in the wedding ceremony by the unity candle.

There are several times during marriage when **cleaving** (*dabaq*) (intimate togetherness) is essential. Two obvious times is when the children permanently leave home. The first time is when as someone's children, you leave home. The second time is when your own children leave your home (the empty nest). Marital cleaving is very important.

In marriage the husband (*ish*) is also the man (*ha adam*) of his wife (*ishah*). (Genesis 2:25) "and the man (*ha adam*) and his wife (*ishah*) were both naked and were not ashamed." This is a double role for the husband (*ish*) and as *ha adam*, the husband holds the position of headship in the divine chain of authority. (1 Cor.11: 3; Eph.5: 23) He also holds the responsibility of cleaving *ish* and *ishah* into one flesh (Gen.2: 24, Eph.5: 22-33).

Jesus posed a neology to the teaching on marriage from Genesis 2:18-25: "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together let no man separate.**" (Matt.19: 6)

This phrase was based on this doctrinal principle: "But from the beginning it has not been this way." (Matt.19: 8)

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with this lesson.]

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following eight point homiletical outline will help you review The "Origin of Marriage".

Single solitude (Gen.2:18-19). What is God's Plan?

Substitution (Gen.2:19-20a). Who is really man's best friend?

Suitable helper (Gen.2:20). Who provides a corresponding counterpart?

Special mate (Gen.2:21). Who prepares special soul mates for marriage?

Sanctity of marriage (Gen.2:21-22). For whom did God establish the Divine Institution of marriage?

Similarity of mating (Gen.2:23). Read Gen.1:26-27 and describe what God patterned your soul after.

Separating from familiarities (Gen.2:24). What is the objective of learning "leaving and cleaving"?

How should you separate from familiarities according to Gen.2:24?

Spousal roles (Gen.2:24-25). What are the unique roles of the husband and wife in the plan of God?

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about the Origin of Marriage. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

MARITAL GRACE

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and 1 John 1:9)

At the end of the Sixth Day of Creation, God stated that everything was "very good" (Gen.1: 31). Then, God stated that there was something that was "not good," and that was the single solitude of man: "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen.2: 18).

It is at this point that God introduced Marital Grace (Gen.2: 18-25). Later, Solomon will pen this same doctrinal concept: "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor (*chen*) [grace] from the Lord." (Prov.18: 22)

In the lesson on the Origin of Marriage, we learned that God perceived a need in man for an intimate monogamous relationship: "Your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matt.6: 8) This need was communicated by the word of God before the need was supplied by the grace of God (Gen.2: 18). "And my God shall supply [grace] all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Phil.4: 19)

Neither Adam nor Eve had to engage in a "frantic search" for some mystical mate. But, it was important for them to apply faith to the promises of God regarding marital grace: "And being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform." (Rom.4: 21)

It was God's grace that created the human soul in the image of God and uniquely male (*zakar*) and female (*neqebah*) for a spiritual and a marital monogamous relationship: "But from the beginning of creation [Sixth Day], God made them male and female [Gen.1: 26-27]. For this cause [monogamous marital relationship] a man shall leave his father and his mother, and the two shall become one flesh; consequently, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate." (Mark 10:6-8)

The Bible teaches that marriage is a divine institution for man and not a human institution for God. It has been designed by the sovereignty of God to exist throughout human history (Ge.2: 18-25; Matt.19: 4-6; 24:38-39; Eph.5: 22-33). God designed marriage for life on earth and not heaven (Matt.22: 23-30) "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven." (22:30)

Because marriage is a divine institution, Jesus said people entering it should respect the sanctity of marriage: "What therefore God has joined together let no man separate." People entering marriage need to understand that their wedding vows given before God and invited guests are **for a lifetime and not for a short time**. Unfortunately, it seems that a lot of people today marry for the short term rather than for the long term.

During His ministry, Jesus emphasized that a spiritually and morally declining nation has a problem making commitments and keeping vows to the Lord: "you shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord." (Matt.5: 31-33)

God graced the divine institution of marriage in such a way that it has been able to survive the assaults of Satan, the fall of Adam, the imputation of Adam's sin, and the gaining of an old sin nature (Gen.3 and Rom.5: 12-21).

We understand that the fall of Adam did not affect the institution of marriage, but it did affect the individuals within it (Gen.2: 17; 3:16-17; Matt.19: 8).

In the plan of God, God is the divine source of marital grace and married couples are the human source: "You husbands likewise, live with your **wives** in an understanding way [word of God], as with a **weaker** vessel (1 Cor.11: 3, 7-12), since she is a **woman** [Gen.1: 26-27]; and grant (*aponemo* / p.a.ptc / nplm) [to dispense appreciation of a wife based on how God views her worth] her honor [**worth**] as a fellow heir of the grace of life [marital grace], so that your prayers may not be hindered [**warning**]." (1 Pet.3: 7)

Notice that the Christian husband is to have a grace attitude of granting honor to his wife at ALL TIMES (present tense of *aponemo*) [without blame]. Pay special attention to the reason given by Peter: "**fellow heir of the grace of life.**" Did you notice the warning?

Let me ask you, as a Christian husband and father, do you lead your wife and family in prayer?

- Do you pray with your wife?
- Do you pray with your children and most especially when they have problems?
- Do you pray with your wife and most especially when she has problems?
- Do you pray with your family and most especially when you have problems?

"Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thess.4: 17-18)

Adam and Eve were not required to provide their own marital grace apart from God and neither are you! I watch couples struggle so hard inside their marriage to do what God is willing to do for them by grace through the faith cycle. In the midst of this entire struggle and frustration, they could choose to let God's marvelous grace do it for them: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." (2 Cor.12: 9) Grace is based on God's character and His promise to provide for our needs: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb.4: 16)

Let me stop and remind you of the following five aspects of marital grace recorded in Gen.2:18-25 under the principle of God's promise ("God said").

- I will make for him a helper suitable for him (Gen. 2:18-19)
- Lord God caused (Gen. 2:21a)
- He took (Gen. 2:21b)
- Lord God fashioned (Gen. 2:22a)
- Lord God brought (Gen. 2:22b)

Grace is based on God's character and His promise to provide for marital needs. Adam and Eve were married under ideal conditions and in a perfect culture and yet, they did not live happily ever after (Gen.3). Does that surprise you? Adam went from single solitude to marital bliss to big marital trouble. Sometimes, believe it or not, the wind goes out of our honeymoon sails. Sometimes the moonlight and roses turn into daylight and dirty dishes. You think, "dear God what have I gotten myself into this time?" This is the time when marital grace can work miracles in your marriage. It is important to stay faithful to the promises of God about marriage. This is a time for responsible CLEAVING and not irresponsible leaving. Adam and Eve became distracted from their spiritual relationship and from the simplicity of the truth of God's word (Gen.2-3). Their failures remind us that through our free will through our free will we can foul up volitionally what God created for our well being. It also shows that

when our monogamous spiritual relationship gets “out of whack,” our monogamous marital relationship will not be far behind.

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with this lesson.]

MARITAL GRACE

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following five point homiletical outline will help review Marital Grace.

Wife (1 Pet.3:7a). What two things does a husband find when he finds a wife?

Weaker (1 Pet.3:7b). What has God designed the wife’s soul and body to be?

Woman (1 Pet.3:7c). How has God designed the wife’s soul to be compatible?

Worth (1 Pet.3:7d). How is the wife viewed in God’s sight and to what does He compare her? (1 Pet.3:5) (Eph.5:23)

Warning (1 Pet.3:7e). How can the way the husband treats his wife affect him?

FELLOW HEIR OF THE GRACE OF LIFE (1 Pet.3:7)

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about Marital Grace. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

THE MONOGAMOUS MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and 1 John 1:9)

Jesus reminds us that the original intent of the marriage covenant was cleaving in companionship for life: "And the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore, God has joined together, let no man separate." [It's God's command] (Mark 10:2-12).

This last phrase added by Jesus teaches that the monogamous marital relationship is meant to be permanent. Notice that it contains the command: "let no man separate." This Greek word for separate is used in Rom.8: 35-39 in a similar way. This will give you an idea of the powerful use of this Greek word for the permanent state of marriage.

What has happened to a culture that once believed in marriage as a divine covenant? What has happened to this culture where the divorce rate has gone from 2% in 1945 to 50% today?

Since 1945, the American culture has treated marriage as a human institution that you can enter and leave like a department store.

Jesus warned His culture and the religious leaders of His day of the same thing when He told them: "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, nor the power of God." (Matt.22: 29/ 22:23-33)

Write the two major warnings given by Jesus on the blank lines: _____
and _____.

This booklet is designed to help us understand about the Scriptures and power of God regarding marriage as a divine covenant.

The answer to marital problems is not to run away from marriage. When you run away from marriage without resolving the marital problems, the problems go with you. Somewhere, at sometime, you must stop and deal with them.

