

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 17, April 30, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him***

be glory both now and forever. Amen."

SACRED MARRIAGE— Until Death Causes Parting! [Part 1]

Most failing or failed and canceled-by-divorce marriages have/had a spouse who led the way in the paths of destruction; and a so-called 'innocent party' spouse... who did not really want a divorce. **HOWEVER, how can there be an 'innocent party'** when the marriage covenant was made between to sinners... (even if both are saved!)???

EXTREME EXAMPLE: if one spouse is 99% at fault and the other spouse is only 1% at fault— BOTH have contributed to the failing of the marriage! WITH THE 1% SPOUSE as clay in the hands of Jesus— GOD IS 'INSIDE' THE MARRIAGE... and miracles can happen! **Dear 1% Spouse... you hold a POWERFUL KEY!** Get Dr. Ed Wheat's book, LOVE LIFE for Every Married Couple... and read, meditate, and apply the chapter titled— HOW TO SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE ALONE! **MOST HURTING, BROKEN MARRIAGES WHICH ARE SAVED from destruction are saved by JUST ONE SPOUSE YIELDING TO CHRIST in total commitment to please and manifest Jesus in the marriage!**

AS TO DIVORCE, Multitudes justify divorce with the support of friends, pastors, theologians, books, etc...

WHAT DOES JESUS ACTUALLY TEACH ABOUT DIVORCE?

[Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18]

*** **[1] Jesus ignored** the common opinions of the “religious” authorities of that day.

*** **[2] Jesus turned** to the Sacred Scriptures as the only real authority.

*** **[3] Jesus** (along with Paul) **went back to Genesis** when answering marriage/divorce questions. This is no surprise, for as John 1:1-3 and John 1:14 remind us— JESUS is the Creator God who is revealed in Genesis! So, of course, Jesus would go back to His original intention!

*** **[4] THUS, God’s first word** (The first word of Jesus!) **on marriage is found in Genesis 1:27; 2:18-25. And as stated,** Jesus returned to Genesis when stating His position of the permanence of marriage. I cannot find that God, that Jesus, has ever changed his mind! ***Genesis 1:27; 2:18-25 remain in effect in our sin polluted world!***

*** **[5] Furthermore, Jesus told the Pharisees that the bottom line reason for the various divorce statements by Moses was because of “hardness of heart... but from the beginning [Genesis] it was not so.”**

*** **[6] In fact, Jesus gave an addition to the Genesis teaching: “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”** (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9)

SO... when Jesus proclaimed the permanency of marriage between

ONE MAN TO ONE WOMAN— His disciples were absolutely stunned! (Matthew 19:3-10)

THINK ABOUT IT: Had Jesus simply agreed with any of the religious opinions of that day, it would have been no big deal. **Why were the disciples stunned? They realized that Jesus had just closed down the divorce loopholes!**

Realizing that the duly married, (male and female), couple has no righteous exit from marriage other than death, (Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39) — **the Disciples were so stunned that they proclaimed, “If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is good not to marry!”** (Matthew 19:10)

BUT YOU LEFT OUT DEALING WITH THE ‘EXCEPTION’ CLAUSE! EVEN IF one grants that the ‘exception clause’ of Matthew 5:31-32; 19:9 permits divorce — there is absolutely NO COMMAND, no requirement to divorce; and in Matthew 5 and 19 Jesus makes NO provision of marriage to someone else. AND THE HIGHER LAW of Biblical Christianity is to be sacrificially redemptive toward sinners. God’s redemptive love is toward us WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS... God’s redemptive love is modeled by Hosea: ‘GO BUY HER BACK AND LOVE HER!’ (Hosea 3)

MOREOVER, in reality, Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 GIVE NO EXCEPTION for adultery; but rather for FORNICATION— WHICH would apply to a FORNICATION situation like Joseph thought he was facing with Mary: Matthew 1:18-23.]

