

"MARRIAGE MATTERS BY PASTOR TIMOTHY D. ROBERSON"

LESSON #1

"I'm Not Concerned About Where I Will Spend Eternity If I Died Right Now!!! But My Spirit Is Concerned That There Are Many Who Really Don't Know Where They Will Spend Eternity If They Died Today!!!! Do You Really Know?"

We Don't Accidentally Go To Heaven!!!!

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

IF YOU KEEP ON LIVING, YOU ARE GOING TO LEAVE HERE!!! WHERE WILL YOU GO?

When we hear about natural disasters in the news, many don't believe it can happen to them. Tsunami's, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tornadoes, fire, droughts, and floods. We all must realize that we can leave this world at any time. We don't know if it's going to be old age, disease, accident, or any number of other not-fun-to-talk-about options. One thing we must remember and that is death can come in many ways and at any time. There is no guarantee that we will live to be eighty or one hundred years old. There is no guarantee we will be here the next second, minute, hour, or [tomorrow](#). So, the question is If You Died Today, Where Will You Spend Eternity?

MY FRIENDS THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS (WE ARE TALKING ETERNITY)

Do You Know Where You Will Spend Eternity If You Died Today? Today Is The Day Of Salvation!!!

This is a question about which we cannot afford to be wrong, because eternity is very permanent. Everyone of us have two appointments that have already been made for us and that we will definitely keep. They are, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews [9:27](#)). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. [5:10](#)). "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Romans [14:10](#)). There will also be the judgment of the lost: Rev. [20:11-15](#). It is called the "Great White Throne Judgment". These two appointments: death and judgment cannot be canceled; we will keep them. The Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs [14:12](#)). Our feelings are not a safe guide, but only the Bible is. We must not make an error concerning our eternal salvation in following what "seems right" to us, or that we "feel in our hearts we are saved". The Lord doesn't want anyone to be lost. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). If one is lost in Hell, he will only have himself to blame. This earthly life is so short, but eternity is forever and ever without end. My friends, most people believe they are going to heaven because they believe in God, they attend a local building every Sunday, or they try to live a good life. Sad to say, many of these people are hoping they will make it to heaven, they do not know. The Bible teaches that you can know that you have eternal

life. 1 John [5:13](#) "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Accountability (Judgments To come)

The Bible tells us of two judgments: The judgment of the lost: Rev. [20:11-15](#). It is called the "Great White Throne Judgment". The judgment of the saved: I Cor. [3:10-23](#), II Cor. [5:10-11](#). It is called the BEMA judgment, which is the Greek word for "Judgment Seat." The bible teaches us of two Judgment events in our future. Of which every person stands before only one. We either stand before the judgment seat of Christ (for the Christians), or we stand before the Great White throne Judgment (for the non Christians). In each case, our lives are examined and we are held accountable for every word and action. The difference in the first is that the Christians are judged according to how they lived for God, and receive rewards accordingly, and then are granted eternal life of peace and beauty forever in the presence of God. In the latter judgment (not attended by Christians) many will be judged for having rejected our creator in deeds, body and spirit. And being a Good, Holy, honest and just judge, the only sentence from Him - is guilty.

There Is A Penalty For Sin (Sin Will Not Go Unpunished)

My friends the bible says that Christ will be revealed from heaven with his angels: 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; Romans [6:23](#)

For the wages of sin is death; we all know that wages are something we earn. By our sin, we have earned death.

LET'S LOOK AT ROMANS [6:23](#) (VERY IMPORTANT)

Romans [6:23](#) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This verse says that eternal life is a gift. You see, eternal life cannot be earned, it must be accepted as a free gift. Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Faith is simply believing what God has said. God, being a loving Father, wants to have a relationship with you. Since you are separated from Him by your unrighteousness, he will count your faith for righteousness so that you can have a personal relationship with Him! Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

But how did God provide for this free gift of eternal life? How do I receive this free gift of eternal life? If God will count my faith for righteousness, what do I need to have faith in? Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. When the Bible says that “Christ died for us,” it means that Jesus Christ died in our place. We saw earlier how the payment for sin is death. Christ has already paid that payment for you. 2 Corinthians [5:21](#) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Jesus Christ “knew no sin.” Since he was God, he never sinned. Since he was not a sinner, he did not owe the payment for sin, death. But he chose to die to pay your debt so that you could be “justified”, or declared righteous, by God.

THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED

1 Corinthians 15:3,4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: Once again, these verses show that Christ did not die for his own sins, but for OUR sins. He didn't have any sin of his own to pay for, so he chose to pay for your sin. This is how God showed his love for us. He died for us so that we could have righteousness and eternal life as a free gift. But that's not all. If He had only died, this would not have been enough. Not only did He die, but He also “rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” Christ's resurrection purchased victory over death and proved that He was truly God. It is on the basis of Christ's resurrection that God can offer you newness of life. Romans [4:25](#) Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE GIFT?

Ephesians [1:13](#) In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Hearing my friends; you have to hear the gospel that Christ died for your sins and that salvation is a free gift. The next thing my friend is Believing, you have to believe the gospel. My friends the question is do you believe the gospel? For those who have not accepted the free gift of salvation, the question is do you believe that you are a sinner and that you cannot earn salvation? Do you believe that because of your sin you are deserving of eternal judgment in the lake of fire? Do you believe that Jesus Christ gave his life for you so that you can have eternal life with him? My friends there is no work involved, all you have to do is trust. Trusting the gospel means that you have made the decision to rely completely on Christ's sacrifice on the cross as the full payment for your sins. Please!!! Please!!! remember that you are saved by trusting in the gospel, not by saying a prayer or going down in water. You are not saved by going to a building every Sunday. God is concerned with the condition of your heart, not some words that you recite or some manmade tradition. Remember we are not saved by works but saved unto good works. Ephesians [2:10](#) “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

YOUR ANSWER CAN BE YES WITHOUT A DOUBT IF YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE GOSPEL TODAY!!!!!!

My friends if you have placed your trust in the gospel, you are now eternally saved. Nothing can change that. My friends look at this GUARANTEE Romans 8:38,39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Bible says that you are now sealed with the Holy Spirit and are a member of the Body of Christ. No one, not even you, can now separate you from God's love. You can now know, based on the Word of God, that you have eternal life. And since you didn't do anything to earn eternal life, you don't have to follow any list of rules and regulations to keep eternal life.

LESSON #2

Real Fathers Stand Up!!!!!! (Fathers We Have A Responsibility)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

As a father, no challenge rings clearer in my mind than that set forth by the apostle Paul, who says, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)."

Too many fathers do not know what the "training and admonition of the Lord" is; let alone how to bring their children up in it. Children need to be taught from a young age in the Word of God about the Lord and must be taught to live by the Lord's commands. Training and admonition mean more than simply discipline for wrongdoing. Training and admonition imply that a father should spend time instructing and training his children in the Word of God to do right. He must bring them up and feed and nurture them on it. They must be instructed how to do that which is good and avoid those things which are evil. Then they must be reminded to stay on that path. Lord willing, they will carry this training with them into life. This verse speaks of responsibility and accountability. It speaks of bringing up godly children despite the immorality and wickedness of the day. It speaks of creating a strong bond between a father and his children all the days of their life. It speaks of happy, well-adjusted children who love God and their families. It speaks of spiritual men leading spiritual homes in a spiritual way that brings up spiritual children.

LESSON #3

"The Dangers Of Playing With Other's Emotions"

("It Can Be A Deadly Game!") (Part 1 of 2)

Please Turn Off The TV And Radio And Read It All. (Satan Doesn't Want You To Get This Spiritual Food!!!! I Pray You Are Edified!!!)

(If All Cheaters Came Marked With A Sign Saying "I Cheat" Between Their Eyes, It Would Make Choosing A Relationship A Lot Easier.)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

"Warning!!!! Emotional Infidelity Leads Into Physical Infidelity And Satan Is The Culprit"

As human beings, we are incredibly intricate with a complexity of emotional needs that must be satisfied. These needs include our needs for attention, respect, appreciation, approval, sexual fulfillment, support, comfort, security, etc., and determine our sense of emotional well-being. In marriage, our emotional needs were meant to be met both by our relationship with God and through our relationship with our spouse. That's precisely what God intended marriage to be; a committed, intimate, relationship that provides a supply of love to meet one another's most important emotional needs. To build a satisfying and lasting marriage, you and your mate must be committed to meeting each other's physical and emotional needs. What's important to your spouse is probably different than what's important to you. People feel loved in different ways. Sharing feelings, being appreciated, special time together, affection, sexual relations, thoughtful gifts, and shared activities are a few examples. Many times we fail to know our spouse's love language. This is what love is; the constant choice to give to another. When we give of ourselves to meet our mate's most important needs, we create love. Many times we evaluate our relationship based on how it benefits us, the expectation being that our partner is here to give to us. That is not love. We need to learn to become a student of our spouse and learn what pleases him or her, and remembering what pleases him or her.