Marriage is a perfect institution but with imperfect married people. Jesus' advice was to run toward the Scriptures and the power of God.

Paul used the same Greek word for separation (*chorizo*) with similar advice in Rom.8: 35-39. Note that (*chorizo*) was used for both spiritual and marital monogamous relationships: "What shall separate us from love?" Paul discussed problems of life that might threaten the monogamous relationship and then made this profound statement: "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." (8:37)

Write down three of your marital problems on the blank lines below, biggest first:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I want you to note that these conflicts are not any different than those listed in Rom.8: 35-39 and are no different as far as being able to be conquerors through Jesus Christ. You simply need to understand the Scriptures and the power of God to see them work in your LIFE.

I can't walk in your shoes and you can't walk in my shoes but we can both walk in the shoes of Jesus Christ by faith: "This is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith." (1 John 5:4)

Paul explained the principle of the **power of God** working in our life: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." (2 Cor.12: 9) Spiritual power perfects weakness if it operates under God's grace by faith.

Abraham had a marital problem and applied this principle and gave his testimony in **Rom.4: 17-21**. He described his problem as hopeless by sight. What was important was for Abraham to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor.5:7).

Read the six things that Abraham believed, which enabled him to walk by the faith cycle through a difficult time in his marriage.

1. "God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist" (**Rom. 4:17**)
2. "in hope against hope he believed" (**Rom. 4:18**)
3. "without becoming weak in faith" (**Rom. 4:19**)
4. "with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief" (**Rom. 4:20a**)
5. "but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God" (**Rom. 4:20b**)
6. "being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform." (**Rom. 4:21**)

In the Hebrew language of Gen.2: 18-25, the monogamous marital relationship is taught by the Hebrew words (*ish*) and (*ishah*) "For this cause a man (*ish*) shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife (*ishah*); and they shall become one flesh." (Gen.2: 24)

God created two distinct and different characteristics of the human soul as male (*zakar*) and female (*neqebah*). They were created to become one in marriage. This would happen as they cleave as husband (*ish*) and wife (*ishah*). This means that they no are longer single male and single female, but husband (*ish*) and wife (*ishah*).

The rib taken from man and fashioned into his wife who God brought to him also illustrates the monogamous marital relationship. Adam described his monogamous marital relationship by the following five things: bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, *ishah* (woman) out of *ish* (man), leave and cleave, and becoming one flesh (Gen.2: 21-25).

One of the ways you know that you are **cleaving** (*dabaq*) [intimacy of togetherness] is found in the extent of your **companionship** with your mate.

This doctrinal principle is described by Solomon in Eccl.9: 9: "Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun."

One way you know that marital companionship is not developing is that you hear married people say:

"I feel so alone"

"My mate talks at me, but not to me"

"I got more loving from my mate when we dated"

"I feel so trapped in an emotionless and loveless relationship"

"We never do anything together" and "I'm so unhappy and miserable."

If, in your marriage relationship, you are bored and unhappy, feeling alone, which is the normal life for the single person (Gen.2:18), you will probably become bored and unhappy at some point with the "leaving and cleaving" principle of married life.

God says that He designed the monogamous marital relationship so that married couples could ENJOY LIFE together. So what is wrong? Either God is out of step with you or you are out of step with God?

Paul said that we are either walking by faith or by sight? (2 Cor.5: 7) And Peter said that when two Christians marry they are "fellow heirs of the grace of life" (1 Pet.3: 7).

Paul gives five characteristics of cleaving into companionship in 2 Cor.6: 14-16.

1. **Partnership**
2. **Fellowship**
3. **Harmony**
4. **Common interests**
5. **Agreement**

Did you notice what these five things have in common and what makes them work? When you study these five things, you'll discover that the common denominator is God (righteousness, light, Christ, spiritual, and temple) "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (2 Cor. 6:16)

God created the human soul for spiritual and marital monogamous relationships in life. Paul says that these two relationships are intertwined in Christian marriage: **"This is a great mystery; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each individual among you also love his wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."** (Eph.5: 32-33)

Another part of "cleaving" into companionship of the monogamous marital relationship is the Greek word (*suzeugnumi*) "What therefore God has **joined together** (*suzeugnumi*/ a.a.ind) [yoked together] let no man separate." (Mark 10:9) Marriage is the yoking together of two people into one.

Having been reared on a farm during a time when horses were still in some use, I understand the significance of the English translation of *suzeugnumi* as yoking together. For example, horses do not yoke themselves together nor do the groom and bride. Write on the blank line what Mark 10:9 says yokes them together: _____.

The same is true of your marital yoking: "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (2Cor.5: 18)

This spiritual yoking is forever: "And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." (1 John 5:11-12)

We began this chapter by quoting Jesus' comments to some Pharisees regarding the disintegration of marriage in a morally and spiritually declining nation. There was so much divorce at the time that there was division even among the religious leaders as to cause and cure (Matt.19: 3-12).

I believe that the point that Jesus was trying to make was that the real problem was the neglect of Scriptural teaching on the origin of marriage.

(Matt.19: 4-5) "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female [Gen.1: 26-27], and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh (Gen.2: 24)'?"

Jesus restated the primary purpose of cleaving in marriage, as "the two shall become one flesh. Consequently, they are no longer two, but one flesh." (Matt.19: 5-6a) Then, Jesus gave a neology that is stated at nearly every Christian wedding I have ever attended: "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt.19: 6b) These words of wisdom are for our culture, our religious leaders, and us as well as they were for those of Jesus' day.

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with this lesson.]

THE MONOGAMOUS MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following five point homiletical outline will help review Monogamous Marital Relationship.

Partnership (*metoche*) (2 Cor.6:14a). What does this text emphasize?

Fellowship (*koinonia*) (2 Cor.6:14b). What does this text emphasize?

Harmony (*sumphonesis*) (2 Cor.6:15a). What does this text emphasize?

Common interest (*meris*) (2 Cor.6:15b). What does this text emphasize?

Agreement (*sugkatathesis*) (2 Cor.6:16). What does this text emphasize?

“I will live with them and I will walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.”

Write down the four things that God will do for His children in (2 Cor.6:16; Lev.26:12)

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about the Monogamous Marital Relationship. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MARRIAGE

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and John 1:9)

With a 50% divorce rate in America and many more marriages in shambles, we are in trouble as a culture and as a church in America. It is time for the church of Jesus Christ to stop pointing her finger at the nation and at the government and begin taking some responsibility for correcting this problem using the authority of God's word.

As teachers of the word of God, we must be prepared for people in our modern culture to be initially shocked by what the Bible teaches regarding marriage and the husband's responsibility to his marriage. There is a lot of role reversal in today's marriage, in the culture and in the church when viewed according to the standard taught in the word of God.

It is my prayer that you will take seriously what the Bible says about marriage and specifically what it says about the husband's role in marriage. Let me encourage you to take immediate steps to implement it in your marriage. Let me reassure you that God is more interested in your implementing those changes than you can possibly understand at this time.

Jesus attempted to reach His generation during a similar time of cultural marital crisis with the same biblical teachings on marriage that we study today in Matthew 19:4-6. He began by asking this question: "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female [Gen.1: 26-27], and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh (Gen.2: 24)?" Jesus was saying that the cultural problem of divorce was related to the problem of Scriptural teaching on marriage ("Have you not read?").

The Bible teaches that marriage is more a **spiritual** covenant or contract than it is a legal contract. Marriage is a divine institution for man and not a human institution for God. This is why the bride and groom exchange wedding vows before God and invited guests. This is a covenant with vows that are not to be broken – "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt.19: 6)

This principle was stated in the first wedding ceremony of human history as recorded in the Bible (Gen.2: 18-25). Moses wrote about this wedding between Adam and Eve, "For this cause [marriage union based on 2:23] a man (*ish*) shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife (*ishah*); and they shall become one flesh [monogamy math is 1+1=1]." (Gen.2: 24)

Notice that during the wedding ceremony the groom becomes (*ish*) and the bride becomes (*ishah*). The reason is explained by Paul in 1Cor.11: 8-9 which was based on Gen.2: 18-25. When the bride becomes *ishah*, she becomes **bone of the groom's bone (*ish*) and flesh of the groom's flesh (*ishah*)** as they cleave and become one (2:23-25). This led Paul to remind his generation of these biblical teachings on marriage during his own time since they were facing similar marital problems (Eph.5: 22-33).

The *ish* and *ishah* concept of Gen.2: is interpreted by Paul as, "husbands (*ish* idea) ought also to love their own wives (*ishah* idea) as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church." (Eph.5: 28-29).

The Christian husband has certain biblical responsibilities to his marriage. These are outlined in the word of God. We will discuss several of them in this lesson.

