

1996

**CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
LECTURES**

THEME

THE CHRISTIAN HOME



August 4th — 7th

Chapman Church of Christ Lectures



THEME: The Christian Home

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YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE SERIOUS ABOUT GOD

(Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1)

Mark Lindley

THESIS: to show “why” young people should be serious about God.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Youth is a wonderful time of life.
 - 1. Young people generally enjoy good health.
 - 2. Young people generally feel better and look better than they will in later years of life.
- B. I would encourage young people to live life to the fullest (Psalms 90:12).
- C. But let it never be said that the days of your youth were vanity.
- D. Solomon concluded that childhood and youth are vanity—if one forgets God. (Read Text)
- E. Because youth generally have many secular interests, God is often forgotten.
- F. Young Christians and young people in general should be serious about God.
- G. Why?

I. GOD EXPECTS YOUTH TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT HIM (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

- A. This is a commandment. It is no less binding than other commands.
 - 1. Baptism is a commandment (Acts 10:48).
 - 2. Church discipline is a commandment (II Thessalonians 3:6).
 - 3. Remembering God in youth is a commandment (I Timothy 4:12).
- B. This is a youth-oriented command.
 - 1. Some commands are exclusive and can only be obeyed within a precise framework.
 - a. Some commands can only be obeyed by fathers (Ephesians 6:4).
 - b. Some commands can only be obeyed by mature women (I Timothy 5:14).
 - 2. This command can only be obeyed by youth.
- C. Why do youth not remember God?
 - 1. They have not been taught to remember Him (John 6:44, 45; Matthew 28:18-20; II Timothy 2:2).
 - a. Fathers have the responsibility to teach their children (Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:4).
 - b. Mothers have the responsibility to teach their children (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; II Timothy 1:5).
 - 2. They procrastinate until the “sunset years of life.”

3. They feel that they are not expected to remember God in youth.
 - a. Some say, "Young people are the church of tomorrow." No! Young people are the church of today.
 - b. We make excuses for their lack of spiritual interest.

II. DECISIONS MADE NOW WILL AFFECT LIFE IN LATTER YEARS (Ecclesiastes 11:10).

- A. Many decisions are made during youth.
- B. Some make decisions which will cause difficulties and regret.
 1. Some will decide to drink alcoholic beverages (Proverbs 20:1; I Corinthians 6:10).
 - a. It is foolish because it destroys lives.
 - b. It is foolish because it damns the soul.
 2. Some will forfeit sexual purity (I Corinthians 6:18-20; Hebrews 13:4).
 - a. The decision to remain pure should be made before going on a date.
 - b. Guilt, regret, shame, unwanted pregnancies, and/or disease are products of premarital sex.
 3. Some will decide to marry a non-Christian.
 - a. If one's spouse is not converted prior to marriage, chances are slim that he/she will be converted after marriage.
 - b. It will be harder for you and your children to go to heaven.
- C. Some will remember God in their youth and enjoy happy fulfilling lives.

III. YOUTH MAY BE ALL THE LIFE ONE HAS (Proverbs 27:1; James 4:14).

- A. Youth do not think about death as often as adults.
 1. Life is just beginning for them.
 2. Potentially they have many more years (Psalms 90:10).
- B. Death is part of life (Hebrews 9:27).
 1. Some may die prematurely.
 2. How tragic to die prematurely while having good intentions of being serious in the latter years of life.

IV. REMEMBERING GOD IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

- A. Some live and die having never understood what is the purpose of life.
 1. They do not remember God in their youth (Jeremiah 2:32).
 2. They live for the things of the world (I John 2:15-17).
- B. The purpose of life is not to:
 1. Reach high academic levels.
 2. Make a fortune (Proverbs 11:28; I Timothy 6:7).
 3. Fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Romans 6:12).
 4. Enjoy recreational activities, hobbies, or sports.

- C. None of these things are truly fulfilling.
- D. The purpose of life is to:
 - 1. Obey the gospel (Hebrews 5:8, 9).
 - 2. Seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).
 - 3. Live faithfully so that heaven will be your home (1 Peter 1:3, 4).
 - 4. "Fear God and keep his commandments."

CONCLUSION:

- A. Why should God be remembered in youth?
 - 1. God expects youth to remember Him.
 - 2. Decisions made now will affect life in latter years.
 - 3. Youth may be the only time one has.
 - 4. Remembering God is the purpose of life.
 - B. Yes, young people should be serious about God.
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THE HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Mark Lindley

THESIS: to show and apply what the Bible says regarding the husband and wife relationship.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It can bring happiness, true fulfillment, and richly bless the lives of the couple involved.
- B. It can be a drudgery, unfulfilling, and exceedingly unpleasant to the couple involved.
- C. It is the relationship of marriage.
 - 1. When both the husband and wife function as God has instructed, marriage is wonderful.
 - 2. But if one party does not fulfill his\her role, problems will develop.
- D. Because there are so many problems in marriages, numerous books have been published to alleviate these difficulties.
- E. But God has written a Book which will solve all marital problems.
- F. All should be interested in what God has said concerning the husband and wife relationship.
- G. What has God said concerning the marital relationship? God has said...