It means sacrificing your own needs to meet those of your spouse. Philippians 2:3-4, Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. One thing I've learned is that in many marriages and relationships heading towards marriage, many seek out advice and encouragement from others of the opposite sex when things are not working out, and in many cases an emotional bond can develop. I know that Satan uses these emotional bonds and relationships to reap havoc in a marriage and godly relationships heading towards marriage. Many don't realize the dangers of Emotional Infidelity. Emotional Infidelity is like a wolf in sheep's clothing: all soft, safe, and cuddly on the outside, but inside it can be deadly dangerous to a committed relationship. Many are not aware of Satan's devices. Satan can offer and give us many reasons to tip out (Cheat). Many will say their sexual

needs aren't get met or fulfilled within their marriages. Communication has shut down for various and different reasons, and as a result, their love life gets shut down right along with everything else. As a result of not getting their sexual needs properly met, many in marriages will start to wander, and before they know it, they have fallen head first into an adulterous affair. We ought to be thankful when we are blessed with a beautiful wife or husband, and with one or more beautiful children, which are the greatest blessings and the greatest treasure that God can bestow upon us in this life next to Him, His Son Jesus and His Holy Spirit. And yet as great as this blessing and treasure really is, so many people are willing to discard it, sever it and cheat on it once they hit a few minor speed bumps or hurdles in the marriage. In our sex-saturated society, all of us must be on guard against the "wiles of the devil" (Eph. [6:11](#)) in the realm of moral impurity.

"The Dangers Of Emotional Infidelity"

Most affairs begin as an innocent connection between two people. You may be brought together through work, church or school. But if your guard isn't up and your boundaries aren't well-established, a newly developing connection can quickly become entangled. Many in the Body of Christ fail to realize that as we spend time together, either face-to-face, through the computer or by phone, Satan can use those mediums to gradually suck us into an emotional affair that can rip a marriage or a relationship to shreds even though the relationship never becomes physical. We in the Body Of Christ should be careful not to allow relationships even to begin to develop inappropriately. As Paul warned, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians [5:22](#)). Talking or venting to a person of the opposite sex about what your marriage lacks, what your partner lacks, or what you're not getting to make you happy sends a loud message that you're available for someone else to 'love and care' for your needs. It's also a breach of trust. Sharing thoughts and deepest concerns, passions and problems is what deepens intimacy; it builds an emotional bond between two people, time better used in marriage relationships. Giving this away to another person, regardless of the justification is what Satan use to destroy a marriage or a godly relationship heading towards marriage.

Not only must our actions relative to other people, but also our thoughts be guarded. Over the years in my spiritual growth as a man of God, the Lord taught me that physical infidelity is only one of the many temptations Satan uses to break up families and marriages. Emotional infidelity, which occurs when emotions and thoughts are focused on someone other than a spouse or the person you plan on marrying, is an insidious (harmful but enticing) threat that can weaken the trust between a couple and shatter peace of mind. Emotional infidelity doesn't usually happen suddenly; rather, it occurs gradually. Satan use this gradual process as way to make those involved feel innocent of any wrongdoing. A spiritual mature saint (by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit) knows that relationships with others of the opposite sex are not in and of themselves a problem or a fracture of fidelity. In fact, many of our meaningful relationships with neighbors, Church friends, co-workers, and others have a balanced and important place in our lives. However, there is a danger zone that many in the Body of Christ cross into if they are not watchful. Satan tempts us to have one conversation, one innocent flirtation or one look and if you are not spiritually strong to discern that this is the work of the enemy, the ball is rolling.

I remember my days before I got married, how I didn't care about the emotions of girls I knew and dated. I had to look at the woman I loved and when I saw the hurt that I caused, I begin to the hurt. I learned by the Grace of God what true love is (When The Love Of Your Life Is Hurting, You Should Be Hurting Also). The effectual working of the Holy Spirit allowed me to see that it's a dangerous game to play with other's emotions. Satan has blind many to the fact that after the excitement fades, you become exhausted trying to juggle two different lives and hiding secrets. I've noticed over the years that men will date and sleep with women almost all the way up until the point where he makes the woman he's been dating his girlfriend. A majority of women, on the other hand, will find a man that they're really into and disregard all the other men who might come in between her and the possibility of getting with the man she's interested in. Satan has blinded a lot of men and women with some distorted thinking that they can cheat and play with other's emotions without it affecting them. Many (Men and Women) don't think about the seriousness of having an affair and telling someone else that you LOVE THEM, just to keep getting their goods or to have fun. We must remember that people aren't at the same level emotionally and playing with other's emotions are serious and sometimes deadly. We often forget there is a real person with feelings and potential emotional "issues" that has now entered the marriage or the relationship heading towards marriage.

I really asked the Lord to help me in this area of my life and He did. Playing with other's emotions can be a dangerous game and the Lord allowed me to see that and I'm very thankful for that. Satan uses emotional infidelity as a springboard into physical infidelity. God gives us every opportunity to walk away from temptation, but many of us choose to walk toward it instead. God also offers us guidance and direction when we are tempted to have an affair. 1 Corinthians [10:13](#), There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

LESSON #4

"The Dangers Of Playing With Other's Emotions"

("It Can Be A Deadly Game!") (Part 2 of 2)

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(If All Cheaters Came Marked With A Sign Saying "I Cheat" Between Their Eyes, It Would Make Choosing A Relationship A Lot Easier.)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

"Warning!!!! Emotional Infidelity Leads Into Physical Infidelity And Satan Is The Culprit"

"Emotional Infidelity Leads Right Into Physical Infidelity"

("Many Saints Are Taking On The World's Perspective About Infidelity")

We in the Body of Christ must use our spiritual eyes to see that Infidelity, or "cheating" as it's more commonly called, has become the "in" thing to do nowadays. The rich and fabulously wealthy seem to swap mates as easily and readily as most of us change our socks or our underwear. The tabloids are full of celebrity couples or superstars who marry, stay together for a short time, and then split up because one (or both) have strayed outside of the marital bounds. It's almost become a national past time, right up there with hot dogs and baseball. Many don't think about the ramifications of such a lifestyle. Besides the obvious (the broken wedding vows, impending marital problems once your significant other finds out, and in many cases divorce and being taken to the cleaners for everything you presently own and everything you thought you were going to own), there are some significant thoughts and consequences when a person engages in that behavior. Once a person "lays" with someone else other than their significant other, the trust in the relationship is broken and virtually destroyed at the moment. From the moment the mate is aware of the infidelity, the trust he or she had is essentially gone. They will withdraw and in many cases, will NEVER again so blindly trust not only their cheating spouse or fiancé, but just about anybody else as well. Trust is vital in a marriage relationship as well as a relationship heading towards marriage. Trust takes years to gain and only a few fleeting moments to lose. There are way too many sexually transmitted diseases out there to be concerned with picking up a strange disease from someone else and bringing it home to the marital bed.

Satan blinds many from the fact that If a man or woman is married, and they cheats on each other with another woman or man, that woman or man they cheated WITH has probably slept around as well. And you know what happens when you have multiple sexual partners? EVERYBODY they've slept with, YOU sleep with. Last time I checked AIDS, HIV, genital herpes, and the like Get In Where They Can Fit In. Your enemy is Satan, and he is the one who will do anything and everything in his power to destroy your marriage and your relationship heading towards marriage. Jesus described him as a thief, He said "The thief comes only to steal and to kill and destroy"(John 10:10a). Satan has blinded the eyes of many to the fact that those who cheat likes to have their cake and eat it too. Most people who begin affairs are either bored, unhappy (but not unhappy enough to get a divorce) or intrigued by how much they can get away with, they are NOT looking to leave their comfortable lives, their comfortable spouses, their kids, their houses, their standing in the community...they just want a roll in the hay. They view this new sexual tryst as a kind of game, something that excites them for the first time in a long time, something that perks up their boring routine and makes them feel young again...they are NOT so overcome with love for you that they have to risk it all to win your heart. To think that the married co worker or the person you feel you have that special connection with is willing to trade in everything he or she has worked for all these years to start all over again with you - and with alimony and child support and a potential court battle as well - is extremely unrealistic. If you choose to believe this and become involved with them anyway, don't be surprised when the affair ends soon after it begins. I Pray You Were Edified. (Be Watchful And On Guard To Satan's Devices And Tactics)

"The Gospel"

1st Cor 15:1-4 "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,"

LESSON #5

Encouragement Corner Today 12-22-14 (Husbands Love And Protect)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

Wives Want To Know They Are Loved And Protected

A Godly Husband's Duties!!!! Love And Protect

A husband is uniquely equipped to protect his family. But husbands must remember that there is more to protecting his wife and family than simply being strong and taking a bullet if need be. Husbands are to use this God-given strength to protect our wives and to ensure that they feel secure. They must know that we will protect them even at the cost of our own life. We must be the first into battle; we must be the ones who know that "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for the LOVE OF HIS LIFE." Now that's true Love my friend. We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church. Christ loved the church to the fullest possible extent—to the laying down of his life (Ephesians [5:23](#)). The godly husband focuses special attention on protecting his wife. And what man doesn't feel the need to protect his wife? A true godly husband has something in his make up that compels him to protect her, to shelter her from the pain life can bring. I've learned that a godly husband uses his strength to protect his wife from any physical harm. He puts himself in harm's way rather than risking her harm. He will face his own harm; he will face his own death, to keep his wife from suffering at the hand of others. Husbands let us love and protect our lovely wives. Be a leaning POST for them.