One responsibility of the Christian husband to his marriage is to understand that he has been promoted

from rulership authority to headship authority as a result of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Prior to the fall of Adam (Gen.2: 17-25), the husband was a fellow joint heir of the grace of God with his wife under his headship authority. After the fall (Gen.3:6-19; Rom.5:12), the husband was demoted to ruler (*masha*) [to have dominion] over his wife as part of her curse due to her participation in the fall of Adam. "He shall rule over you" (Gen.3:16). Rulership can be harsh and even violent. Many husbands still live in the concept of rulership and do not understand that it is not scriptural for Christians in marriage. (The Christian husband is the head of the marriage and not the ruler of the marriage). By not understanding the difference, even Christian husbands can become involved in marital or even family abuse. By the end of 20th century, 1 out of 5 families reported experiencing violence in the home. 1 in 4 teens are reporting violence while dating which further indicates a misunderstanding or ignorance or even a refusal to accept proper roles. Today, 20% of the American population thinks that it is sometimes acceptable to strike a spouse. It is never acceptable! However, spousal abuse can take several forms.

Let me give you three examples by which you may recognize the spousal abuse of **rulership**.

1. **The "Control freak" abuser:** This type person will threaten or act out in violence by hitting, kicking, throwing, or even slamming objects in front of you as a fear tactic in order to control you.
2. **The Verbal/Emotional abuser:** This type person is the name calling, belittling, threatening to leave, cut you off financially in order to make you fearful and to control you.
3. **The Physical abuser:** This type person is the pushing, slapping, punching, or destroying your favorite possessions (even animals) to make you fearful in order to control you.

DO NOT ACCEPT ANY OF THESE ABUSES. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, TELL A CLOSE FRIEND AND GET HELP, AND GET COUNSELING. This is not the function of a Christian husband's headship. In fact, **the husband is commanded to not embitter (*pikraino* / present, passive imperfect) his wife.**" (Col.3: 19). *Pikraino* means to treat harshly or critical so as to crush her spirit to make her submit.

Once a husband believes the Gospel: that Jesus Christ died as his substitute for the imputation of the penalty of Adam's sin, that Jesus was buried and raised from the dead on the third day to give him eternal life (1Cor.15: 3-4; Rom.1: 16; John 5:24), he is promoted from ruler (*masha*) to head authority (*kephale*) over his wife by the saving grace of God (Eph.2: 8-9).

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

Peter taught that the **Christian husband** is restored to his original status as: "fellow heir of the grace of life" (1 Pet.3: 7).

The Christian husband's headship authority is connected to the divine chain of authority as outlined in 1 Cor.11: 3 – "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ." [Rank in the divine chain of authority is from top to bottom - God to Christ to Christian husband to wife].

Under headship, the subordinate is never considered inferior since both are **fellow heirs** of the grace of life in Christ. It refers to order, responsibility, biblical roles, and divine protection. You are always protected by the next rank in the divine chain of authority. This principle was taught once again in the marriage of Abraham and Sarah as referred to in 1 Pet.3: 1-6. Sarah applied this principle in the Pharaoh incident of Gen.12: 10-20. Her husband (ranked authority) failed her, so she appealed to the

authority over her husband, the Lord. Abraham and Sarah were only 21 generations from Adam and Eve in the genealogy of Luke 3:34-38. Yet, this same principle applies to all those marriages in between as well as to all the thousands of marriages from Adam down to today.

The Christian husband is **commanded to love** (agape) [unconditional and sacrificial relaxed mental attitude love]. "**Husbands love (*agapao* / p.a.impv.2pl/ command) your wives, just as Christ (*kathos*) [*kata* and *hos* is used to intensify this comparison] loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Eph.5: 25)**

Write how Christ demonstrated His love for the Church? _____.

"But God demonstrated His own love towards us (church), in that while we were yet sinners (our worst condition), Christ died for us." (Rom.5:8)

This is what is meant about the Christian husband loving his wife unconditionally and sacrificially. Love, being commanded by God can be difficult for a husband who doesn't understand the resources that God has provided which enables him to do that very thing – Love Unconditionally. However, Headship love would never withdraw his love to teach his wife a lesson, where Rulership would! Listen Christian husband, if you want to understand how far your unconditional love is to extend, read the Book of Hosea.

Paul instructed the Christian husband that besides responsibilities of headship and unconditional and sacrificial love, he also has the responsibility for nurturing and cherishing his wife. Paul introduced nurturing and cherishing as part of natural as well as spiritual reasoning: "For (*gar*) [reasoning] no one ever hated his own flesh [natural reasoning of self], but (*alla*) [in contrast] nourishes (*ektrephe*) and cherishes (*thalpo*) it, just as Christ also dies for the church [spiritual reasoning of wife]." (Eph.5: 29)

Consider these three things:

1. Husband, the mental attitude sin of **hatred** will hinder loving, nurturing, and cherishing your wife.
2. Husband, nurturing is providing for your wife's spiritual growth and development as a Christian wife.
3. Husband, cherishing is fostering your wife with tender care. (1 Cor.7:3-5, 33).

Have you noticed that I have not spoken about providing a wife with things such as food, shelter, and clothing (1 Tim.5:8). It is true that I didn't give much print to those things. The reason is because husbands tend to use providing those things as an excuse for ignoring all the other responsibilities to marriage.

The Christian husband is instructed to love, nurture, and cherish his wife because loving, nurturing and cherishing fulfill the original **cleaving** of marriage (Eph.5: 31 quoting Gen.2: 24).

At this point, you might be thinking, "How can God expect me to be held to the standard of Jesus Christ?"

God will never ask of you anything that He will not provide for you by grace (Gal.5: 16, 22-23; 1 Cor.13: 4-8) [filling ministry of indwelling Holy Spirit]. This principle can be illustrated in the marriage of Abraham and Sarah as recorded in Romans 4:17-21. Pay attention to the following verse because it can be applied to your marriage as well: "And (Abraham, the husband) **being fully assured** that what He (God) promised, He (God) was able also to perform (for them as a couple)." (4:21) [Faith cycle, see glossary].

No matter how your earthly marriage has turned out, our heavenly marriage is eternal: "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin." (2 Cor.11:2)

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with this lesson.]

THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MARRIAGE

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following five point homiletical outline will help review the Husband's Responsibility to his Marriage.

Leadership of the husband (Eph.5:22-24). What is the husband's Divinely Delegated position in the marriage and who is he compared to by God?

Love of the husband (Eph.5:25-28). How is the husband commanded to love his wife?

Liability of the husband to his wife (Eph.5:28-30). What are the three things the husband is obligated to do (just as Christ does the church)?

Leaving and cleaving of the husband (Eph.5:31). Who is to initiate intimacy to whose soul, spirit and body?

Lesson of the husband's headship (Eph.5:32-33). The scripture says that it is the husband's responsibility to Christ and his marriage to restore his marriage relationship to its original status, just as Christ did to His relationship with man following the (sin) fall of Adam. Do you agree?

"Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt.19:6)

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about the Husband's Responsibility in marriage. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MARRIAGE

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and 1 John 1:9)

When the 21st century woman enters into the divine institution of marriage, she enters into the same covenant of marriage women have entered into since the first wedding between Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen.2:18-25).

Parents didn't exist at the time of Adam and Eve's marriage, but God still established a precedent at the time of their wedding that was to be extended to the end of human history. "And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. And the man said, 'this is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called, woman, because she was taken out of man.' For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." (Gen.2: 22-24)

God understood that interference from parents or dependence on them could be a possibility, so He forewarned both the parents and the newlyweds to apply the doctrinal principle of leaving and cleaving.

"For this cause" is a phrase that teaches the original order of creation as divinely designed for marriage between the man and woman (bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh and because she was taken out of man). **Paul interpreted this phrase for the Church in 1 Cor.11: 2-12.** "For the man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake." (1 Cor.11:8-9) "However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God." (1 Cor.11:11-12)

Paul is not teaching that the Christian wife is inferior but that she holds the honored place of reflected glory. "For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God (authority chain of divine command) (1 Cor.11:3); but the woman (wife) is the glory of man." (11:7)

Peter taught the same doctrinal principle in 1 Peter 3:7. "You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." Now do you understand why the wife is described as weaker vessel? (**She is the woman of divine design.**)

The Greek word for grant is (*aponemo*) and means that the husband is to assign the wife a place of honor in his life. The husband makes sure that their marriage is the center of their universe. This involves the husband giving his wife time and attention and not just material things.

In the fall of Adam, Eve became the initiator and leader (stronger vessel) rather than responder and supporter and this resulted in all sorts of trouble (Gen.3; 1 Timothy 2:14). Wives shouldn't do this even if husbands allow or even want them to. Role reversal is a danger to the divine institution of marriage. The more authority the wife gets, the less submissiveness she contributes and this takes her out of the authority chain of command. In the end, both the wife and the husband hate it and eventually they hate each other. This wife will try to justify her behavior by saying things like, "If I didn't, we wouldn't." This husband would rather cave-in than listen to her nagging. Here is "jiffy check" counseling; get back into God's divinely designed roles for your marriage. That is your starting place!