I. THIS RELATIONSHIP IS DIVINE.

- A. Marriage was ordained by God (Genesis 2:18, 21-24).
 - 1. It is more than a civil contract, authorized by the state.
 - 2. It is honorable (Hebrews 13:4).
- B. America has drifted away from the sanctity of marriage.
 - 1. Note these statistics:
 - a. In 1870 there was 1 divorce for every 33.7 marriages in the U.S.
 - b. In 1971 there was 1 divorce for every 3.5 marriages in the U.S.
 - c. In 1993 one-half of all marriages ended in divorce.
 - d. The divorce rate has risen more than 250% since 1940.
 - e. The average life span of a marriage is 7 years.
 - 2. What is the problem?
 - a. Society is Biblically ignorant (Hosea 4:6).
 - b. Hollywood has a great influence through soap operas and popular entertainers.
 - c. General low moral standards have contributed to the problem.
- C. We should realize that marriage is God-given and work to have strong relationships.

II. THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES.

- A. The marriage relationship involves "leaving and cleaving" (Ephesians 5:31).
 - 1. One must leave parents.
 - a. This implies that the couple be mature.
 - b. This does not mean geographical location.
 - c. The couple forms a *new* home.
 - 2. One must cleave to his wife.
 - a. It is no longer "my" and "mine," but "ours."
 - b. The two become one (Matthew 19:6).
 - 3. One must cleave to **his** wife.
 - a. To cleave to another is to be guilty of adultery (Romans 7:1-3).
 - b. One is to be ravished with his spouse (Proverbs 5:15-21).
 - c. Adulterers shall not enter heaven (Revelation 21:8).
- B. There is to be love in this relationship.
 - 1. It is not something into which people "fall."
 - a. Biblical love is learned (Titus 2:4).
 - b. It is to grow after marriage.
 - 2. Husbands are to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25, 28).
 - a. If a husband truly loves his wife, he will honor her (I Peter 3:7).
 - b. The wife is to be honored before and **after** marriage.
 - 3. This love is to be reciprocated by wives (Titus 2:4).

- C. This is to be a relationship in which each renders "due benevolence" to the other (I Corinthians 7:3-5).
 - 1. Sex is an important, wholesome, and fulfilling part of marriage.
 - 2. It should never be withheld to "punish" a spouse.
 - a. This would be withholding that which rightfully belongs to the other.
 - b. The unfulfilled partner may seek fulfillment elsewhere. In this case, both would be wrong.
- D. ~~Married couples are to recognize God's instructions for leadership in the home.~~
 - 1. The husband is to be the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:22, 23).
 - a. The wife is not inferior to the husband (I Corinthians 11:3).
 - b. They are equal before God.
 - c. The godly husband will not conduct himself as a dictator or a tyrant.
 - 2. As the leader, the husband is to provide.
 - a. He is to provide financially (Genesis 3:19; I Timothy 5:8; II Thessalonians 3:10) unless he is incapacitated by some debilitating illness.
 - b. He is to provide spiritually (Genesis 18:19; Joshua 24:15; Ephesians 6:4).
- E. Marriage is to be a relationship of appreciation.
 - 1. Husbands should *demonstrate* appreciation to their wives.
 - a. She deserves to be assured that she is needed and loved.
 - b. She should be made to feel that she is "the only one" and special.
 - c. Many women are starving to be flattered.
 - d. Indeed, a good wife is worthy of praise (Proverbs 31:10; 18:22; 19:14; 12:4).
 - 2. Likewise, the husband should never be taken for granted.

III. THIS RELATIONSHIP IS BINDING UNTIL DEATH

- A. The only scriptural grounds for divorce is fornication (Matthew 19:9).
- B. When a couple marries a journey begins which will end at the grave (Romans 7:1-4).

CONCLUSION:

- A. What has God said concerning the marital relationship?
 - 1. It is a divine relationship.
 - 2. There are God-given responsibilities in this relationship.
 - 3. This relationship is binding until death.
- B. Cherish your marriage and work to make it the happy, fulfilling relationship God wants it to be.

DANGERS FACING THE HOME

Daniel Wolfram

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What an important topic for America!
- B. "As goes the home..."
 - 1. So goes the society.
 - 2. So goes the church.
 - 3. So goes the hope of heaven.
- C. The following points have not originated with me.
 - 1. I asked several individuals their opinions to the question, "What do you think the biggest dangers are facing the home?"
 - 2. These individuals I asked have reared their own families and have been members of the church of Christ for years.

I. THE LACK OF BIBLE STUDY IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. This is how we can know what is pleasing to God with regard to any topic! (II Timothy 2:15; 3:16, 17; Acts 17:11; etc.).
- B. The following test is for you (miss one and you fail!).
 - 1. T/F — I love God (Matthew 22:37ff).
 - 2. T/F — I spend time with the people and things that I love the most.
 - 3. T/F — I have studied my Bible more in the last month than I have watched the television.
- C. What? Do you love the T.V. more than you love God? How will you know what is pleasing to God concerning the home unless you study His Word?

II. WRONG ROLE MODELS (ESPECIALLY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE) IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. Poor role models can be found in many different arenas.
 - 1. School - "So and so is doing it, why can't I?"
 - 2. Sports - Dennis Rodman and Magic Johnson are heroes among many but are actually very gross and immoral.
 - 3. Music - The lyrics and lust promoted by the stars are horrible.
- B. These people are dangerous because their bad influences affect the good which the home seeks to accomplish.

III. LACK OF COMMUNICATION IN THE FAMILY IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. Communication is a valuable key to good relationships.
 - 1. God wants good communication with Him by studying and praying. (This is why study and prayer are emphasized — Acts 17:11; I Thessalonians 5:17).