Does the Holy Spirit move the Apostle Paul’s pen to be IN AGREEMENT with what Jesus plainly taught?

- 1. Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39—** death alone can end a marriage.
- 2. 1 Cor. 7:10-11—** Paul says that he is only teaching what Jesus

has set forth: DO NOT PUT AWAY YOUR SPOUSE! **3. MOREOVER,** those who are divorced are given two options— 1. Get reconciled. 2. Or remain single. (1 Cor 7:11)

WHAT ABOUT 'DESERTION'... What is the meaning of the Holy Spirit's words, through Paul: "not under bondage" (1 Cor. 7:15)?

It is popular to say that if a spouse 'deserts' his/her spouse... that the deserted spouse is free to divorce and to remarry. REALITY: The Holy Spirit DOES NOT mention remarriage in this verse at all. LATER, IN REFERENCE TO WIDOWS...the concept of remarriage is set forth... but again, only as applying to widows (1 Cor. 7:39). Furthermore, divorce and remarriage, prohibited in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11... would not be allowed in verse 15.

"The words "not under bondage" literally means "not enslaved." A deserted believer is not so bound to preserve the union that he or she must follow the deserter around like a slave seeking to maintain the marriage. Being enslaved is contrasted with being at peace.

Rather than being a slave to an unwilling spouse, the believer can be at peace in the midst of a difficult situation." (Quote from J. Carl Laney, *the Divorce Myth*)

BOTTOM LINE: JESUS did not/does not adapt to the age. When someone starts talking about a loophole for divorce— **Jesus STILL says,**

"From the beginning, it was not so... what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:8, 19:6)....

And the Holy Spirit has the Apostle Paul to fully agree with Jesus!

BIG PROBLEM... BIG QUESTION:

*MY MARRIAGE IS IN BIG TROUBLE... **OR...** I AM ALREADY DIVORCED AND RE-MARRIED— **HOW** AM I TO APPLY THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES TO MY SITUATION? **OR, simply, how** am I to apply the above Scriptures to my **PRESENT MARRIAGE?***

FIRST THOUGHT... for those approaching marriage... or those in a troubled marriage: ** Allowing even the faintest possibility or option for divorce will sabotage your efforts in trying to work through a difficult marriage problem. You simply will not pay the high price of walking the Calvary Road if you are holding on to divorce as an option!

SECOND, IF there has already been a divorce and remarriage, then please hear this:

There are no Scriptures that even hint that sins relating to divorce and/or remarriage are unforgivable. God hates divorce, (Malachi 2:16). He no doubt hates all sin. He will never place His blessing on sin. But some sins, God especially names as things He hates.

**** However, God delights in and blesses** those with repentant, broken, and contrite hearts! (Psalm 51:16-17; Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 57:15)

HERE ARE IMPORTANT WORDS to those of you who are already divorced and remarried... even if more than once:

1. There is no New Testament Scripture that calls upon you to break up your present marriage.

2. There is no New Testament Scripture that teaches that in

order to show evidence of repentance, you will have to break your present marriage. (If there were, then 1 Corinthians 7 would have to read very different!)

3. Those of you with a previous marriage and divorce in your background— many of you did what you did with some preacher's blessing! Yet, you still have guilt! **The wonderful solution, in all of these kinds of cases is to,**

(1) Take God's point of view! You missed the mark of God's standard. Call sin what it is! It's sin! Make no excuse. With a broken heart for missing God's good way— receive, and rejoice in God's wonderful forgiveness.

Note: Maybe you are the "so-called" innocent party! Even so, it is highly unlikely that you are totally without sin! (1 John 1:7-10)

Follow Daniel's example. He was a very godly man who experienced much hardship due to the sins of others in Israel. Yet, when he prayed, he did so, saying, "WE SINNED...!" Read Daniel 9!