The Christian wife is commanded to be submissive to her husband's position in the divine chain of authority command (1 Cor.11: 3 – **God over Christ over Husband over Wife**). The Greek word for submits is (*hupotasso*, which in the p.m.impv is a command). It's also a continuous (present tense)

command (imperative) for the wife to submit (*hupotasso*) and she, her husband, and marriage will be benefited by it (middle voice) (Col.3: 18).

There are two reasons why *hupotasso* (submit) was used rather than *hupakouo* (obey). The first reason is that *hupotasso* is a military word referring to a rank system of positions of authority (1 Cor.11: 3). The second reason *hupotasso* is used is because the Christian husband holds the position of **headship** in the divine chain of authority. "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**. For the husband is the **head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church**, He Himself being the Savior of the body." (Eph.5: 22-23).

The Christian husband has been promoted, by saving grace from the position of **rulership** over the woman's curse of the fall to position of **headship** in the divine chain of command. (Gen.3: 16) [the word rule is *mashal* or to dominate). Thus God wants the Christian wife to be submissive to word of God regarding the husband's position (as to the Lord) regardless of his personality, strengths, or weaknesses. "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives." (1 Pet.3: 1)

This also reminds us that the intimacy of marriage (cleaving) can bring out people's adequacies and inadequacies because the more the two work on becoming one the more keenly aware they become of their differences and indifferences.

An incident in the marriage of Abraham and Sarah points out this principle. (Gen.20: 1-18). Abraham failed a second time to protect his wife's soul, body, and spirit (1 Pet.2: 25). Sarah submitted herself to the divine chain of authority [as to the Lord] (Col.3: 18) [God, The Father over Christ – Christ over the husband – the Husband over the wife] (1 Cor.11: 3). Sarah looked to her Lord and God to protect her in the absence of her husband's failure to protect her. This placed her under the absolute authority of God Almighty. "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you, and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." (Gen.20: 7)

Listen to Peter's comments on Sarah's faithful submission: "But let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive (*hupotasso*) to their own husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed (*hupakouo*) Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear." (1 Pet.3: 4-6)

Peter made an interesting point by using both (*hupotasso*) [submissive] and (*hupakouo*) [obeyed] for Sarah during her marriage crisis. She submitted (*hupotasso*) to the headship position in Abraham's divine chain of authority [as to the Lord, Christ]. At the same time she obeyed (*hupakouo*) her husband's rulership as lord. The divine chain of authority that she was under as a believer did not fail her even though her husband did.

The Surgeon General of U.S has declared domestic violence to be the leading cause of injury to the American female between the ages of 14 and 44. It is estimated that 4 million women are violently abused and 3.3 million children watch it happen every year! Statistics show that 20-30% (37% in Birmingham, Al.) of emergency hospital treatment of women is from spousal abuse and 60% of the homicides of women were also the result of spousal abuse.

THE PROFILE OF AN ABUSED MATE (Circle the ones that you see yourself in these 9 questions.)

1. Are you frightened and intimidated by your mate's temper?
2. Are you afraid to disagree with your mate?
3. Are you always apologizing for your mate's bad behavior towards you?
4. Are you forced to have sex after you state you don't want to have sex?
5. Are you always adjusting your normal behavior to avoid his abnormal behavior?
6. Are you repeatedly being accused of flirting or having affairs?
7. Are you unable to go places or do things without permission because of jealousy or suspicions?
8. Has your mate destroyed or disposed of some of your personal possessions out of anger or spite?
9. Have you been physically injured by your mate and hidden it from others?

If you circled:

- 1 to 2: You need to talk to someone close to you such as friends and family about it.
- 3 to 4: You need to talk to a professional counselor or minister or some battered woman's program.
- 5 or more: You need to get out of harm's way, away from this abuser and talk to the local police or authorities and/or enter a battered woman's program.

Abuse can occur in homes of believers as well as unbelievers. However, it is unacceptable carnal behavior in the lives of believers (Read: Gal.5: 16-25; 1 Cor.3: 1-3; Rom.13: 13-14; 1 Pet.2: 11-12).

Let me give you an example of an Old Testament believer who was once a spousal abuser (Gen.29: 31-35). Jacob abused Leah. He tried to justify his abuse by saying that his first wife had trapped him into marriage (Gen.29:21-26) and that he was in love with another woman (Gen.29:27-30) "Now the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren." (Gen.29:31)

Jacob's choice of abuse was to withhold godly soul love from Leah and give her only sexual love without any sense of soul love (Eph.5: 25-28).

Like so many wives, Leah played the victim and accepted the abuse out of guilt, shame, and desperation to save the marriage: "surely now my husband will love me." Read her testimony as a victim of abuse (Gen.29:32-34). She believed she could fix her husband and make him love her but that didn't work. Then she thought that maybe giving him children would repair the marriage, but that didn't work. Four children later, their marriage was no better.

Jacob's bad attitude and behavior was not her fault. It was his fault! It is important that you understand that **you choose** how you respond to what happens to you. Leah didn't have a choice in how Jacob treated her, but she did have a choice in her response to his abuse. You should never accept abuse a SECOND TIME!

Leah's testimony is that you can't **make** your husband love you; only God can make your husband love you. During her fourth pregnancy, Leah woke up spiritually and decided to put it the hands of the Lord and to leave it there. It didn't change their marriage but it did change her heart. "And she conceived again and bore a son and said, 'Therefore she named him JUDAH.' Then she stopped bearing." (29:35; 49:8-12)

The first person to change in an abusive relationship is YOU!

“Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respects her husband.” (Eph.5: 33)

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with the lesson.]

THE WIFE’S RESPONSIBILITY TO MARRIAGE

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following five point homiletical outline will help you review the Wife’s Responsibility to her Marriage.

Belief of the wife (1 Pet.3:1). What does God command every wife to do regarding her husband?

Behavior of the wife (1 Pet.3:2). How does the wife's respect for God's Word influence her husband?

Beauty of the wife (1 Pet.3:3-4). How can the wife “catch God's eye”?

Blessing of the wife (1 Pet.3:5). How can a spiritually mature wife win her husband?

Battle of the wife (1 Pet.3:6). What does Sarah’s example provide for every wife?

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about the Wife's Responsibility in marriage. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

MARITAL CONFLICT & COMMUNICATION

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and John 1:9)

Ninety percent (90%) of Americans will marry by age 45. Fifty percent (50%) of these will divorce. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the divorced will remarry. Sixty percent (60%) of the remarried will divorce a second time.

These statistics reveal at least three facts about marital conflict and communication in America:

1. that a person's first choice in marriage is usually the best choice;
2. that Americans seem to be able to find a person to marry but are unable to remain married to this person; and
3. that Americans seem to be able to work through pre-marital conflict well enough to get married, but are unable to work through marital conflict in order to remain married.

Unfortunately, this seems to be true of Christians as well as non-Christians in our present day culture.

In this booklet, we have studied the specific instructions given in 1 Peter 3:1-7 to the Christian wife and husband. Now, we will study Peter's summary of marriage and marital conflict in 1 Pet.3:8-9.

To "sum it up", in 1 Pet.3: 8-9 Peter gives five spiritual factors to resolve marital conflict in and he gives two carnal factors that will further inflame marital conflict.

The following five spiritual factors are used to resolve marital conflict (1 Pet.3:8).

1. Let all be harmonious (*homophon*) Be like-minded and willing to compromise to become one mind.
2. Let all be sympathetic (*sumpathes*) Share in the suffering of another and willing to hear their hurt.
3. Let all be brotherly (*philadelphos*) Become loving "friends" willing to set aside self-interest.
4. Let all be kindhearted (*eusplagchos*) Be affectionate and willing to forgive faults and wrongs.
5. Let all be humble in spirit (*tapeinophron*). Be humble minded and willing to go the second mile.

The following two carnal factors should be avoided because they throw fuel on the fire of marital conflict (1 Pet.3:9).

1. Returning evil for evil (*apodidomi / kakos*) Do not retaliate no matter how hurt you are, but be willing to give a blessing.
2. Returning insult for insult (*loidoria*) Do not speak hurtful words, but be willing to give healing words as a blessing.

"But giving a blessing (*eulogeo*) instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing."

We can illustrate these carnal factors by looking at the marital conflict between David and his wife, Michal, and Michal's father, Saul. We can see how, rather than healing the hurt, they further inflamed their marital conflict (1 Sam.18: 14-16, 20).

David was Michal's first love. They were the equivalent of the homecoming queen and the star football player falling madly in love in a modern storybook romance. Their love story also has an interfering parent (18:21-29) and this illustrates one reason God forewarned parents and those marrying about

leaving and cleaving: "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh." (Gen.2: 24; Matt.19: 5; Eph.5: 31).