2. God wants us to have good relationships with our family members.
 - a. He gave us the ability to communicate.
 - b. We must not neglect speaking with each other.
 - B. Some things promote a lack of communication (especially within marriages).
 1. Television does.
 2. Too much work and extremely busy schedules do.
 3. The man being less talkative than the woman can also lead to a lack of communication (remember the courtship days!)
-

IV. A LOVE OF MONEY IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. This is wrong because Paul says that it is wrong (I Timothy 6:9, 10).
- B. This is wrong because it causes different temptations.
 1. When you love money and you are having financial difficulty, your commitment of "in adversity and in prosperity" may be compromised.
 2. When you love money, then you are more likely to neglect your family.
 - a. The money becomes more important than your family, therefore you tend to neglect their needs.
 - b. Your work (the means of getting the money) becomes more important than your family.

V. ALCOHOL IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. It is wrong because God said so (Proverbs 20:7).
- B. Alcohol is wrong because it enhances other sins such as lewdness, immorality, violence, etc.
- C. Alcohol is wrong because it can lead to addiction.
 1. Addiction has severe consequences on the user.
 2. Addiction has severe consequences on the family members.

VI. FAMILY MEMBERS NOT FULFILLING THEIR GOD-GIVEN ROLES IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. The *children* must honor and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).
- B. The *father/husband* must fulfil his God-given role (Ephesians 5:25; 6:4).
 1. The father is the spiritual leader of a family (Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:6, 7).
 - a. What ever happened to family devotionals?
 - b. The father must teach the principle of authority.
 - 1) This means to teach them that what God says goes!
 - a) Do not add nor subtract from God's Word (Revelation 22:18, 19).
 - b) Punishment awaits those who do (Leviticus 10:1, 2).
 - 2) This means that he must discipline his children (Proverbs 13:24).

- c. The father must teach them to work (Genesis 3:19; II Thessalonians 3:10).
 - 1) Yet, many parents say, "I had to work so hard that I will give everything to my kids on a silver platter." Yes, give to them, but teach them from whence it came (Matthew 6:33) and make them work for it!
 - 2) Hard work makes a good quality person.
 - a) The crime in the inner cities is largely to blame because the children have nothing to do.
 - b) In the country, they had to farm; they had to work.
 - c) But the big farmers have taken the farming away!
 - d) Question: What are the children doing now?
 - e. A lot of them are sleeping! all day everyday (Cf. Proverbs 6:6).
- 2. The man should provide for his family (I Timothy 5:8).
- 3. The husband must love his wife (Ephesians 5:25).
 - a. Just because you are the head does not mean you are better!
 - b. Unloving husbands are partly to blame for evils of the Women's Liberation Movement.
- C. The *woman* also must fulfil her God-given role.
 - 1. She must be in submission to her husband (Ephesians 5:22; I Peter 3:5-7).
 - 2. She must obey Titus 2.
 - 3. But America's "Women Liberation Movement" says that it is degrading to do what the Bible says!
 - a. America has trapped our school girls into thinking that they need a great career independent of their husband and which will keep them far from the home!
 - b. The Bible teaches that it is honorable to be as Sarah (I Peter 3:5-7) who was in submission to her husband.
 - c. How can it be degrading to take care of someone as innocent and beautiful as a "little child"? (Matthew 18:1-3).

VII. TELEVISION IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. Televisions are not intrinsically wrong.
 - 1. They can be used for good (e.g. evangelism).
 - 2. But Satan is dominating them (II Corinthians 2:11).
- B. Notice some of the categories of the bad uses of the television.
 - 1. Satan uses the T.V. to promote a lack of communication in crucial relationships (such as the husband and wife).
 - 2. Satan uses the T.V. to promote a lack of Bible Study.
 - 3. Satan uses the T.V. to promote a "give me something spectacular" mind set which many apply to the worship services.

4. Satan uses the T.V. to promote lust — indecency is the number one seller (Matthew 5:28).
5. Satan uses the T.V. to promote false doctrines (Isaiah 5:20).
 - a. Soap Operas advocate fornication.
 - b. Phil Donahue ridicules the Bible.
 - c. Jenny Jones (and the like) glorifies sin.
 - d. The debate type talk shows which appeal to our intellect are supporting abortion, homosexuality, etc.
 - e. "Public Television" says that you came from a monkey!

VIII. WATCHING MOVIES IS A DANGER FACING THE HOME.

- A. "Rated R" movies are "restricted."
 1. They are restricted from young people because of violence, foul language, sexual scenes, etc. (cf. Galatians 5:19ff).
 2. Even the world sees that our young people should not be subjected to such trash.
 3. Shame on the adult who for entertainment watches that garbage!
- B. "Rated PG" movies state that "parental guidance" is suggested — the children need "guidance" because there are things in the movie which both the child and parent has no business viewing for entertainment!
- C. "Rated G" movies.
 1. Satan has always tried to get himself involved in something that everyone believes is totally innocent (II Corinthians 2:11; 11:14, 15).
 2. Walt Disney has taken a nose dive!
 - a. Several movies show cartoon characters glorifying drunkenness in bar room scenes.
 - b. Pocahontas needs to learn how to dress decently.
 - c. The movie, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" promotes foul language, lust, etc.
 - d. No wonder we can't get our young people to act and dress right — send them to the "Rated G" movies where surely Satan won't tempt them (II Corinthians 2:11).

CONCLUSION:

- A. These are just a few of the many dangers facing the home.
- B. Let us obey the Lord's Word so that we may have homes which will please the Lord and help the society and the church.