LESSON #6

Godly Husbands (Where Are They?) (Satan Is Attacking The Family, Starting With The Husbands)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

A Strong Marriage Start With A Strong Man In The Lord!!!!

God Told Husbands To Love And Love Does Not Abuse (Spiritually, Emotionally, Verbally, And Physically)

I Will Be Doing More Teaching On This Subject At The Conference on Jan 17, 2015 (Please Plan To Attend)

One of the greatest needs within the family today is for men to stand up and fulfill their God-given responsibilities as husbands. As the man within your home, you have been entrusted with another person's life, your wife's, and to be faithful to that calling before God should be your greatest concern. Husbands, nothing in God's word says you are to degrade your wife, to belittle or to force her into submission to your ideas or opinions. You are to lead by presenting a godly example. You should never make her the blunt of jokes and always show her a proper and gentlemanly respect. A husband who does put his wife down degrades himself. It shows he has no real understanding of the roles of marriage. If he does not respect his wife he will not respect others also. The result will be that he will be a poor husband and leader. The husband must be a man of integrity. The word "integrity" means being complete, adhering to a code of moral conduct. To be respected a man must be a person of morals and live a godly life. A godly husband has to be the one to create an atmosphere where love can flourish. God gave that responsibility to the husband. Men God says YOU are the one who initiates a loving relationship in a family. God can not endorse and embrace abuse in marriage because it contradicts His character. And since marriage is designed to represent Christ, the teachings of such churches embracing abuse are heretical and it is blasphemous to the Word of God. God does not condone abuse. It's already been established that God is a God of love and therefore He doesn't approve of abuse. Abuse is abuse no matter what form it comes in! So let's get that straight right now! God says the husband is to love his wife unconditionally. When that kind of love is present the structure is in place for a loving and rewarding marriage. God has placed this responsibility on the husband. Husbands do you understand that you cannot have the right relationship with God when you do not have it with your wife. A husband who is not fulfilling his responsibilities to his wife and family is certainly not letting the Holy Spirit guide and direct him. You cannot serve the Lord and others when you are not biblically and lovingly serving you wife and family.

Spiritual Abuse

Spiritual abuse occurs in marriage when the husband or wife misuse scriptures to "rule over" their spouse. Spiritual abuse occurs when a leader, or in the case of marriage when a spouse, attempts to control, manipulate, or dominate another person; this is emotional abuse and it is often lurks under the guise of someone who is "being religious." Husbands who are spiritually abusive will twist and misinterpret this teaching by using "God" to control their wives. Spiritual abusiveness quickly becomes emotional abuse in this situation. Yes, our bodies belong to our spouse but that doesn't mean they can violate us. Christ's attitude and certain biblical statement can help us see the compassion Christ had for women in biblical times as well as today. The Gospels are saturated with statements about and examples of Jesus' compassion. He was especially tender toward women and children. Think of how gently He approached the woman at the well; how respectful He was to the woman caught in adultery; how He met Mary's needs by teaching her as she sat at His feet; how, during excruciating agony on the cross, He committed His mother to the care of His friend, John. In the fifth chapter of Ephesians, the apostle Paul commanded husbands to "love [their] wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25) and to "love their own wives as their own bodies"(Ephesians 5:28).

Christ, in love, sacrificed His life for the church. This example is the antithesis (direct opposite) of abuse. It appears, then, that any husband that constantly mistreats and maligns his wife, who wounds her psychologically and/or physically, has “let go” and departed from the intent of his marriage vows. He may be living under the same roof and sleeping in the same bed with her, but if he neglects her needs and destroys her as a person by attacking her emotionally, verbally, and physically, he has left! If he is cold, cruel, and uncaring, he has already separated himself from her, even if he shares a house with her. The Lord does not expect or want her to suffer mental or bodily harm at the hands of a husband who is supposed to sacrificially love her. God does not want her to be oppressed or incapacitated by fear.

Any wife or expecting to be wife who is physically harmed or verbally belittled, insulted, or harassed by her husband is under bondage. Any wife whose husband controls her mind and activities with threats or brutality is enslaving her. Sometimes a Christian wife who is being harmed by her mate stays because she believes that the Lord will protect her no matter what her husband does. God hasn't called the wife to live in a spirit of fear and mental instability but of “power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). He hasn't chosen her to live in a state of confusion, not knowing what to say or do next, or what tirades her well-intentioned responses might bring. “God is not a God of confusion but of peace and “has called wives to peace. The husband's role is that of leader, but that does not mean the wife is his slave, standing at his beck and call, awaiting commands like, "Do this! Get that! Go over here! Fix that for me!" and so on. The relationship between a husband and wife is one of "being heirs together of the grace of life." God gives us wisdom to be defensive and cautious. We duck when something flies through the air at our heads. Common sense tells us to avoid situations where we're placed in physical danger. And I believe that is what God expects of us. Proverbs 14:16 “A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.”

Conclusion

Husbands, some of us have a lot of work to do in this area. We have not been the kind of husbands that we ought to be. We have taken our wives for granted. We have not valued them as we should. We have shut down the lines of communication. We have not taken our place as understanding leaders in the home. A wife needs to know she is safe and well provided for in every aspect. A wife's basic need for security is satisfied by adequate protection and provision given by God through her husband. A wife wants to be protected and that covers feeling physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe.

LESSON #7

Pastor Timothy Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

Don't Miss The Red Flags (You May Have To Do A Background Check On Him)

There was a college professor who told of the most honest funeral sermon he had ever heard. The man who had died was a drunk, a failure as a father, and a miserable husband. Everyone listened intently to the words of the preacher, wondering what he could possibly say that was good about this drunkard. To their surprise, the preacher leaned over the pulpit and spoke directly to the widow. His message to her

was clear and simple--“Don’t make the same mistake twice!”

Red Flags Before You Walk The Aisle

You will hear and have heard many women say this "I had things broken around me, threats made to me, emotional games played on me—a knife held to my throat, a gun held to my head, and the Bible itself was even used as a weapon against me—always out of context, but used nonetheless. The above statements come from women who married a man who had a dark side. These men told these women that they knew the Bible well and during the dating process, they proclaimed their Christian faith boldly. They even studied Scripture together, prayed together, and hosted Bible studies. But a domineering nature lurked behind their confident, God-fearing front. These types of husbands spend years tearing down their wives sense of security and self-worth. This is the reason for this message, Don’t Miss The Red Flags. This message is to the woman of God to be on alert when that man shows up and wants your hand in marriage. Choosing who you will partner the rest of your life with is one of the biggest decisions you will ever make. Too many young women are settling for less than God’s best because they don’t know exactly how He expects His daughters to be treated. By the Grace of God, I’ve listed a few red flags. I pray you are edified.

Our wonderful daughter is working and going to college. The Lord has given me (her father) instructions to bring her up in the admonition of the Lord “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).” My job as her father is to instruct her in the Word of God rightly divided. The first thing I often tell her since she’s a saint in the Body of Christ in this dispensation of Grace is to not get married to someone who doesn’t know the Lord. 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” I often tell my daughter that a potential husband should be a man who has his focus upon walking in obedience to God's Word and who seeks to live so that his life brings glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31). But the reality is that she will probably marry a man with as many flaws as she has. Then, by God's grace, they will spend the rest of their lives together learning how to be a partner to, and servant of each other. They must enter into the second most-important relationship of their lives (marriage), not under an emotional cloud, but with eyes wide open. Their most important relationship, with our Lord and Savior, has to be the focus of their lives. I often tell her that she won’t find the perfect man but she can have a happy and loving marriage the way God designed it to be if she takes heed to some warnings signs in the Word of God. So, when that man shows up, she will know what to be looking for from the Word of God. I always tell her she needs to be prayerful and discerning. Many women fall for smooth talkers, men who talk the talk, but fail to walk the walk. These women, spurred by the desire to be married, are willing to overlook the subtle warning signs many men give off. I often tell my daughter “don’t look for a sign that he’s the right one, but look to the Word of God.”