This is also a story about couple's not cleaving (intimate togetherness) into one flesh and the heartaches that come from the two carnal factors mentioned by Peter (1 Pet.3: 8-9).

Saul tried to destroy their marriage from the start and when that failed he tried to have David murdered (1 Sam.19-20). Michal and her brother, Jonathan, aided David in escaping Saul's plot but at great cost to all of them.

"So Saul said to Michal, 'why have you deceived me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?' (1 Sam.19:1) "Now Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim." (1 Sam.25:44). "Then Saul's anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, 'you son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?' (1 Sam.20:30) "Then Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him down." (1 Sam.20:33)

It is another miracle of God's grace that these two children, Michal and Jonathan, turned out as well as they did.

Years later, when Saul and Jonathan were dead and David had become king and had remarried, David summoned Michal (2 Sam.3: 13-15). But by now, Michal also had remarried and her husband loved her very much. Her husband pleaded for her to be allowed to remain with him, but David would not listen (2 Sam.3: 16). David was determined to return evil for evil and insult for insult (2 Sam.6: 15-23; Prov.16: 2; 17:13; 20:3).

This love story ends in sadness and despair: "she despised David in her heart" (2 Sam.6: 16) "and Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death." (6:23; Prov.14: 10)

Marital conflict fought in the flesh (carnality of OSN/ 1 Cor.3: 1-3; 1 Pet.2: 11) has been described as two snakes taking each other by the tail and swallowing each other. Paul warns about this danger: "But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another." (Gal.5: 15; Prov.19: 11)

When everything is going well in our marriage, we often assume we communicate well. Then, some unresolved conflict resurfaces and we have to work on a resolution. [Circle any of the following 5 questions that best describe your marriage. Then study your answers.]

1. Who usually has to initiate reconciliation (husband or wife)?
2. How long does it normally take to make-up (minutes, hours, days, or sometimes longer)?
3. How do you normally resolve the conflict (give-in, walk away, talk it out)?
4. How do you reassure each other that it will not happen again (your mate changes, compromise, you do not reassure each other that it will not)?
5. What is your mate's first response to conflict (Does he/she withdraw, argue, pray)?

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Col.3: 13)

The **spiritual solution** is to walk in the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6: 19-20; Eph.5: 18). The **protocol**: "But I say, walk by means of the Spirit," The **Promise**: "and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh."(Gal.5: 16) This spiritual solution should be applied as soon as you

see the storm of conflict coming as well as when you are already engaged in it. Most Christian couples I counsel do not apply a spiritual solution until the end of the marital conflict. They do not apply it until after 1 John 1:9 (confession of sin to get back into fellowship) and some type of apology. They should be walking by means of the Holy Spirit rather than the flesh (James 4:1-3).

Walking by means of the Spirit should produce a desire to be Christ-like more than to be right and a desire to place the divine institution of marriage above personal interests (Eph.5: 22-33; Rom.15: 1-4).

Let me suggest four ways to improve communications that will help in resolving marital conflict.

1. **Listen without interrupting in word or thought and talk without attacking. (Prov.12: 15).**
Resolving conflicts consists of 70% listening and 30% talking (Eccl.3: 7; James 1:19-20)

Avoid these four things: (Prov.29: 20).

- (1) Dominating the conversation;
- (2) Interrupting or speaking simultaneously;
- (3) Using declaratives; and
- (4) Giving ultimatums.

2. **Unresolved past conflicts are the smoldering coals of future poor communications and more flare-ups.**

The wife who says, "He never listens" and the husband who says, "She nags and complains all the time" are both describing poor communications. (Prov.17: 13)

It is important to listen to hear and understand what the mate is actually saying and meaning and how you can work with your mate to resolve it. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear." (Eph.4:29; Prov.21:23)

3. **Avoid talking in emotional riddles and verbal codes that only skirt and avoid the issues.**

Psychologists describe it as subrogation. Substituting one thing for another without telling what it means. The husband asks his wife to, "Pass the salt". She explodes in return, "That's all I'm good for around here. Do this and do that and I'm sick of it." Is she attacking the problem of "passing the salt" in order to get it resolved? Is she attacking her husband in order to wake him up? Or is she frustrated with some other issue in her marriage? Can we figure it out by arguments or focusing on passing the salt? (Prov.12: 18; 27:5)

4. **Use interrogatives (ask questions) in communication attempts to resolve marital conflicts and problems.**

Here is an example to the pass the salt conflict (wife: "What about what I want?"). Rather, the husband should ask: "Honey, what do you want? "What can I do to make this better for you?" "It will be OK because I want us to talk and then we will pray about it". (Prov.16: 23-24).

"The wise in heart will be called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness." (Prov.16: 21).

Unfortunately, marriage counselors report that 75% of marital conflicts are never sufficiently resolved and this just results in further marital unhappiness.

Adam and Eve's marriage is another example of how poor communication and unresolved marital conflict even in a spiritual family can result in painful consequences (Gen.3). Eve had begun to spend a lot of time with another person instead of her husband or her pastor-teacher (the Lord) in the Garden of Eden Church. This person became a new advisor and spiritual partner and began to challenge the spiritual truths believed by her husband and pastor-teacher (1 Tim.2: 14). Why wasn't she talking to her husband or pastor about it? She apparently wasn't talking or confiding in her husband about these different spiritual views. Why was Adam absent and oblivious to what was happening under his nose? Why did Adam listen to and even obey his wife when she gave him the forbidden fruit to eat? (Prov.7: 21-23) Why did Adam try to pass off his responsibility by blaming God for giving him this woman? (Gen.3: 12; Prov.8: 32-36)

The marriage of Hannah and Elkanah is our final example of poor communications and unresolved marital conflict in a spiritual family that resulted in pain but got resolved in the end (1 Sam.1: 1-20). Like so many husbands, Elkanah demonstrated his love by giving his wife everything except the one thing she wanted the most (1:5, 8, and 19). However, only God could give her what she wanted. (1:5, 19-20). Her grief led her to depression, bitter weeping and not eating. (1:7, 8, 10, 15, 16). "In whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things." (1 John 3:20) Read the story and pay special attention to the role prayer played in resolving this marital conflict – "I have poured out my soul before the Lord." (1:15; 1 Pet.3: 7; 1 Cor.7: 5-6; 1 John 5:14-15) Good communication with the Lord is essential when there is poor communication with your mate – "So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad." (1 Sam.1: 18; James 5:13-18)

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with this lesson.]

IMPORTANT

(Before beginning the worksheet, go back, look-up and study every verse in context.)

MARITAL CONFLICT & COMMUNICATION

WORKSHEET

REVIEW OF MATERIAL:

We have learned four ways to improve communications that will help in resolving marital conflict. These four are listening, smoldering coals, verbal riddles, and interrogatives.

Explain how each of these communication techniques could have been applied to Hannah and Elkanah's marital conflict (1 Sam.1: 1-20).