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Nat Evans

INTRODUCTION:

- A. I have been assigned the task of discussing *Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage*.
 - 1. I have been asked to deal particularly with divorce and remarriage.
 - 2. I will mention several of the present errors now being taught.
 - 3. Because of the time factor, it is obvious that I cannot refute all of these in detail. I plan to deal specifically with:
 - a. Who has a right to marry?
 - b. Discuss some of the evils of divorce and,
 - c. Give an explanation of Matthew 19:9, and who has a right to a divorce, and then to,
 - d. Deal with the question of amenability and some concluding remarks.
- B. My basic purpose shall be to show (using the words of Goebel Music) that:

ACCORDING TO THE	"ONE"	. . . . .	BOOK
INSPIRED BY THE	"ONE"	. . . . .	GOD
REVEALED BY THE	"ONE"	. . . . .	SPIRIT
PRESENTED BY THE	"ONE"	. . . . .	MIND
WE ARE TO OBSERVE THAT	"ONE"	. . . . .	MAN
IS JOINED TO	"ONE"	. . . . .	WOMAN
BY THE ONE AND ONLY	"ONE"	. . . . .	GOD
TO BECOME	"ONE"	. . . . .	FLESH
FOR	"ONE"	. . . . .	LIFETIME
RESTATED BY	"ONE"	. . . . .	JESUS
AS AT THE	"ONE"	. . . . .	BEGINNING
BUT NOW WITH	"ONE"	. . . . .	EXCEPTION.

- C. Many of the problems of the home have been produced by the moral breakdown in our society.
 - 1. History has shown that trends that affect our society will sooner or later affect the church.
 - 2. The church must avoid conforming to the ways of the world (James 4:4; Romans 12:1, 2; I John 2:15-17).
- D. I also believe that a lot of the false views entertained and taught on marriage, divorce, and remarriage came from those who have either already violated God's law in this area or they adopt views to enable them to be in a position to attempt to justify or defend someone else who is close to them. Our emotions often times get in the way of clear thinking.

- E. Thomas F. Eaves correctly observed, "Decisions on what the Bible teaches on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage must be made on the basis of what God's Word teaches, not on a basis of what is popular, palatable to mankind, or desired because of a particular family situation."
- F. The Bible will be the standard of judgment (John 12:48; Revelation 20:10; Romans 14:10-12; II Corinthians 5:10) in that great day of accounting.
 - 1. Only the truth has the power to make us free (John 8:32), and the truth about our subject must be believed and obeyed.
 - 2. There is so much today being taught that is not in harmony with the truth.
 - 3. If these errors continue to be adopted, many will find themselves entangled in a web of error in this life that will cause them to be lost eternally.
 - 4. Ignorance of God's word extracts a high cost (Matthew 16:26; Hosea 4:6).
- G. Garland Elkins well said, "Those who love the Lord and His precious word will not be silent in such critical times, rather they will have the courage, conviction and love for the truth that will cause them to cry out, in the proclamation and defense of the truth revealed in the Bible, being willing to defend it against those who challenge it."

I. A DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

- A. Marriage is a contract, a covenant, a commitment, a consolidation, a bond, a merger or union between one man and one woman, that is to be both scriptural and legal.
- B. It is a creation of God, an arrangement in which God intends ideally for the husband and wife to be bound together and to be faithful to each other until they are separated by death (Romans 7:1-4; Matthew 19:6; Malachi 2:15-17).

II. WHO MAY MARRY WITH GOD'S APPROVAL? Brother Roy Deaver correctly observes:

- A. "The New Testament teaches that there are three classes of persons who may scripturally marry:
 - 1. Those persons who have never been married (who are eligible for marriage, and who are marrying someone who is also eligible for marriage) (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:5, 6);
 - 2. Those persons whose companions have died (Romans 7:1-4; I Corinthians 7:39), assuming again that marriage is to someone who is eligible for marriage; and
 - 3. Those persons who have put away their companions because of the fornication upon the part of the companion put away (Matthew 19:9), may remarry provided they also marry someone who is scripturally eligible for marriage."

III. THOSE WHO HAVE NO RIGHT TO MARRY

- A. I use here the words of brother Thomas B. Warren.
1. "Those who have a living former companion who was not put away because of fornication... (Matthew 19:9; 5:32).
 2. Those who marry anyone who has a former companion, (still living) who was not put away because of fornication (Matthew 19:9; 5:32).
 3. Those who were put away because of their unfaithfulness (Matthew 5:31, 32).

In summary:

- 1) God originated marriage (Genesis 2:18-24).
- 2) He regulates marriage (Matthew 19:1-12; I Corinthians 7).
- 3) He protects marriage (Malachi 2:13-17; Psalms 127:1-3).

IV. DIVORCE — A BRIEF STUDY

- A. There are only two ways to sever the marriage union:
1. Honorable - by death (Romans 7:1-4; I Corinthians 7:39).
 2. Dishonorable - by the sin of fornication (Matthew 19:9; 5:32).
- B. In this section I will use material from the able pen of Goebel Music who has written a very fine book on the subject of divorce.
1. "Divorce implies that God's will and purpose for marriage been rejected, that sin has brought forth its deadly terror, that the just condemnation of God is reserved in judgment those guilty of the cause of divorce."
 2. "Divorce is more tragic than death, more to be feared than any illness, that which is to be resisted and opposed with great resolve."
 3. "Divorce announces one of the greatest failures of human kind. It says love has been overcome with hate, that sharing has been replaced with selfishness, and that which made two people one has now been shattered."
 4. "Divorce blinds the vision of the past, of the present, and of the future."
 5. "Divorce wrecks God's purpose in marriage (Genesis 2:18-24)."
 6. "Divorce destroys all of this and leaves no reasonable substitute for it. Many happy relations with friends, kin, and associates are destroyed by the destructive works of divorce. Nothing of lasting good can come from such a universal evil."
 7. "Divorce ruins one's relationship with God. In every divorce there is sin. Sin breeds divorce, and divorce does bring death, separation from God."
 8. "Divorce has for its instigators those who reject God's will and way for man, for the home, and for society. None dare stand in such opposition to the Almighty, for such cannot pass the judgment safely."
 9. "Divorce opens the door to sinful relations of another marriage. Adulterous and damnable unions are made possible by the sin of divorce."