Don’t Miss The Red Flags

Is He Lazy?

I often tell her from the Word of God, to not miss the red flags. There are LAZY men out there in society who just want to find them someone to freeload off of. They do not want to work and think life is just a

big game. It's sad but true, you have to get a background check on people in this day and time, and Satan has people out there whose job is to take you for everything you got and to destroy your life. The reason I give her the instructions from the Word of God is because the Word of God should be the only source she should use when making the decision to married the man of her dreams. He will be the head of their house. So, to avoid many heartaches and pain, the Lord has given me the responsibility to talk with my daughter about identifying the warning signs that a man may not be the one. She is often reminded from the Word of God that if she desires to have a marriage relationship built on Scripture, she will want to marry a man who will be a strong spiritual leader to her and her future family. The Holy Spirit will have her to ask some serious questions: Is He Saved? How strong is his relationship with Jesus Christ? Is he interested in growing spiritually? How passionate is he about reading God's Word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers in a biblically solid church that believe the Word of Truth rightly divided? Is he servant-hearted? Is she spiritually stronger than he is? I had to explain to her that spiritual maturity may result in frustration and leadership struggles if he is not as strong as she is in his relationship with God. Many men will say they know God, but they really don't know what it means to be in Christ. There's a difference in Being Around The Word and Being In The Word. Does he care about your spiritual growth? Ultimately, your spiritual condition is up to you and you alone. However, in Ephesians Paul compares a husband's role toward his wife with that of Christ's role toward the Church, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for it, That he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish," (Ephesians 5:25-27,).

Is He Selfish?

If he expects her to be everything to him and always make him happy (All About Me Attitude) that's a warning sign of selfishness and that's not of God. Does he demonstrate an unselfish attitude or must he get his own way with pouting? A selfish man will bring much grief to a marriage especially when children come along. In contrast, a godly man will set aside his own desires for you without making you feel guilty about it. He will reflect the grace of God in what he says and does.

Don't Look On The Outside, Look On The Inside (He may be fine, but make sure that man is saved!) Single Christian women and those considering marriage again should make sure that their future spouse is Saved and remember that God admonishes believers to not be unequally yoked with unbelievers according to II Corinthians 6:14. You want to be in a relationship with someone who shares the same value system and beliefs as you do. In doing so, you create harmony in the relationship, and operate in God's perfect will for your life. Also, according to Amos 3:3, it is better for two people who are in agreement to walk together. The grass is not always greener on the other side. Looks can be deceiving and everything that glitters isn't gold. We must remember 2 Corinthians 11:14 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Can't Keep His Hands To Himself

Another warning sign or red flag is when a guy won't keep his hands to himself. The truth is, he cares more about himself in that scenario. Neither of your bodies belong to each other until you say "I do," (1

Corinthians 7:4), so it is wrong for a man to treat a woman as if he has free reign with her body before marriage. I think it is safe to ask this question: if a man is not honorable and pure before marriage, why would he be so afterward? After marriage, your bodies belong to each other. However, if he could not keep his hands to himself before marriage, how do you know he will keep them to just you after marriage? It's a good question that needs to be considered seriously. The unmarried man's actions are a good indicator.

Pay Close Attention To His Conversation

If he is always broaching conversations about sex, he is not doing a good job of helping you to protect your mind against lust before marriage. He is already showing that he is not living a pure lifestyle. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; Not in the lust of concupiscence (strong sexual desire, Lust), even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Make Sure He Loves You For Who You Are (Is He A Looker/Lust Of The Eyes)

A true man of God will let his wife body satisfy him, he will be captivated with her."(Proverbs 5:18-19) No man should look at other women or pictures of other women when he has a wife on whom he can gaze daily. A husband should become fully satisfied with his wife's body. No matter what the size or shape, if a man will let it happen, and ask God to help him, he can grow to truly find his wife's body to be the most attractive in the world. This is the true spirit of being captivated with your wife. Such a wife will feel loved, and attractive. Finding other women attractive and looking at them will erode your own view of your wife. You will be less satisfied with her and she will feel less special to you. No true man of God can build a habit of glances without subconsciously doing it in his wife's company. And she will notice. Remember to be captivated with your wife and no one else. She will feel like the Queen of the world and you will fall further in love with her. This is what happens when men of God love their wives the way Christ loved the church. A true man of God will make sure that his wife knows that he finds no flaw in her. God made your wife. God makes no mistakes. If you find a part of her body flawed, then it is your mind that needs to be changed. The responsibility upon the true man of God is to grow to love and express love for every part of his wife and also to respectfully and sensually tell her so. It will not help to criticize her or to be sarcastic. Think of how good she will feel when both you and she truly believe that you are enamored (be filled with a feeling of love for) with every part of her! A man is wise when he understand that infidelity and looking for pleasure outside of the marriage only brings strife. God actually calls him to rejoice over you all of his days.

Is There An Anger Problem?

How does your date cope when things do not go as planned? Does he spew his anger all over everyone, including you? This is a serious red flag. Proverbs 22:24-25 says, "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go; Lest thou learn his ways and get a snare to thy soul." If you are not to make friendships with angry people, why would you commit yourself to someone who fits this

description? Proverbs makes it clear that you will only be ensnared. Do not expect that you will change that man. You may actually become an enabler who receives the brunt of his anger. Spouse abuse by an angry man does not usually randomly begin fifteen years into a marriage. An angry man has that potential long beforehand. Abuse is not only physical- it can also be emotional. A man may apologize to you over and over again, but if he has abused you even once, leave the dating relationship immediately. Do not stay with him out of pity. You are not sent by God to fix him. That is the Holy Spirit's work. (Many women stay and sad but true, the end result in many cases is death). If a man can't control A N G E R, just put a D in front and you would see that he is only one step away from DANGER!!!! Apostle Paul said in Eph 4:26-27 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to devil." There is an anger which is sinful; as when it is without a cause; when it exceeds due bounds; when it is not directed to a good end; when it is productive of bad effects, either in words or actions.

He Won't Grow Up

No one wants a husband who acts like a child. Those little childlike qualities may seem really cute right now, but it will grow old (and aggravating) shortly into marriage. Immaturity kills relationships. If a man is not responsible with his time, money, and work, why would he be responsible in his future family life? Apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 5:8 - But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (unbeliever). If he is more concerned with worldly pleasure than pleasing God in being an honorable and responsible man, this is not the kind of man who will rightly point his family toward Christ-likeness. Watch out for the selfish man. The Bible has a name for the guy who has the Peter-Pan syndrome: he is called "the sluggard (Lazy Man)." Proverbs mentions him several times, including in Proverbs 6:9-11, How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard (Lazy Man)? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth, and thy want as an armed man. What is this man's work ethic? What is his work ethic in helping others? Is he content letting others do his job for him? Does he help you when you need it? If he would more readily spend a day on the lake than helping someone in need, this indicates where his heart lies. I often tell my daughter to consider a man's relationships with other people. Is he unhealthily dependent on his friends or family? Has he not taken adult responsibility such as his living arrangements or expenses? Also examine his relationships with other women. If your date is a flirt or has many close female friends (especially previous girlfriends), this is something to take as a caution. As cute as his flirtation may have seemed toward you, it might also be an indicator that he likes "playing the field" and will continue to—even just in seemingly harmless ways—after marriage. It won't be so cute then.

Is He Teachable?

A man who is unwilling to take counsel shows that he is prideful instead of humble. Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." A man who seeks counsel is a man who desires to be wise. As Solomon, the wisest man of all, said, "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it." (Proverbs 8:11). What are his friendships like? Are they foolish or wise? Has he invited accountability into his life from not only his friends, but older and wiser men of God who stand on the Word of Truth rightly divided? A man who does not want counsel and hides from accountability is a man who is not ready to

be open with a wife. He may seem strong and independent, but he may actually be prideful. There is nothing worse than a petty conflict blowing out of proportion because your partner refuses to admit they were wrong. Taking responsibility for his actions and apologizing for his mistakes is the sign of a real man. ("Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18). Because so often, "Love is blind," input and counsel from mature saints will be very helpful to spot positives or negatives in a relationship. Be willing to accept their counsel. All of these points you should prayerfully consider in your own life. If women are unwilling to be above reproach in these areas, why should we expect that from men? If you have just spotted some serious red flags in your dating relationship, seek counsel from wise, confidential mature saints in the Body of Christ who not only know the Word of Truth rightly divided but stand on it. But remember, the decision is ultimately up to you. You have to be married to this person till death do you part, and you can choose whether your marriage will help you to grow in serving others, or will pull you down and bring you much sorrow. Choose wisely, and trust God's sovereignty.