- Listening: _____

- Smoldering coals: _____

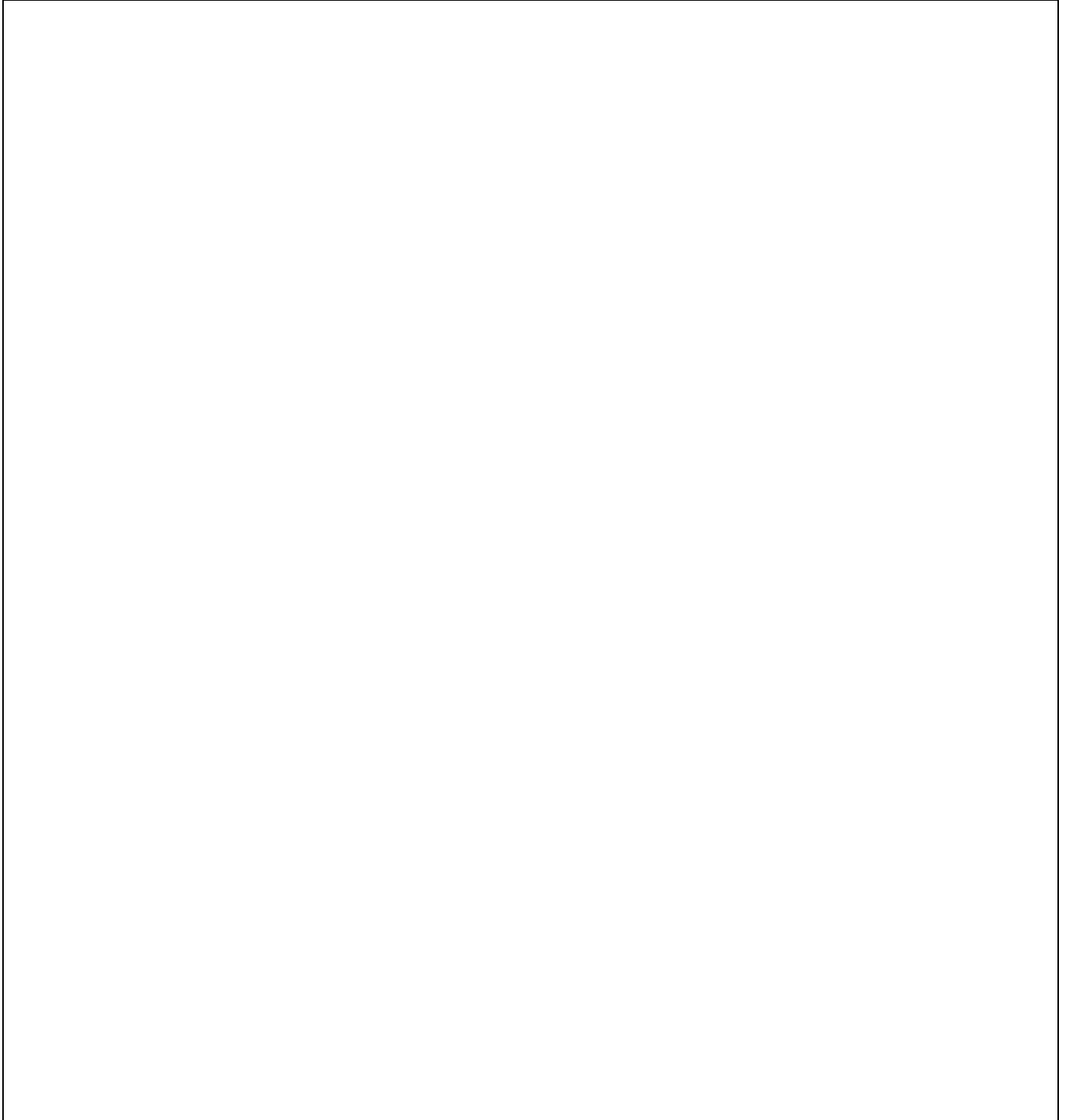
- Verbal riddles: _____

- Interrogatives: _____

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about Marital Conflict and Communication. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their reflections on their marriage. The box is currently blank.

MARITAL COPULATION

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13, 1 John 1:9)

Marriage counselors report that the four most stated causes of marital conflict leading to divorce are sex, finances, time spent together, and children. Actually, these are symptoms more than causes of marital conflict leading to divorce.

As a counselor of Christian marriages, the six most reported areas of conflicts regarding marital copulation are as follows. [Circle the ones that are areas of conflict in your marriage.]

- How often to have sex
- Different opinions about sexual acts
- Need for mutual pleasure
- Importance of romance and intimacy
- Acceptable reasons for abstinence
- When to have children

How has romantic foreplay changed with your mate?
Write how you would like it to be in your marriage?

We teach single believers six signs of affections: "Above all else, guard your heart (affections), for it is the wellspring of life." (Prov.4:23). **The last four are for marital copulation:** "His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me. Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you; do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires." (Song of Solomon 8:3-4).

- (1) Holding and hugging
- (2) Kissing and caring
- (3) Necking and caressing
- (4) Petting and fondling
- (5) Sexual intercourse (marital copulation)
- (6) Holding and hugging

Because marital copulation is occasional and LOVE is constant, both the husband and wife should be more oriented to LOVE than lovemaking. "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Phil.2:3-4)

Marriage requires the entire romantic love package. Marital copulation is one way of expressing it. "When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah." (Gen.26:8)

It is not just for the honeymoon and the first year of marriage. The husband and wife need to learn to be romantic apart from sex. We need to learn how to please our mate in all the rooms of our house and not just the bedroom.

Paul instructed Christians that all sexual arousal is limited to the marriage relationship. "It is good for a man (single) NOT to touch (*hapto*) [to sexual arousal] a woman (single). But because of immoralities (*porneia*) [illicit sexual behavior], let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." (1 Cor.7:1-2)

"But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion." (1 Cor.7:9)

When you read that all sexual AROUSAL should be limited to marriage and you laugh, you realize that the Christian church has not influenced the American culture toward change for the past 25 years. Christians have lost the influence upon our culture and we must be willing to regain it by addressing our own problems with the truth of God's word and the desire to effect change in our lives. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Rom.12:2)

This was Paul's advice to the Christians at Rome and Corinth whose pagan cultures were heathenistic and engaged in sexual promiscuity. "Flee (*pheugo* / p.a.impv 2pl) [command] immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (1 Cor.6:18-20)

Write on the blank line one way to glorify God in your body: _____.

- Joseph of the Old Testament is an example of fleeing fornication: "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God." (Gen.39:7-20).

I do not need to cite statistics of a promiscuous American culture to you. John called the Church of Thyatira by the name, Jezebel, and warned that the church had become worse than the heathen culture she was sent to change (Rev.2:18-29).

"Let marriage be held in honor among you all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Heb.13:4)

There are eight aspects of marital copulation that will help Christians have mutual pleasure in their marital relationship.

(1) When two Christians marry, they commit themselves to God's teaching regarding all aspects of marriage as a divine institution (Gen.2:18-25; Matt.19:3-12; 1 Cor.7; Eph.5:22-33; 1 Pet.3:1-7). Jesus told his generation that their ignorance of biblical teaching on marriage was one reason for the rise in divorce (Matt.19:3-12).

(2) Sexual compatibility can be marred before marriage by sexual promiscuity and on the honeymoon by not being sensitive to sexual compatibility (1 Cor.6:12-17). It is estimated that one million sexual diseases are transmitted each year and 60% of those are by promiscuous teens. Promiscuity also

builds scar tissue (hardness) on the Christian's soul that can affect other areas of his life as well as other relationships in his life (Prov.6:32-33; Eph.4:17-24).

- (3) Couples who live together before marriage have a 50% greater chance of divorce than those who don't (Jeffrey Larson, USA Today, 1996). Larson's study revealed that most couples that were cohabiting did so because they were poor marital risks. In 2000 the US Census Bureau reported six million unmarried heterosexual couples living together.
- (4) Marital copulation is not the source of love, but rather the expression of it. "Couples described as having happy marriages made love three times more often than couples who were unhappy." (Psychology Today, 1980) Since copulation is occasional but a couple's interaction is constant, the development of one's capacity for soul love and the development of soul compatibility are more important to marital happiness. The husband is commanded to *agape* love his wife in Eph.5:25 (godly love). The wife is instructed to *philos* love her husband in Titus 2:4 (friendship love).
- (5) Marital copulation was divinely designed for both recreation and procreation (Gen.1:27-28; 3:16; 4:1). Medically, we learn that there is a difference between the female reproductive system and her sexual system. We learn that a wife does not have to be sexually aroused to become pregnant. We learn that menopause delivers the woman from cursing to blessing (Gen.3:16). It is reported that couples between the ages of 72-90 enjoy sex at least four times a month.
- (6) God designed marriage to be the playground for mutual body, soul, and spiritual pleasure as two people merge into oneness (Gen.2:23-24; Eph.5:28-33; 1 Cor.7:1-5). In a healthy male the sperm manufactures every 2.7 days and in a healthy female, the egg manufactures every 3.2 days. This means that in a healthy couple, copulation would naturally occur 2 or 3 times a week. Merging or cleaving (intimate togetherness) helps a couple unite emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, and sexually. It helps you and your mate overcome inhibitions and inexperience (Gen.2:25; Heb.13:4). The American Journal of Gynecologists reported that 75% of women receive no pleasure from copulation and 40% have never experienced an orgasm. This seems to suggest that there is enough communication to mutually have sex, but not enough to mutually give and receive pleasure (1 Cor.7:3-5).
- (7) In a Christian marriage neither mate is at liberty to do as he/she pleases with his/her own body sexually. – "The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone, but also to his wife." (1 Cor.7:4)

In marriage, the issue is interdependence and not dependence or independence. This eliminates all sexual activities that do not involve both consenting partners. Sexual deprivation must be only by mutual consent and by agreement upon time and purpose (1 Cor.7:1-5).

- (8) Marital copulation conflict can be a source of angelic conflict: "Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." (1 Cor.7:5) Satan can get into your Christian marriage through this area because sex originates in the soul before the body (foreplay) (1 Pet.3:7). It is reported that the average person thinks 4000 thoughts each day and that only 1% is sexual. Marital copulation is enhanced by the "fragrant memories" of romantic pleasures. It is reported that romantic and satisfied couples think more about copulation than couples who are unsatisfied.

“Enjoy life with the wife whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.” (Eccl.9:9)

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with the lesson.]

MARITAL COPULATION

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following five point homiletical outline will help you review Marital Copulation.

Danger (1 Cor.7:1-2). What is God’s opinion of sex outside of marriage?

Duty (1 Cor.7:3-4). What responsibility is associated with marital copulation?

Deprive (1 Cor.7:5a). Should sexual abstinence be only by consent?

Devil (1 Cor.7:5b). Can marital copulation be a source for the angelic conflict? How?