(2) Experience God's blessing and favor by committing to spend the rest of your life showing forth an incredible pattern of God's love and mercy **in your present marriage!**

(3) OPENLY TESTIFY: "My previous spouse and I failed to experience God's all powerful love in our marriage. In our ignorance and/or rebellion, **we both** contributed to the failure of that marriage."

"My present marriage? Well, my present spouse and I have repented of our past sins against God and our former mates.

Our present marriage, (while not an example of God’s clearly commanded pattern), **is an example of His amazing mercy!** And we are committed to glorifying God in this present marriage, “till death do us part!”

OPENLY TESTIFY: “**PLEASE, please, those of you struggling in your marriage**— it would break our hearts if you used our 'good second marriage' as any part of your excuse for wanting to divorce and find someone else.

Our present marriage is successful only because we are now doing what we failed to do the first time— namely, submitting to God and submitting to one another in the fear of God!”

(4) Remain in your present marriage and/or as much as possible seek reconciliation and be a channel for God’s unconditional, sacrificial, forgiving love— which He delights to pour out on **the unlovable, the undeserving, and the unresponsive.**

Besides, your marriage vow before God was “...till death do us part!”

FINAL NOTE:

Yes, in our sin-filled world, there are times when for sheer safety of life and limb of the wife and children— there may need to be a time of protective separation. Even so, all the more is the need for the REDEMPTIVE VISION of Jesus for the sin enslaved!

MOREOVER, many ‘wars’ in families will fade from or never

get to red zones of physical danger if the following Scriptures are heeded:

1 Peter 2:19-21; 3:1-17;

Romans 12:14-21.

LET US GO FORTH MODELING A BOLD LIFESTYLE OF COMMITMENT TO HOLY AND SACRED MARRIAGE!

Great Grace to All! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

****** SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

[Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/](#)

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— (This ministry is ON HOLD... PRAY FOR opening of doors!)

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS:

→ 6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE → Enter via IRON STEPS, side door.

→ 6:30pm— Youth Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

→ 6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time! THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class.**

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors open at 10:30am... re-*

locked at 11:10am]

***** MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am:** (**STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!**) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

SUNDAY SERVICES, MAY 5, 12, 19. 26

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL NOTES FOR SUNDAYS:

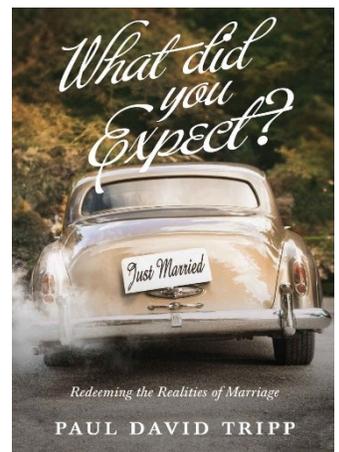
*** MAY 5 — NOON, covered dish FELLOWSHIP meal**

*** MAY 5 — 5:30pm - 7:00pm, *Monthly Faithful Men*, Study Guide, the 1689 Confession of Faith**

**** MAY 12 — MOTHER'S DAY... WE ENCOURAGE THE GIVING OF GIDEON BIBLES in Appreciation of Mothers and in Memory of Mothers:** <http://www.sendtheword.org/all-cards.aspx>

***** MAY 19 — LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE at the end of the Morning Worship [HOME GROUPS, after services or at 5:00pm]**

****** MAY 26 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages: Paul David Tripp's**



'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)

Shocking Effects and Statistics About Children and Divorce

"So many persons think divorce a panacea for every ill, find out, when they try it, that the remedy is worse than the disease."
Divorce, in any circumstance, rips a child apart, tossing him/her from one house to another, limiting time spent with his/her parents, and confusing him/her.

Whitney, a child, said: "**Divorce is like a thousand knives being thrown at one's heart or a slow, painful ride through Horror Mountain.**"

18 Shocking Statistics About Children and Divorce:

<http://www.marriage-success-secrets.com/statistics-about-children-and-divorce.html>