Conclusion

A Christian woman wants a husband that tells her that she is special and is greater than any other woman on earth. He shouldn't just mention her physical beauty, but her care for him, her hard work, and her ladylike attributes. He should watch the flower of his wife blossom as he repeatedly fills her ears with praises. She longs for those words and she wants to hear them from him! Of course we don't need pride, but that does not change the wife's need and longing to be treasured. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. (Col 3:19) How can you tell if some has the ability to love you like Christ loves the church? Here are some things: He wants to make you happy. He goes out of his way to do, say, create things that will bring a smile of happiness and sense of joy to you. He cherishes you. He doesn't want any harm to come to you. In fact he constantly wants to be around you and defends you if necessary. He wants the best for you. He wants you to grow and develop to be the best you can be. If he inadvertently does something to hurt or offend you, he apologizes and attempts not to do it again. The Bible says that a husband must be willing to sacrifice his life for his wife. Years ago men were happy to fight to the death to protect the honor of a woman. Well I am not saying that we should want men to have brawls, but he should: publicly talk about you to his friends and family or anyone who cares to listen, want to defend you if someone is speaking ill about you, stick up for you when people are against you and go out of his way to show care and concern. The man you marry should make you feel loved like you've never felt before. Safe, accepted, desired, nurtured, protected and comforted. Ultimately, your divine Father wants you to be treated in a way that it is compared with how Christ cares for us. It is up to us though to believe we are worthy, set the standard, and have the faith that God works in perfect timing to introduce you to your husband. A word from our daughter; Don't Miss The Red Flags!!!!

LESSON #8

AM I THEREFORE BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE I TELL THE TRUTH!!!! (KEEP STANDING ON THE TRUTH) 12-30-14

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

“Am I Therefore Become Your Enemy, Because I Tell You the Truth?” Galatians 4:16

Early on in my marriage, I could tell my wife about herself and her faults, but as soon as she began to tell me about my issues and areas that I needed to improve in, I would head out the door. I didn't want to hear the truth about myself. By the grace of God, the Lord helped me grow to accept the truth. I love hearing the truth even though it might sting or hurt for a little while, but I realized that it will also set me FREE. The same scenario happens when we preach the word of Truth to others. They love you when you are saying what they like to hear but what a change when many hear the TRUTH!!!! It is an act of kindness, an expression of love, a sign of sincerity, to tell another the truth, even when it "hurts" the one to whom the truth is told. Gospel truth, more than any other, tends to make enemies of those who tell it to erring and sinful men. This is an experience that many of us have known who preach the gospel of Christ. There are many former friends who now consider ME enemies for no reason other than that we told them the truth of God's word. I have already been warned that if I live Godly, I will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” It's not me they are rejecting, it's my Lord and Savior and His Word of Truth. One of our greatest difficulties is to regard, with steady and unwavering affection, the person who earnestly tells us the truth, yea painful truth!

The Lord has opened my eyes up to a few things about telling the truth to sinful men or saints that consider you their enemy after telling them the truth (1) It hurts personal pride of most people. They consider it a personal attack rather than an attempt to help them. (2) It requires more sacrifice than the individual is willing to put forth by asking The Lord to help him or her make a change and correct the error through the Word of God. It sometimes demands a complete denunciation of the very things or persons that caused the sin to begin with. (3) Truth is usually considered to be what one believes rather than what God says. To say that we tell someone the truth about a certain matter is not usually convincing to him because he denies that we are telling him the truth. His view of the matter is that truth is what he already believes, and error is what we are trying to get him to accept. Truth, of course, is determined by what God says and not by speculations and opinions. Many have taken their lifestyles or beliefs and tried to make God's word fit into it instead of living, believing and lining up with what the Word of God's says.

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” There are those who will sing the praises of a preacher, teacher or writer as he says those things with which they agree. Let that same preacher, teacher or writer say something that is challenging or even outright contradictory of these individuals' wants or lifestyles, however, and witness a fascinating change in their attitudes. The

preacher, teacher or writer is now meddling. He is no longer delivering God's truth but instead is advancing his opinion. When formerly bouquets of praise were tossed his way, now brickbats of animosity are hurled at him. The preacher, teacher or writer has not changed. His mindset toward those he is teaching has not changed. The difference in this scenario is that now people are hearing or reading something that convicts them and urges them to change, and change, even that clearly demanded by God, is very often met with resistance. We as saints in the Body of Christ must remember that there are passages of warning and rebuke as well as plainly stated commands from God. We could choose to overlook the latter types of passages in favor of the former, thus focusing on only those verses that make us "feel good." In so doing, we would be neglecting inspired words that were written to reprove, correct and instruct us in righteousness (I Timothy 3:16-17). We would be rejecting "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) in favor of that which tickled our ears (II Timothy 4:2-4).

The apostle Paul had enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the congregations of the Lord's church in Galatia. He loved them and they returned the affection. In Galatians 4:15 he noted that "if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me." In spite of this, the time had come in which these Galatians brethren had begun drifting from the truth. Rebuking them, Paul wrote, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." (Galatians 1:6-7). Later in the epistle he wrote, "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain." (Galatians 4:9-11).

Writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul was blunt throughout the epistle regarding the error into which these brethren were going or had gone. He was concerned about their souls. The relationship had been peaceful and joyful but now it was time for some correction. How would they accept Paul's rebukes and exhortations? Apparently, some did not take them well. In Galatians 4:16 Paul asked, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" It would seem that as long as they agreed with Paul, the Galatian church didn't have a problem with what he wrote or said to them. When he taught them something that was contrary to what they wanted to hear, however, some forgot that loving relationship they had had and turned on him. The one with whom they had formerly gotten along was now counted as an enemy, simply because he taught God's truth and they didn't want to hear it. Paul had BECOME their enemy because he told them the truth about their change from the true gospel to "another gospel." The reason most men or women fight the truth is that they love darkness, which to them covers their evil deeds. Jesus said, "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Spiritual creatures of darkness despise light. Their deeds are evil and sinful; therefore, they do not want to hear the truth.

CONCLUSION

It is required of Christians that we speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Doing so involves reproof and rebuking (2nd Timothy 4:2). It's sad that our doing so sometimes turns people against us but we

must not hesitate to tell the truth. In like manner, we must be sure that we ourselves accept correction when it is evident from the Scriptures that our actions are not pleasing to God. We must turn to God's Word to determine the validity of the correction and then humbly accept it. One thing I've learned about speaking the truth is that the person hearing the truth has one of two choices before him or her. He or She can accept the truth and repent (Change of Mind) and obey the truth, or he or she can continue in the sin and consider the person who tried to teach him the truth as his enemy. No matter how much the truth of God is opposed, it will survive.

The Gospel By Which We Are Saved

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" Thank God For The Gospel!!!

LESSON #9

"Handwriting On The Wall"

(Minister Timothy Roberson)

January 31, 2013

Saints of God, "the handwriting is on the wall" meaning the likelihood of something bad is now happening in our society. The Lord is speaking through his precious Word, but we as saints in the Body of Christ aren't listening. Apostle Paul told his fellow friend and young minister Timothy that perilous times were coming. Perilous times are here as Satan continues to attack the Word of God. But we as saints must remember that God's Word is the final authority.

The reason I can see the handwriting on the wall through God's Word is because the Holy Spirit has opened my eyes to His truth (The Word Of God). I am not shocked about what I'm seeing and what's happening in the world today. It only shows me that the Word of God is true. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, problems of every sort began to emerge. Tragically, those problems still exist and usually show up in the home especially through family relationships. The curse of The Fall is built into the family. It is the curse that causes men to be arrogant and full of pride; women to desire to be the head of the house; and children to be disobedient to their parents and rebel against authority.

Only where Christ (allowed by individuals through prayer and humility) has intervened and brought new life will these relationships be restored and function biblically as God desires. Saints of God, Satan loves "Mess", "Drama", "Confusion", "Havoc" and everything that goes against the Word of God. Satan despises peace and harmony. That's why it is imperative that in everything we do that we consult with the Lord. We also must hold every action, deed, and statement made in this life up to the high standards of the Word of God.

Saints, God has provided our answers in the Word of God. There is no use in having 5 or 6 Bibles lying around the house when we don't know what's in them. Studying the Word of God is a command. In order to be workmen that need not to be ashamed, we must STUDY (2nd Timothy 2:15).