Desires (1 Cor.7:9). If unmarried and “burning” what does God instruct you to do?

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to **reflect** on what you have learned about Marital Copulation and how it relates to your own marriage. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write

DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE

(Read: 2 Timothy 3:16, John 16:13 and 1 John 1:9)

It is reported that America leads the world in divorce and sending missionaries to the world. Does that sound like a spiritual contradiction?

The divorce rate in America was under 2% per 1000 population until 1945. In 1960, there were 393,000 divorces. In 1970, there were 708,000 divorces. In 1980, there were 1.2 million divorces. While divorce has doubled since 1970, it has increased by 290% among baby boomers. "Baby boomers are committing themselves in masses to causes, but not intimate relationship." (Baby Boomers by Carol Keeney)

The number of single-parent households has increased by 100% since 1970. The mother heads 9 out of 10 single-parent households. One (1) out of four (4) will immediately slip into poverty because of the loss of the father's income. One (1) out of two (2) will remain below the national family poverty line. (U.S. Census for 2000; "Portrait of an American", Newsweek, Jan.1983). These are typical statistics of a morally and spiritually declining nation.

"At the time when divorces were granted most frequently among the Romans, marriages were most rare and Augustus was obligated by penal law to force men of fashion into marriage." (Pulpit Commentary, pg.384)

The historian Hume believed that frequent divorces "blunt the issue of the sacredness of marriage and leads to licentious living."

Some religious leaders in a similarly declining nation asked Jesus to explain why there was a divorce clause in the Mosaic law of Deut.24:1-4 (Matt.19:3-12). Jesus answered them in two parts. Jesus began by explaining the divine institution of marriage (Matt.19:3-6). **Then He added**, "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They were not satisfied with Jesus' discussion on marriage, so they pressed Him on the issue of divorce (Matt.19:7). Jesus explained that Moses permitted divorce because of "hardness of heart." **Then He added** – "But from the beginning it has not been this way." (Matt.19:8)

Here is Jesus' first point! When God instituted marriage, He didn't institute a clause for divorce (Gen.2: 18-25).

Here is His next point! Moses permitted divorce because of **hardness of hearts** towards marriage as a divine institution.

Here is Jesus' final point! The key to marital longevity is a healthy spiritual relationship with God.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
(Eph.5: 22)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.
(Eph.5: 25)

There are six passages on divorce and remarriage that should be studied before getting married or divorced.

1. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 teaches the Mosaic Law of divorce and remarriage.
2. Malachi 2:14-17 teaches that the rise of divorce is a sign of the moral and spiritual decline within a nation.
3. Matthew 5:31-32 teaches the "exception and exclusion" clauses of divorce and remarriage.
4. Matthew 19:3-12 teaches that hardness of hearts causes divorce and that marriage was designed "until death do us part."
5. Rom.7: 1-3 and 1 Cor.7: 39 teach about death of a mate and remarriage rights.
6. 1 Cor.7: 10-16 teaches about the desertion of an unbelieving mate and remarriage rights.

Let me tell you that God can do the IMPOSSIBLE! "For nothing will be impossible with God."
(Luke 1:37)

Stop and pray this prayer: "Father, my marriage is in trouble and my heart has become callous. I feel so embittered and emotionally numb. I want to surrender both my marriage and my heart to you but I will need YOU to do the impossible. In Jesus' name."

Now read 1 John 5:14-15 and understand that it is God's will to restore your marriage. "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt.19: 6)

After reading, Col.3:12-19, write down what Paul told you to put on before you put on LOVE

_____.

Now:

Write what will rule in your heart _____.

Write what will dwell in you richly _____.

Write what you can do in word and deed _____.

Write what is the wife's role _____.

Write what is the husband's role _____.

How much of this can you control? So don't focus on what you can't control!

Malachi viewed divorce as breaking faith with the wedding vows (2:10-16). "I hate divorce, says the Lord of Israel, and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garments, says the Lord Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith." (2:16)

The following five biblical words are used to explain the dissolution of the divine institution of marriage.

1. The Hebrew word (*kerithuth*) refers to divorce as separating the unity of marriage (1+1=1) [one flesh] by divorce (1 +1=2) [two fleshes] (Deut.24: 1-4).
2. The Greek word (*apostasion*) refers to a certificate of divorce (Matt.5: 31; 19:7).
3. The Greek word (*apoluo*) refers to being released from marriage with rights for remarriage (Matt.5: 31).
4. The Greek word (*aphiemi*) refers to legal separation with purpose of reconciliation (1 Cor.7: 10-11).
5. The Greek word (*chorizo*) refers to an unbeliever's choice to leave which gives rights for remarriage (1 Cor.7: 15). [When this word is used with believers, it is **not** grounds for divorce or remarriage (1 Cor.7:10-11) [send away]].

Therefore, great care should be used when entering or leaving the divine institution of marriage. Prior to the apostate Exodus generation, no certificate of divorce was issued, but Moses permitted it because of the Exodus generation's hardness of heart towards the teachings of God. This hardness resulted in spousal abuse.

The subject of divorce and remarriage is always a big topic during the time of morally and spiritually declining generations. It was true at the times of Moses and Jesus and Paul and is true at the time of writing this booklet. "Now concerning the things about which you wrote." (1 Cor.7: 1)

Let me encourage you NOT to throw out the baby (marriage) with the dirty bath water (marital problems). The baby is worth the effort of saving.

If you have not yet divorced or even if you already have, there are seven things you need to do.

First Read 1 Pet.3: 1-7

- 1st Remain in *status quo* (your present state of marriage) until God changes it (1 Cor.7: 20-24).
- 2nd Seek out a good spiritual and marital counselor (1 Cor.6: 1-6; 7:1).
- 3rd Enlist confident praying warriors to pray for your marriage. (James 1:5-8; 5:13-18).
- 4th Study God's word on the subject of marriage, divorce, and remarriage before you make any final decision (2 Tim.2: 15; Col.2: 6-8).
- 5th Commit to a consistent walk by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5: 16-25).
- 6th Commit to a consistent walk by cycling the word of God through faith (2 Cor.5: 7; 1 Pet.3: 8-9).
- 7th Place yourself under a solid, bible teaching and nurturing congregation during this trying time (Matt.4: 4; Heb.10: 25; Eph.4:11-16).

Here are five (5) things that every Christian should understand about marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

1. Fornication can be grounds for divorce with rights for remarriage for the innocent mate.

Jesus gave an interpretation of the (*erwah dabar*) [some indecency] of Deut.24:1 in Matt.5: 32: "except for the cause of unchastely (*porneia*)" and again in Matt.19: 9 "except for immorality (*porneia*)". Jesus used (*porneia*) [illicit sexual behavior] as referenced in Lev.18. Such biblical grounds for divorce give rights for remarriage.

2. There are four additional conditions that could give rights for remarriage.

- Death of an ex-mate (Rom.7: 2-3; 1 Cor.7: 39).
- Remarriage of the ex-mate (Deut.24: 1-4).
- Desertion by an unbeliever mate (1 Cor.7: 12-16).
- Being the innocent party of modern divorce gimmicks (no fault, incompatibility/ without your consent) (Mal.2: 14-17; Deut.24: 1-4; Matt.19: 3-12).

3. You may prefer to live in single celibacy until the rights for remarriage as listed in point 2 are met than to remain in the present marriage (1 Cor.7: 10-11, 20-24).

4. Marriage to an “improperly divorced believer” is described as an adulterous remarriage (Matt.5: 31-32; 19:3-12; Rom.7: 1-3).

It is called adulterous because it is directed against the mate of the first marriage. This means that God withholds institutional grace from that marriage (Gen.2: 18-25). God's Grace must come to this marriage through the individual's personal spiritual relationship. (Eph.2:8-9; 2 Pet.3:18; 1 Cor.7: 12-16).

5. Remarriage carries the same responsibilities as all Scriptural marriages.

- Don't marry an unbeliever (2 Cor.6: 14-18).
- Don't marry an improperly divorced person (Deut.24: 1-4).
- Don't be an immoral single because you were once married (1 Cor.6: 15-7:2, 9).
- Marry a spiritually compatible person (1 Cor.7: 39; 9:5).

A wonderful Christian lady once told me that a wheel turns in two directions. It can travel forward or backward. Which way it travels is up to the driver. Let me encourage you to travel FORWARD in God's direction for grace healing. **“Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb.4: 16)**

[Please do not neglect the following worksheet that goes with the lesson.]

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

WORKSHEET

In Review:

The following four point homiletical outline will help review divorce and Remarriage.

Reminder (Rom.7:1). At what point do the Scriptural laws of marriage and divorce have no jurisdiction over you?

Release (Rom.7:2). What is one circumstance that would release a mate from their marriage?

Remarriage (Rom.7:3). What is one circumstance providing an ex-spouse right of remarriage?