10. "Divorce, once obtained becomes a power of terror, destroying one's right relation with other people, and above all others, destroying one's right relation with God."
11. "Divorce publicizes the fact that life for two people, and often more, will never be the same."
12. "Divorce stands as one of man's greatest enemies. Let us never forget God's attitude toward divorce (Malachi 2:15-17)."

V. UNSCRIPTURAL DIVORCE IS A SIN.

- A. Divorce is a sin because it violates God's plan for the home.
- B. Divorce is a sin because it involves breaking one's word (until death do us part, etc.).
- C. Where children are involved, it is a sin against them. A child needs both a father and a mother that loves him and each other (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4).
- D. Divorce is a sin against the church. The Christian home must set a good example before those around them (Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15, 16).

VI. DIVORCE AND COMPROMISE

- A. "The words 'divorce' and 'devil' have a great deal in common. Lax men, lose women, aided by compromising preachers and congregations are doing their best to remove the stigma from divorce and to bring it into social acceptance and spiritual acceptance." (G. Music).

VII. DIVORCE NOT DEMANDED

- A. In the New testament "divorce" and "remarriage" are connected in the teaching of Jesus, but this does not mean that Jesus demands a divorce when one party has been unfaithful. Neither does He demand a remarriage if and when divorce takes place per the exception of Matthew 19:9ff. There is only one scriptural ground for a divorce.

VIII. THE ONE CAUSE DEFINED: FORNICATION

- A. Prostitution, unchastity, fornication, of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse...of the sexual unfaithfulness of a married woman. Matthew 5:32; 19:9. (Arndt and Gingrich).
- B. "Fornication, prostitution...of illicit sexual intercourse in general" (Thayer).
- C. "Fornication (*porneia*) is unchastity or every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse, whether of a married person (Hosea 2:2; I Corinthians 5:1), or a single person." (Wayne Jackson).

IX. SOME OF THE ERRORS NOW BEING TAUGHT

- A. The deserted "believer" of I Corinthians 7:15 is free to remarry, and that with God's approval.
- B. The "guilty party" of Matthew 19:9 may with God's approval, form another marriage.
- C. Some say the teaching of the Lord in Matthew 19:9 applies only to a Christian married to a Christian (that Matthew 19:9 is a covenant passage). They believe further that all of the law of Christ applies only to a Christian.
- D. Some teach that every person may continue in the particular marriage situation in which he happens to be at the time he is baptized regardless.
- E. Some have given repentance a new definition. According to them repentance now means simply saying, "I'm sorry" and then one may continue in that relationship.
- F. Some say there is no sin in the "divorcing", but only in a "remarriage".
- G. The teaching that Matthew 5:31, 32 and Matthew 19:1-12 is just a fuller explanation of the Law of Moses.
- H. Some teach that unless you can find the teaching of Matthew 5 and Matthew 19 repeated after the day of Pentecost, that it is no part of the New Testament and we are thus not bound by it.
- I. Some say death is the only case in which one may remarry. This ignores the exception of Matthew 19:9.
- J. No fault divorce for any and every cause, that as long as it is legal that it must be alright with God. When will people ever learn that a divorce and/or remarriage may be legal and yet be unscriptural?
- K. That baptism washes away adultery (overlooking repentance).
- L. That either spouse can "up and separate" by any legal means available and there be no sin. Some need to read I Corinthians 7:1-5 again and obey it.
- M. That the phrase "Let every man have his own wife" means that 100% of all people in any situation has a right to remarry.
- N. That one may divorce their mate for "spiritual adultery". (One's mate becomes unfaithful to the church.)
- O. Some have re-defined the word "adultery".
- P. Lust in the heart (Matthew 5:28) gives the right of divorce, some aver.

X. DIVORCE AND REPENTANCE

- A. "Repentance, is where the heart of its solution lies, not in baptizing impenitent adulterous couples who have NO intention of ever dissolving their illicit situations. Baptism does NOT wash away illegal husbands or wivs in God's sight if such illicit unions continue unabated subsequent to immersion" (Robert R. Taylor, Jr.).

B. "When a Christian encounters sin in a person he loves and wants to save, he tells them of their sins and urges them to do what God says do in order to be forgiven. This includes repentance. The sin of adultery must not be continued in if one would receive remission...Yes, there is a way for him to be rehabilitated from this sin and that involves submission to God's will...In the case of a marriage violation, there is a balm in Gilead for all who cease to, engage in the sin and impurity of adultery...What needs to be done today is not to excuse and make ~~divorce and remarriage acceptable by way of compromise~~ but rather to show that it is wrong and sinful except for the one condition given by Jesus."