Below you will find six facts dealing with "the handwriting on the wall":

1. The Handwriting Is On The Wall (Confused About Salvation)

Many don't know if they are saved or not because they are sitting under confusion. This was true for me for many years. I was following the commandments of men instead of God. Many believe it takes water to be saved; many believe you have to add something to salvation to complete it. The Word of God says we are saved by Grace through Faith plus Nothing (Ephesians 2:8-9). We as saints must remember that we can't add anything to grace. If we do, it is no more grace (Romans 11:6).

How do we obtain salvation? We obtain salvation by faith in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (1st Corinthians 15:1-4). That's the gospel by which we are saved and you can't add anything to that. Jesus didn't die in water. The sad thing today is that if you ask any of those who are relying on water, what is the purpose of water? Most people couldn't tell you and if you asked where did water baptism begin? They couldn't tell you and this is including the so called leaders. Traditions and commandments of men are destroying many people. I know because I am one of those who couldn't tell you or answer any of those questions years ago. We continue to pray for those who are trapped by the traditions and the commandments of men that God will open their eyes up to the Word of Truth rightly divided.

2.The Handwriting Is On The Wall (Redefining Marriage)

We soon may see all 50 states claiming that marriage is between two men and two women. Nothing trumps or beats God's Word (Genesis 2:21-24, Ephesians 5:22-25). God created marriage to be between a man and woman, a husband and a wife. The enemy is going to have our next generation so confused as to their sexual orientation and the true meaning of marriage.

Homosexual couples are adopting children and these innocent human beings are growing up witnessing these sinful behaviors in these relationships and they are confused. Saints of God, there's a battle going on and it is spiritual. The world system can call it civil unions and equal rights. But in the eyesight of God, it is sin.

The Handwriting Is On The Wall. We as Saints fight with The Word Of God. We must put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

3.The Handwriting Is On The Wall (Not Studying)

Parents, Saints, and Children aren't studying the Word of God Rightly Divided. Parents are giving

children everything but what they need and that's the Word of God. God commanded parents to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). This means spiritual education in the Lord. The father should take the lead. The question today is where are the men of God? God needs his Men to stand up and be true Men of God. Many homes are falling apart because men aren't stepping up and taking on their role that God has given them. If we want the Peace Of God in our homes and marriages, we must follow God's command for Husbands first to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). He told the wife to submit to her own husband as unto the Lord (Ephesians 5:22). He told the children to obey their parents in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1). There is another command for the father and that is to not provoke your children to anger (Ephesians 6:1).

After 20 years of marriage and being together for 27 years of friendship with my wife; I had to grow in the understanding of what God meant for husbands to love their wives. I had to learn to not just love her through physical means by giving her things. The Lord helped me to understand her emotionally and how to grow together spiritually. I had to grow and learn about the emotional piece.

This is where a lot of relationships fall and don't grow. I had to learn and understand this lovely wife that God gave me and only the Lord could help me do that because he created her for me. Many husbands are always looking for physical rewards and benefits from their wives when they have never made an emotional or spiritual investment in her. Husbands, if what you're "giving" to your wife and family are just things that can be bought or built; you're missing the point.

What about attention? What about time? Do you want the Lord to talk to you when you pray? Yes, we all do. Then remember, your wife wants you to talk to her also. Communicate. Give yourself for your wife. You are never more Christlike than when you love your wife as Christ loved the church. So, I had to understand that it means a lot to my wife when I hold her hand, and when she just wants to be held, and when she needs to be listened to by me, her husband. I truly believe and understand why God told the husband to love his wife, because I believe that God put a receptor in the wife that when a husband shows her love, she is going to reciprocate that love back to him. That's what true love does. A husband should love his wife so much that he would be willing to die for her; now that's love.

As Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it (Ephesians 5:25) identifies the kind of love Paul is commanding. Self-devotion, self-sacrificing, a love that gives and focuses on the wife as Christ's love was given for and focused on His church. Sacrificing for the well-being of the wife goes deeper than paying the bills and cooking dinner on Mother's Day!

Submissiveness (the act of obeying; dutiful or humble behavior with respect to another person) is looked at as degrading by many individuals who don't truly understand the Word of God and what our Lord and Savior meant with the word submit. Many do not understand headship and submission. First, this command is to the wife and with it, the wives are to give the husbands the same unquestioned, absolute submission they give to Christ. If a wife is not submissive to her husband, she is in direct rebellion of God's Word. The reason why she must submit is explained in Ephesians 5:23.

Submission is a choice these days when we look in the homes where the husband is not loving and the wife is not submissive and the children are disobedient. The home in this condition is in total chaos. When these areas are out of whack, there is going to be trouble in the home, family and marriage. Submission of a wife is a glorious thing that is intended to help her and her husband to have a contented life together. Problems in life and in marriage are more or less inevitable but when a wife is submissive to her husband; it is much more likely that those problems can be resolved harmoniously, without unpleasant quarreling and without bitterness and resentment. Those people who look down on submission as if it were something demeaning, degrading and humiliating are merely showing that they have no understanding of what submission is and that they are quite ignorant of its power.

For a husband, a submissive wife is a pleasure to be around because she helps him to feel peaceful and contented. She is a reliable helper who can be depended upon. He can trust her with his deepest desires and fears because he is not afraid of her scorn or her rejection or her anger. A husband who has a submissive wife acquires a greater sense of respect because he knows that she respects his authority in her life and she is not in any way trying to belittle him. Being submissive doesn't mean that she can't disagree with him or that she cannot express an opinion. She is not his slave or doormat. Expressing her opinions and giving advice and suggestions will often be a valuable part of the help that she gives to her husband. Praise God For Our Lovely Wives. Man is the glory of God; woman is the glory of man (1st Corinthians 11:7).

4. The Handwriting Is On The Wall (Don't Desire To Suffer For Christ)

Many saints do not want to step into the arena of suffering for Christ, Apostle Paul says in 1st Corinthians 11:1 for us to be followers of him as he followed Christ. Apostle Paul suffered for Christ (2nd Corinthians 11:24-30) and we as saints should be more than willing to suffer for a wonderful Savior who saved us from the wrath to come (1st Thessalonians 5:9-11). If we suffer with him, we will reign with him (2nd Timothy 2:12).

Most of our sufferings come from our own choices and decisions in life. When we suffer for Christ, we become as the filth of this world (1st Corinthians 4:13). If we expect to be loved by everybody then we don't want the sufferings of Christ.

5. The Handwriting Is On The Wall. (Turning Away From The Truth)

Apostle Paul told his fellow friend and young minister Timothy that many will turn away from the truth, they will not endure sound doctrine (2nd Timothy 4:1-5).

The Handwriting Is On The Wall. Saints, the Word of God is speaking, but we aren't listening. Many are flocking to "tickling ear messages" from mere mortal men who have no knowledge of the Word of God Rightly Divided. Every Sunday is the same old tradition of men routine. I know, I did it for years and years through ignorance. Satan is using everything in his arsenal of this world system to distract, confuse, and destroy many in the Body of Christ. Many people can go to a mall and shut it down and

that's about 8 or 9 hours. However we can't or don't desire to get under the Word of God rightly divided or to take time out to meditate and study the Word of God. We can watch television for hours, we can put hours into cleaning our cars and grooming our yards while the Word of Truth goes unattended. The studying of the Word of God has taken a backseat to our own selfish desires and wants and when we allow the enemy to come in and distract, confuse, and take us away from God's Word; we soon find ourselves walking in the flesh and fulfilling the lust of the flesh.

Another thing is that we will believe what a man that's dressed in a robe or three piece suit says before we believe in the Word of God. Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 1:10 as he was addressing the issue of false teaching and posed the question, "does he persuade God or men"? He stated that "if he pleased men, that he is not the servant of Christ". Stop following man and follow God. We are so quick to take the advice and word of man before we trust in the Word of Truth from our risen Savior.

6. The Handwriting Is On The Wall (Do Not Trust God)

Many times, we in the Body of Christ, think we know better than God. Saints, God is God and He is in control. If we allow God to drive the car, we will get where we need to go spiritually. We will grow in grace (Ephesians 4:15, 2nd Peter 3:18). We will become stronger and bolder for the Lord (Acts 13:46, Ephesians 6:18-20, 1st Thessalonians 4:18). We will not worry about things (Philippians 4:6). We will have the peace of God (Philippians 4:7). We will be content (Philippians 4:11, 1st Timothy 6:6-8). We will know that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28). We will know that God's grace is sufficient (2nd Corinthians 12:9). We will joy in our blessed hope (1st Thessalonians 4:13-18). We will know what our ministry is (2nd Corinthians 5:17-21). We will know our spokesperson for today (Romans 11:13, Ephesians 3:8-9, Galatians 1:16).