Retrospect (Rom.7:4-6). How is the "Law" compared to "Right for remarriage", illustrating the doctrine of positional truth (see glossary).

REFLECTION UPON YOUR MARRIAGE

This is the time for you to reflect on what you have learned about Divorce & Remarriage and how it relates to your own marriage. In the box below, write the things that you have learned that can be applied to your marriage and why.

Don't go back and change anything you write.

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

SUMMATION

WORKSHEETS ARE IMPORTANT

We began with the study of the Origin of Marriage as recorded in Genesis Chapter 2. We learned that the first married couple of the human race began in a state of marital bliss. Then, came the stress and strain of normal life and with it came marital conflict. This resulted in everyone blaming everyone, even God (Gen. Chapter 3). Adam and Eve were evicted from their home in shame. Their marital bliss turned into marital blame. It didn't look like the ideal married couple would live happily ever after.

Yet, they were able to rebuild their marriage from the shambles it had become back to a state of marital bliss. The question is, "How did they do it?" They became honest and open to God about themselves and their failures. They sought God for the answers and the power to rebuild their marriage.

This booklet was written to help you through the different stages of marital conflict with biblical answers in order to connect you with God's amazing grace and power.

It is important to read every bible verse in its context and to complete every worksheet at the end of each chapter.

Watch our web site for special weekend marriage seminars (www.doctrinalstudies.com). If you would like more information and are interested in attending, complete the on-line information and return it to us.

"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (Eph.5: 33)

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

GLOSSARY

Twenty-nine doctrinal terms have been used, either directly or indirectly in this booklet. This alphabetical glossary will help you understand their usage in this booklet and other studies on my church's web site at www.doctrinalstudies.com

ADAM'S ORIGINAL SIN (AOS) (Rom.5:12-21). Adam's disobedience to God's mandate in the Garden of Eden resulted in death (Gen.2:17). Consequently, Adam's corrupt nature (OSN), spiritual and physical death as well as culpability for his sin were passed to all mankind. (1 Cor.15:22).

ADULTERY (Heb.13:4). The act of engaging in sexual relations with a partner, where either partner is married to another, thereby breaking the exclusive relationship of the married individual(s) to his/her own mate.

AGAPE LOVE (Eph.5:25-28; Col.3:19). The Christian husband is commanded to love his wife with the unconditional and sacrificial love of God by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.5:16-25).

ANGELIC CONFLICT (AC) (Eph.6:10-17). Unseen warfare in which the forces of Satan (fallen angels) war against the forces of God (Jesus Christ, elect angels, and believers).

BIBLE DOCTRINE (BD) (2 Tim.3:16-17). The promises, principles and tenets that God provides for man in the Bible. Holy Scriptures which describe God and His plan of grace and which are intended to be understood, believed and applied to life's experiences. Inhale and exhale of the Word of God (BD) is the primary means of the believer's spiritual growth. (2 Pet.3:18).

CARNALITY (1 Cor.3:1-3). The believer's absolute status of being out of fellowship with God because of unconfessed sin (1 John 1:9). In a state of carnality the believer loses the filling of the indwelling Holy Spirit and his OSN dominates the thoughts and desires of his heart. (Rom.6:12-14; James 1:14-15)

COPULATION (1 Cor.6:18-7:2). For Christians, all sexual activity is designed for marriage (Heb.13:4). Marital copulation has been designed by God for both recreation and procreation.

DIVINE INSTITUTIONS (DI) (1 Pet.2:13-17; 1 Tim.2:1-6). Four conventions, established by God in order to perpetuate the human race and maintain order. These four divine institutions are (DI#1) freedom (free will), (DI#2) marriage (husband and wife), (DI#3) family (parents and children), and (DI#4) nationalism (government, military, schools, business).

DIVINE VIEWPOINT (DV) THINKING (1 Cor.2:14-16; Col.3:1-2). Beliefs and attitudes that align with the plan of God as outlined in the word of God. It includes believers thinking bible doctrine (BD) and unbelievers thinking divine institutional principles recorded in the Bible (DI). (Acts 14:15-18; 17:22-32)

FAITH CYCLE (Rom.4:18-21). The process of taking bible doctrine (BD) from the written page to the believer's soul for application. The four stages to the faith cycle are as follows: hearing (Rom.10:17); believing (Heb.4:2); applying (2 Cor.5:7); and completing by trusting God to fulfill His Word. (James 2:22)

FELLOW HEIRS (1 Pet.3:7-9; Rom.8:15-17). The Christian husband and wife are fellow heirs of the grace of life as the result of grace salvation. They are equal in Jesus Christ (Gal.3:26-29) but not in divine institutions (DI). (1 Pet.3:1-7)

FORNICATION (1 Cor.6:18-7:2). Engaging in illicit sexual activities apart from one's own wife or husband including adultery, autoerotism, voyeurism, bestiality, and homosexuality. (Rom.1:22-27)

GRACE (Eph.2:8-9). The sum total of God's provision for man; all that God is free to do as a substitute for man in love by means of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Rom.3:23-25)

GOSPEL (1 Cor.15:1-4). The good news for mankind about grace salvation on the basis of faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as a substitute for the penalty of the sin of the world. (John 1:29; 3:16-18; Rom.1:16)

HEADSHIP (Eph.5:23). Christian husbands are promoted by God's saving grace from rulership (Gen.3:16) to headship authority of marriage (DI#2). Headship is part of the chain of divine authority. (1 Cor.11:3)

MONOGAMY (Gen.2:24; Matt.19:4-6). Divine institution of marriage (DI#2) is between one woman and one man at one time.

NEW MAN THINKING (Eph.4:22-24). The pattern of divine viewpoint thinking (DV), emitting from the regenerated spiritually mature soul (Heb.5:13-14; Eph.4:11-14). It is being transformed by the renewing of the mind to the will of God. (Rom.12:2)

OLD MAN COSMOS DIABOLICUS (OMCD) THINKING (Matt.16:21-23). Beliefs and attitudes according to the standards of Satan's world system that are opposed to divine viewpoint (DV) thinking established by God in His word. (1 Tim.4:1-5) A pattern of worldly thinking, emitting from the soul, characterized by OSN beliefs. It is being conformed to worldly thinking of Satan's system. (Col.3:5-10)

OLD SIN NATURE (OSN) (James 1:14-15). That integral part of every human, residing in the cell structure which constantly emits lusts towards sinful thoughts and actions. (Gal.6:7-8) The OSN was acquired through Adam (AOS) and is subsequently passed down genetically through the male sperm in procreation. (Rom.5:12) Jesus Christ was the only exception because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not Joseph. (Luke 1:34-35)

PLAN OF GOD (Eph.1:3-14). The sum total of God's will for the human race throughout human history. Its central core is God's desire for the salvation of every member of the human race (2 Pet.3:9) and that every believer be conformed to the image of His beloved Son. (Rom.8:29)

POSITIONAL TRUTH (PT) (2 Cor.5:17). The believer's permanent position in the resurrected, ascended Lord Jesus Christ on the basis of grace salvation. The believer's position in Christ takes effect at the moment of grace salvation through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:26-29)

SALVATION (Rom.1:15-16). The instantaneous act of God's grace occurring at the moment of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph.2:8-9). The instantaneous result being that every believer receives at least 50 things that can never be lost in time or eternity.

SCAR TISSUE (Eph.4:17-19). The hardening of the heart of a believer or unbeliever resulting from choices that are negative to the will of God (Heb.3-4). The hardening of the heart damages the soul for intimate relationships with both God and people.

SPIRITUALITY (Gal.5:16-17). The believer's absolute status of fellowship with God by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; Eph.5:18). It results in the Holy Spirit's influence upon the believer's thoughts and desires of the heart (Rom.8:5-8) and prayer life. (Rom.8:26-27; Jude 1:20)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Heb.5:13-14). The progressive stages of growth resulting from the inhale and exhale of milk and meat bible doctrines to human experience. (1 Pet.2:2) It is evidenced in the Christian way of life in the world, home and marriage, both privately as well as publicly. (Eph.5:1-4)

SPIRITUAL MATURITY (Eph.4:12-16). The process of being conformed to the image of Christ through the cycling of bible doctrine by means of faith (Rom.8:29; 1 Pet.2:2; 2 Cor.3:18). The spiritually mature believer is motivated to possess the mind of Christ by putting off worldly thinking. (Phil.2:5)

SUBMISSION (Eph.5:22; Col.3:18) The Christian wife is commanded to submit (*hupotasso*) to her husband's position of headship to be protected by the chain of divine authority. (1 Pet.3:1-6; 1 Cor.11:3)

REGENERATION (John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5-7). The supernatural work of the Holy Spirit at the moment of grace salvation. It imparts eternal life and sonship to the human spirit. (Rom.8:15-17; John5:24)

**This booklet was written by Ron Adema,
Pastor of Doctrinal Studies Bible Church, Birmingham, Alabama.
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