"When man desires to set aside God's way he often will picture God's way as unreasonable and unworkable. Let us search for Bible answers to the problem and bring our actions and teachings into conformity with what the scriptures teach." (M.H. Tucker)

- C. Some have said that since we have no example in the New Testament of Jesus or the apostles telling someone to get out of an unscriptural marriage that we should not tell anyone today that such marriages should be terminated.
1. But that which proves too much proves nothing.
 2. Watch it; Since we have no example of the Lord or the apostles telling a homosexual to give up his perversion, then we would be, according to their line of reasoning **WRONG TO TEACH HIM TO DO SO.**
 3. The fact is that one does not need an apostolic example before he can condemn a sin and call for its termination.
 4. If the New Testament forbids a practice either specifically or in principle, we are authorized to condemn it.
 5. For example, homosexual conduct is condemned in Romans 1:26 as, "vile", "unnatural" and "unseemly".
 6. On these grounds alone I can correctly conclude that the Bible teaches that homosexuals must cease to practice their sin.
 7. Jesus taught that second marriages following divorce "except for fornication" left the partners committing adultery (Matthew 19:9; 5:31, 32).
 8. Please note when Herod had taken his brother Philip's wife that John the Baptist said, "It is not lawful for you to have her" (Matthew 14:4).
 9. Would these false teachers say the same thing to unscripturally divorced and remarried people today???
- D. What would these false teachers tell a person to do who was a bigamist if he wanted God's forgiveness? A polygamist? A practicing homosexual? Would they not have to change their minds about their sinful conduct and as a result of the proper change of mind, change their way of living by ceasing to practice their specific union and/or adultery to be forgiven; but if it is not forgiven, the one who dies in his sin will be lost forever and he will find that he has robbed

himself of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8, 27).

XI. THE QUESTION OF AMENABILITY TO THE LAW OF CHRIST, THE GOSPEL

- A. To be "amenable" means to be answerable to, to be responsible to, to be accountable to and for, to be liable to be called into account.
- B. Does the New Testament teach that all men stand guilty of sin? (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
 - 1. Just how do men today who are not Christians become guilty of sin in the first place?
 - 2. How does the man outside of Christ become a sinner?
 - 3. Does the man outside the church have any responsibility whatsoever to the gospel of Christ?
 - 4. Is the alien accountable to the gospel of Christ and its commands and demands? (Mark 16:1-16).
 - 5. Is the alien amenable to that which the Lord has commanded to be preached to him?
- C. There are those who teach that Matthew 19:9 is a "covenant passage," that it applies only to the case in which a Christian is married to a Christian. To uphold their claims about Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage, it is claimed that the alien sinner is not amenable to the gospel (the law of Christ), in other words that no non-Christian is under the New Covenant...the law of Christ.

XII. WHAT THIS FALSE VIEW WOULD ALLOW.

- A. Brother Thomas B. Warren writes:
 - 1. "It would allow polygamy for people in the world."
 - 2. "It would allow numerous divorces and marriages for any flimsy reason so long as civil law recognized those conditions as sufficient."
 - 3. "It would allow 'group marriages' as long as civil law allowed it."
 - 4. "It would allow concubinage, a man could have any number of women as 'concubines' in addition to his wife."
 - 5. "It would allow forced marriage, wife capture and wife purchase."
 - 6. "It would allow grossly unfaithful marriage partners (downright reprobates) free to divorce and remarry any number of times with pure and innocent girls, so long as civil laws allows it."
- B. By way of objection to the view he continues to point that this view denies plain Bible teaching in that it:
 - 1. "It denies that Christ is king of Kings (Rev. 19:16)." Christ has the right, the authority to speak to all men. It is an error to limit his authority to only those in the church. Christ has the right, the authority to speak to all men. It is an error to limit his authority to only those in the church.

2. "It denies the fact that men out of the church can sin in violation of the law of Christ. If men out of the church are not amenable to the law of Christ, then, it is no sin for one to enter a denomination, use instruments of music in worship, etc. Yet a study of I Corinthians 6:9-11 shows that men out of the church were guilty of sins which civil law did not legislate against."
 3. "It puts Christ in a position of limited authority, if He can only speak to those in the church."
 4. ~~"It denies that Jesus has authority over all flesh (John 17:2; Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 5:8-9). It denies that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus has the right to speak to all men. In recognition of that right and authority, He sent His apostles into all the world with a message of salvation, a salvation which was promised to those who obey the conditions set forth in His law, the gospel of Christ (I Peter 1:22-25; Acts 2:38, 39; Romans 6:17, 18)."~~
 5. "Logically, since it denies that men out of the church are amenable to the law of Christ and since one can violate only such laws as he is amenable to, it denies that rejection of the gospel will lead to damnation. But this is plainly taught in II Thessalonians 1:7-9."
 6. "It denies that unbelief is a sin since no civil law demands faith in Christ (Mark 16:16; John 8:21, 24)."
 7. "It denies that the 'gospel' is the entire New Testament message (Romans 1:16, 17; Colossians 1:5; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15, 16).
 8. "It denies that one must obey the law of Christ to be made free from sin (Romans 3:19)."
- C. In brother Warren's conclusion he emphasized that:
1. "The gospel is addressed to all men."
 2. "All men are amenable to the gospel."
 3. "The gospel contains instructions both as to how to become a Christian and how to live the Christian life."
 4. "This includes instruction on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage. In Matthew 19:9 Jesus gives sexual unfaithfulness upon the part of one's marriage partner as the only ground of remarriage so long as one's former companion is yet alive."
 5. "This is a part of the law of Christ (Matthew 19:9), and all who attempt to be more narrow or more broad than that err in their teaching."