When Moses stopped making excuses and realized that I AM that I Am was in control; he grew stronger and bolder because he got self out of the way and let I AM that I AM handle the situations and problems that would arise for him. Many times we want to take the steering wheel and head off into the wrong direction and we lose sight of where we are going. Only when we put our total trust in Him can we stay on the right track. Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

May God continue to give us the spirit of His wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him and that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened will ever more increase (Ephesians 1:17-18). Don't believe the lie that it's going to get better before we, the Body of Christ, are raptured from the planet Earth to our home in Heaven. It's going to get worst which you can only find out when you study the Word of God rightly divided.

Stay Encouraged Saints Of God!!!!

LESSON #10

Minister Timothy Roberson

By The Grace Of God Local Assembly

Please Read!!! I Was Once A Fake Man, A Fickle Man, But By The Grace Of God, I Am Now A Faithful Man Of God

WHERE ARE THE GODLY MEN?

FAKE, FICKLE OR FAITHFUL MEN (WHICH ONE ARE YOU?)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

I WAS A JELLY BACK MAN FOR YEARS (NO GODLY BACKBONE) I HAD A FORM OF GODLINESS!!!

INTRODUCTION

WHERE ARE THE GODLY MEN?

There has been a rising epidemic in the Body of Christ. This disease is contagious. It's attacking every male in today's generation of Christianity. The disease? Godlessness. It's no time for softness and men being of a jelly back. We must stand firm against sin. Many of these men would not verbalize this, but they think that they do not need to live godly. One of the reasons why we are not making an impact in today's world is because of this mentality. We shrug off godliness as not important. You see this with the lack of godly men in the Body of Christ. Where are the godly men? Where are the ones who are going to lead their families? Where are the ones who have family devotions? Where are the ones who live for God at work? Where are the ones who read and study their Bibles rightly divided? Where are the ones who pray? Where are the ones who provide and care for their children? The Body of Christ needs godly men. A godly life is the strongest argument you can offer your critics and enemies. Before the Lord changed me into a true godly man by the Word of God, I could argue and have disagreements with my wife with boldness but I could not stand up to religion, men and the traditions and commandments of men. I was more concern about persuading men than God. I was weak because I was easily led and didn't stand up for myself. I was taught in religion to forgive, to not be angry, to be loving, kind and good to everyone and that's great. I was to do what I was told and not question authority, follow orders and not rock the boat. My behaviors were more of a boy than a man.

A GODLY WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE!!!!

A Question To Godly Women (Who Come Across Men With A Form Of Godliness) Have you ever dated a great guy who seems like he's got "it all together," only to find out weeks or months later that he's really more of a boy than a man? If so, you know trying to build a relationship with an emotionally immature guy with a form of godliness is like trying to build a house out of cards. Having a fulfilling,

honest, loving long-term relationship takes a lot of work. If one partner isn't capable of really showing up, it won't work. So, having a weak man with no godly backbone and a form of godliness will only make a relationship very difficult and painful at times. Women must remember that when they get involved with an immature guy with a form of godliness and try to deal with and make things work with him, their life will get messy and they will start acting immature as well. In other words you may see yourself stooping to his level of ungodliness.

DESCRIPTORS OF FAKE, FICKLE, OR FAITHFUL

I WAS ONCE A FAKE MAN (I REALLY HAD NO CLUE OF WHAT A TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WAS ALL ABOUT) I HAD A FORM OF GODLINESS

FAKE MEN: My personal testimony is that I received the word with joy when I heard it, but the Word of God had no root in my life. I believed for a while, but in the time of testing I fell away. My friends, I was pretending to be someone that I really wasn't for years. In simpler terms, I was a hypocrite and that is someone who not only does not practice what one preaches, but a person who does the opposite of what one preaches. My friends that was me for years, my speech and my actions were contrary to one another. After years of faking like I had a true relationship with God, I was still a babe in Christ. I couldn't be fed the meat of the Word; I still needed the milk of the Word. 1st Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. I neglected the inward man, and only focused on the outward. I loved titles, and honors, and respect from others. Fake men are in church [on Sunday morning](#) and they may even participate in many "Christian events." They are often members of a congregation of believers but in all reality they do not understand at all what a real relationship with Jesus Christ is all about. It is not because they have not heard the Gospel preached or because they do not have the ability to comprehend what it is required to enter into such a relationship. It is simply because they are willfully choosing not to initiate that step of faith to begin the journey of developing a relationship with Jesus.

I WAS ONCE A FICKLE MAN (TOO BUSY TRYING TO PLEASE MAN INSTEAD OF PLEASING GOD) I WAS CHASING MATERIAL THINGS IN LIFE.

FICKLE MEN: They are more concerned about life's riches and pleasures, and they do not mature." They have not grown to understand that they must rely on the Word of God rightly divided in all things and not on their own understanding or abilities. Whether good things are happening or bad things are happening, they are relying on man's ability to achieve or overcome. If we were to compare these men to their non-Christian peers, we would see very little, if any, difference in how they are leading their lives. They are caught up in living their lives by worldly standards and worldly methods. Their lives are measured by how much they acquire and accumulate and not by how much they are serving or giving. They love the world and all it has to offer. These men see God as a means to prosperity and not eternal salvation. They operate from the "what have you done for me lately God" mentality. These men are "Christians" when it is convenient but otherwise they try to "blend in" with the world around them. 1st John [2:15-17](#) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the

love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Galatians [1:10](#) For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I AM NOW A FAITHFUL MAN OF GOD (A GODLY MAN)

FAITHFUL MEN: They are the ones who hear the Word of God rightly divided, retain it, and by persevering produce the fruit of the Spirit.” These men are the one’s I call “faithful” Christians. Their salvation is based solely on Jesus Christ and they have accepted by faith the gift of grace. They seek a relationship with God on a daily basis. They regularly and routinely study the Word of God and with the assistance of prayer and the Holy Spirit, they lead their lives based upon the understanding gained. These men are not concerned about the world’s view of them but most important to them is pleasing their Heavenly Father. There is an understanding that life’s journey will have trials, tribulations and temptations but they are firm believers that if we live godly, we will suffer persecution. Faithful men are the spiritual leaders of their marriage and families. No matter what their occupation or profession, their peers note a distinct difference in them compared to their non-Christian peers or those who have a form of godliness. Their daily lives are built around activities that are pleasing to God and they function as servant leaders in their homes, their churches and their communities. Their “witness” is not in word only, but more importantly, it is in how they live their lives that speaks volumes. 2nd Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. They truly believe the gospel by which we are saved 1st Corinthians 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

CONCLUSION

Too many men are taking the first step but not putting forth what is required to grow and mature in that relationship. This is exactly why we have “fake” and “fickle” Christians. “Faithful” men should desire to be recognized like Paul recognized the church in Corinth. 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9 says “I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.” Men, it is time that we stand up as “faithful” Christians just as we expect our Heavenly Father to be faithful. It is time for the world to see “faithful” men making a difference in the lives of those around us. So, what will it be for you, “fake”, “fickle” or “faithful”?

LESSON #11

KEEP OUR CHILDREN IN PRAYER!!!!

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

My friends, it doesn't matter whether our children are young and innocent or older and struggling with a rebellious nature, whether they're living at home or are away and out in the world, our children need our prayers like never before. As a parent, one of the most significant and influential roles you play is that of being a faithful prayer warrior on behalf of your child. Oftentimes we feel so helpless, especially when they've gone astray and seem so lost, so angry and so unreachable. But the good news is that prayer works, especially when it's based upon the Word of God. Because of the closeness of your relationship, you know your child as no one else knows him or her and discern when he or she most needs prayer support. I pray constantly concerning my child and children in general that they will learn to trust and walk with the Lord daily. We live in a dangerous and brutal world. Our children are really never safe. And once they are out of sight, they are often beyond our control. Our arms are not long enough or strong enough to always and forever guard them. It's at times like this that we turn to prayer, and throw our trust on the One who is always there, and faithful, strong, and good. We as saints in the Body of Christ and parents turn to the comfort and peace that we get from the Word of God concerning our children. As parents, we should pray for the safety of our children. If you want to train your children correctly, train them in the way they should go, and not in the way that they want to go. You cannot make our children love the Bible. No one but the Holy Spirit can give them a heart to delight in the Word. But we can make sure that our children are acquainted with the Bible; and remember that they can never become acquainted with that blessed book too soon, or too well. Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Train them to have a habit of prayer. Pray for them in the momentous decisions concerning matters such as their future career and possible marriage. Do not put off praying over these because they might be in the distant future. Consider, you may not be alive when they face these decisions.