In Summary, I have Affirmed:

"All persons, whether Christian or no Christian, are persons who are amenable to the teachings of Matthew 19:9, and that, therefore, all persons, who except for fornication, put away their companions and marry someone else are persons who are involved in

sinful practices and relationships (Colossians 3:5-7); and therefore are persons who are instructed by the law of Christ to cease those sinful practices, to get out of those sinful states, and to sever those sinful relationships." (Roy Deaver).

XIII. A DISCUSSION OF MATTHEW 19:9: WHAT IT ACTUALLY TEACHES

- A. One of the best means of refutation is usually a clear explanation of what a passage actually teaches. Let us now look at Matthew 19:9, it's logical meaning. It's logical meaning is as brother Roy Deaver points out:
1. "All persons who do not put away their companions because of that companion's fornication, and who marry another companion, are persons who commit adultery."
 2. "No person who puts away his companion because of that companion's fornication, and who marries another companion, is a person who commits adultery," or
 3. One may put away his companion and marry another companion (during the lifetime of the companion put away), If and Only If he has put away this companion because of fornication upon the part of the companion.
- B. Consider further: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery." This means that all persons who except for fornication, shall put away their companion, and shall marry another companion, are persons who commit adultery," or,
1. "All persons who put away their companions, but not for fornication, and who marry another companion (during the lifetime of the companion put away) are persons who commit adultery;" and,
 2. "No person who puts away his companion because of fornication upon the part of the companion, and who marries another companion during the lifetime of the companion put away is a person who commits adultery (who keeps on committing adultery)," or,
 3. "A person may put away his companion and marry another companion (during the lifetime of the companion put away) IF and ONLY IF he has put away his companion because of fornication upon the part of the companion."
 4. "This is the meaning of Matthew 19:9, and this is the correct handling of an 'exceptive' sentence. Observe carefully that Matthew 19:9 is an 'exceptive sentence'."
- C. This passage says in principle, therefore:
1. "All persons who shall put away their companions and shall marry another companion — except upon the grounds of fornication upon the part of the companion put away — are persons who keep on committing adultery; and
 2. "All persons who have married a having-been-put-away companion are persons who keep on committing adultery."

3. "This passage says (by implication) that All persons who because of fornication upon the part of their companions put away their companions and form another marriage are persons who DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY (or ARE NOT persons who commit adultery).
- D. Let us read again the following passages of scripture together:
1. "Without are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators and the murders, and the idolaters, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:15).
 2. "But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murders, and fornicators,, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).
 3. "Be not deceived neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men...shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9, 10).
 4. "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

CONCLUSION:

I am deeply indebted to Thomas B. Warren, Roy Deaver, and Goebel Music for the extensive use of their materials in putting together this lesson.

ABORTION IN LIGHT OF GOD'S LAW

Ed Casteel

INTRODUCTION:

- A. January 22, 1973, "Black Monday" our Supreme Court ruled that killing of an unborn body is an act protected by the constitution of the United States.
 1. According to their ruling the unborn child is not a "person" therefore, it is not protected by the 14th Amendment.
 2. Since the child is not a person, the unborn can be legally killed without the fear of penalty.
 3. As a result of this ruling, we have 1.5 million abortions every year. That works out to 4,200 every day, 177 every hour, and 3 every minute, or one every 20 seconds.

4. At present time one out of every three pregnancies in our country end in abortion.
- B. Because of all these facts it is a subject that we need to be concerned about. We need to consider: "Does the Bible have anything to say concerning abortion?"

I. SOME PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS.

- A. Is that which is growing inside the woman alive? The answer has to be YES. Dead things do not grow. If that which is inside the woman is dead, then it is not growing. Dead churches do not grow either.
- B. When did it become alive?
1. Over 20 years ago the first International Conference on Abortion was held in Washington, D.C.
 2. It brought together the leading minds in the fields of medicine, law, ethics, and social science. The first question posed was, "When does life begin?"
 3. They unanimous concluded: "The majority of our group could find no point in time between the union of the sperm and egg, or at least the blastocyst stage, and the birth of the infant at which point we could say this was not a human life...the changes occurring between implantation, a six-weeks embryo, a six months fetus, a one-week old child, or a mature adult are merely states of development and maturation."
 4. These learned men and women have concluded what Bible believers have been teaching for years, that unborn babies are alive and are real people.
 - a. At the age of six weeks human brain activity can be recorded on the electroencephalogram (EKG).
 - b. At only 18 days the human heart begins to beat.
 - c. These things are signs of real life. That which is growing inside the woman is not just a mass, or glob, but a real human being waiting to be born.
- C. Is that which is growing inside the woman human life? It is the product of human life, and all things reproduce after their own kind. (See Genesis 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25, 26-28).
- D. Does abortion kill human life? That is the single purpose for the existence of the abortion clinics. Since that which is growing is human life, then that which is killed is human life.

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF ABORTION?

- A. Abortion is not mentioned specifically by name in either the Old Testament or the New Testament; however, a number of divine principles speak to this important issue.
- B. Life is the gift of God. (Acts 17:25, "He giveth life and breath to all things...").

1. As it is a gift of God, man is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28).
 2. Since God alone has the power to give life He alone has the right to take life (Genesis 50:15-19).
 3. Man has always been forbidden to take the life of another human, God said, "thou shalt not kill" and should suffer the consequences for doing so (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:12; 21:20; Numbers 35:16-34; Proverbs 1:11; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:21).
 - a. Literally the words here mean, "thou shalt do no murder."
 - b. Murder is the deliberate taking of innocent human life. There is no provocation or just cause.
 - c. Abortion is the planned, intentional killing of human life. The victim is totally innocent, they have done nothing amiss towards the mother or the father, the doctor or the world.
- C. Christ's teaching on the value of human life was new to His day.
1. The first century world had little respect for life.
 - a. 60 million souls lived in slavery during the period of the Roman empire.
 - b. Multitudes flocked to the gladiatorial games to watch men fight with one another, even to the death of one. This was done for sport and entertainment.
 2. In the midst of all this brutality Jesus came to teach the sacredness of human life. He taught that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). He charged His disciples to see that all people in the world had the opportunity to hear the message of salvation (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- D. The Bible does not make a distinguish between prenatal and post-natal life.
1. God spoke to Jeremiah, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).
 2. Unborn John leaped in his mother's womb when Mary, the expecting mother of Jesus, greeted Elizabeth (Luke 1:41-44).
 3. The word that is used to describe the babe of Elizabeth is *brephos*. which means, "an unborn child, embryo, fetus; a newborn child, on infant, or baby" (Thayer **Greek-English Lexicon**, p. 105). This is the same word that is used in II Timothy 3:15 to describe Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
 4. If you can abort a *brephos* before it is born into this world, why can you not take the life of a *brephos* after it is born into this world?
- F. Paul charged, "not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you to the

things of others" (Philippians 2:4). Selfishness, personal interest and gratification is the root of most, if not all, abortions.

1. Unmarried couples want the selfish, indulgence in sexual pleasures but not the responsibilities of the family, nor do they desire to marry. They are just sinning (Exodus 20:14), the child is the result of their sin.
2. Many a working woman would rather have the high priced job, the luxuries of the house, than to fulfill her role as a mother within the home. Truly they are "without natural affection" (Romans 1:31; II Timothy 3:3). This affection is the love that is had between a parent and a child. Abortion, therefore, becomes the most cruel form of child abuse possible.

III. WHAT MUST BE DONE?

- A. We must educate ourselves and our society as to the reality of the abortion problem. Few people are fully aware of the humanity of the unborn child. Most are not informed as to the extent of the present legal status which allows abortions on demand through the ninth month under the guise of protecting the mother's health. Who is going to consider the child's health?
- B. Since 70% of all abortions are performed on unwed mothers, we must teach our young people the basic principles of sexual purity and morality. (Hebrews 13:4 "marriage is honorable in all, and the bed is undefiled". This is in marriage not in the back seat of a car.)
- C. We must actively oppose the abortionist whose hands are shedding innocent blood. We do not oppose their work by burning down their buildings, or by doing physical injury to the abortion doctor. That is just as wrong as what they are doing, and two wrongs does not make one right.
 1. Traditionally many of our brethren have stood back and hesitated to actively oppose such issues. If we can oppose the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, and oppose the practice of dancing and the wearing of immodest apparel, etc, then surely we can oppose the killing of innocent unborn babies.
 2. Since our courts assure us that this bloody practice is legal and right, we need to elect leaders in our country who have a respect for life and who will fight to preserve life, rather than destroy it. Before we go to the polls we need to know where our candidates stand on the abortion issue as well as many other moral issues. Our present president will fight to keep the abortion doctors in business and their clinics open.
 - a. The high court of our land says abortion is right.
 - b. Society says it is better than having a lot of unwanted and unloved babies in the world.
 - c. The abortionists tells us it is more humane to abort a handicapped child that for him to have to suffer all the days of his life.

- d. And the Bible says, "Woe to them that call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20).

CONCLUSION:

1. May we who are children of God rise up and speak up for what is right and for the protection of unborn children.
 2. May we have the courage to dream the impossible dream that some way, some how, some day, we might win the moral battle to save the lives of innocent babes whose lives are now in jeopardy.
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"IS IT WELL WITH THE CHILD?"

(II Kings 4:26)
James Segars

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This question should be asked every day by our government, by our public schools, by our communities, by the elders of this congregation, etc.
- B. The younger generation is invading our nation and the church, and they WILL take over. We cannot stop them. Our task is to train them well.

I. IT CAN NEVER BE WELL WITH THE CHILD UNTIL IT IS WELL WITH THE WIFE IN THE HOME.

- A. The Bible gives instructions about being a good wife (Proverbs 31:10, 11; Ephesians 5:22-24; I Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:4, 5; I Peter 3:1-4).
- B. God meant for every wife to be a Christian.

II. IT CAN NEVER BE WELL WITH THE CHILD UNTIL IT IS WELL WITH THE HUSBAND IN THE HOME.

- A. The Bible gives instructions about being a good husband (Ephesians 5:25-31; Colossians 3:19; I Timothy 5:8; I Peter 3:7).
- B. God meant for every husband to be a Christian.

III. IT CAN NEVER BE WELL WITH THE CHILD UNTIL IT IS WELL WITH THE PARENTS IN THE HOME.

- A. The Bible gives instructions about being a good parent (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).
- B. God meant for every parent to be a Christian.

IV. IT CAN NEVER BE WELL WITH THE CHILD UNTIL HE/SHE BECOMES PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE.

- A. The Bible gives instructions about being a good child (Exodus 20:13; Ephesians 6:1-3).
- B. God meant for all children to become Christians when they reach the age of accountability.

CONCLUSION: Does Jesus live in your home?