CONCLUSION

In closing, never approach the throne of grace with your own wants without remembering our children's. Praying for our children is one of the most important things we can do for them. There is constant spiritual warfare raging against our children, because the family is one of the enemy's prime targets. Let us continue to pray that they will trust Christ as their Savior. 2nd Timothy [3:15](#) "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." let us pray that they will respect those in authority over them. Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Let us pray that they will desire to have wise friends and be protected from foolish companions. Proverbs [1: 10-16](#) "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let

us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood." Let us constantly pray that when they get angry, they will sin not. Let us pray that they will not harbor anger on the inside. Ephesians [4:26](#) "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:" Let us pray that they will be forgiving, showing mercy to others just as God has shown mercy to them. Ephesians [4:32](#) "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Let us to continually pray that in times of fear, our children will be ready to stand in power, love, and a sound mind under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Their faith in God will be strengthened when they overcome the spirit of fear. No matter their age, they will find themselves growing into strong warriors for Christ. 2nd Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." let us pray that they will continue or have a desire to study God's Word God's way. 2nd Timothy [2:15](#) "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Keep them in prayer that they will always believe and trust the gospel by which they are saved. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" Thank God For The Gospel!!!

LESSON #12

Conference Outline (The Grace Wherein We Stand/Bible Conference 2015)

By Pastor Timothy D. Roberson

By The Grace Of God Home Bible Study

I. Before Marriage

- A. Unequally Yoke
- B. Biblical Dating
- C. Shacking: A Trial Run
- D. Red Flags
- E. Christians Can Be Abusers
- F. Bachelor and Bachelorette Parties (Are You Really Ready For Marriage)
- G. Prenuptial Agreements

II. Wrong Reasons To Marry

- A. Feeling It's Too Late To Call It Off
- B. Lust And Looks
- C. Finances
- D. Impulsivity And A Mistake

III. Marriage (God's Blueprint For Marriage)

- A. The Command To Love Is Needed Because Many Saints Come To The Table With Issues (They Need Loving And A Safe Environment To Share Their Deep Thoughts And Issues)
- B. Christ As Head
- C. Husband's Role (Satisfying The Wife)
- D. Wife's Role/Submission (Satisfying The Husband)
- E. Children's Role

IV. Starting Out In Marriage

- A. Principle of Leaving /The Parents And In-Laws Place In The Marriage
- B. Principle of Cleaving
- C. Principle of One Flesh

V. Problems In The Marriage

- A. Married But Unhappy
- B. Dangers Of Flirting (Infidelity Doesn't Occur Out Of The Blue/How Do Spouses End Up At Motel 6 Room 325?)
- C. The Dangers Of Emotional Infidelity (Playing With Others Emotions Can Be And Is Deadly At Times)
- D. Emotional Infidelity Leads Right Into Physical Infidelity (Many Saints Are Taking On The World's Perspective About Infidelity)
- E. Finances (One Of The Main Reason For Divorce/Many Times It's Till Debt Do Us Part)

VI. Marriage Destroyers

- A. Not Studying God's Word Together.
- B. No Prayer Life
- C. Hitting Below The Belt (Corrupt Communication/Hate Speech)
- D. No Intimacy or Sexual Relations Due To Arguments And Corrupt Communication
- E. Finances (One Of The Main Reason For Divorce/Many Times It's Till Debt Do Us Part)

VII. Divorce

Conference Detailed Points and Subpoints

I. Before Marriage

A. Unequally Yoked: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Corinthians 6:14).

When it comes to matters of faith and belief it is so hard to mix it with those who don't believe in Christ or the same doctrine as you. Saints in the Body of Christ are commanded to not marry someone who is not a believer. Reading the Bible together does not make you equally yoked. Being in love does not mean that you are equally yoked. Being married does not mean that you are equally yoked. Having a great friendship does not mean that you are equally yoked. Having things in common does not mean that you are equally yoked. If you are not equally yoked can you still get married? Yes . . . if you take II Corinthians 6:14 out of the bible. The first thing you have to do is be a believer in God's word Believing on the gospel (1st Corinthians 15:1-4). Many young people in the Body of Christ feel strongly that there is no harm in just dating the unsaved. We as mature saints should encourage our young people as well as adults to heed the godly Words in 2nd Corinthians 6:14 for in so doing, we will spare them a lifetime of heartache. Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

B. Biblical Dating

The first step in the process of moving toward marriage through the initiation of or participation in a godly relationship is to evaluate yourself spiritually. As you move into the stage of life in which you begin to seriously consider marriage generally or a particular relationship, your first step should be to access your own spiritual walk and maturity in Christ. If you aspire to be a godly husband or wife someday, what have you done and what are you doing to prepare for godly role? Dating is for the purpose of finding a marriage partner. Once you decide that you are ready to date, look to God's Word to decide the kind of person to date, and evaluate potential dating partners on that criterion, rather than relying on the World's standards and views like "attraction" and "chemistry." Men initiate, women respond.

C. Shacking: A Trial Run

Let's look and see what Scripture says about this topic. Let's see how God defines marriage and why it would be wrong to live together before getting married. The Bible describes marriage as a committed relationship between one man and one woman that is sanctioned and blessed by God (Genesis 2:22-24). Furthermore, God instituted marriage to be between two people, a male and a female. When it comes to living together before marriage, you may think you are fine just because you are "living together" and nothing more, but I would suggest that you are not. Straight to the point and that is you are living in sin.

D. Red Flags And Warning Signs Ignored And Purposely Overlooked Before The Marriage

You will hear and have heard many women say this "I had things broken around me, threats made to me, emotional games played on me—a knife held to my throat, a gun held to my head, and the Bible itself was even used as a weapon against me—always out of context, but used nonetheless. The above statements come from women who married a man who had a dark side. Choosing who you will partner the rest of your life with is one of the biggest decisions you will ever make. Too many young women are settling for less than God's best because they don't know exactly how He expects His daughters to be treated. I often tell my daughter that a potential husband should be a man who has his focus upon walking in obedience to God's Word and who seeks to live so that his life brings glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Many women fall for smooth talkers, men who talk the talk, but fail to walk the walk. These women, spurred by the desire to be married, are willing to overlook the subtle warning signs many men give off. I often tell my daughter "don't look for a sign that he's the right one, but look to the Word of God."

E. "Christians Can Be Abusers (They Must Be Transformed: Men/Women)"

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

To many of us, the words "Saint" and "abuser" don't seem to belong together. They are, or should be, a contradiction in terms. And yet how many of us have heard of a saints who were raised with cruelty and abuse? Our mind is polluted from the fall, the world and our own choices—we need mental detoxification, mind renewal, reprogramming, and the mind of Christ. We need a new mind to go along with our salvation. Saints must remember that God will not just transform us automatically, nor will He force it upon us. He will only do it as we allow Him and cooperate with Him in the process (walk in the Spirit). The Holy Spirit will do the transforming for us through the Word of God. We must listen, yield, rely, submit, learn, pray, study, and obey as the effectual working of the Holy Spirit transform us through the Word of God. Transformation is what the husbands need to do in order to Love their wives and what wives need to do in order to submit themselves to their own husbands. Transformation is what the children need to do to be obedient as well as saints getting along with each other in the Body

of Christ. When most people think of domestic violence, they think of a husband battering a wife. But the reverse is also true. Husbands can be abused mentally, emotionally, and physically as well. Many wives will use sex as a weapon to get what they want out of their husbands. Many wives punch, kick, slap, throw objects, and destroy the property of their husbands. All the same things that wives who are battered endure from husbands, husbands can endure from wives. Unfortunately, for the husband it is extremely embarrassing to let anyone know that he is being abused by his wife.

F. Bachelor And Bachelorette Parties (Foundations For An Unhealthy Marriage) Satan Will Say “Christians Should Have Fun And Happiness Too.” Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Are You Really Ready For Marriage?

With the divorce rate on the rise in the Body of Christ (The Church), Satan continues to convince godly couples that they are entitled and have the right to one last night of fun and freedom before walking down the aisle. As Paul warned, “Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Today they are more commonly thought of as a “final fling,” with an emphasis on indulging in activities that represent the “freedom” that will soon be left behind. In more extreme cases it may mean hiring a prostitute for a bachelor party, or a male stripper for a bachelorette party. Persons committed to Christian marriage simply will not participate in such events, which are not only morally degrading, but also perpetuate the myth that marriage means giving up their precious “freedom.” Strippers, exotic dancers, drinking binges, and sexual indiscretions are hardly freeing, no matter what movies show and your friends tell you. In fact such flings are just the opposite. These flings end up creating bondage and baggage that you will be taking into your new marriage – thus complicating a new relationship even before it has taken off.

G. Prenuptial Agreement (Not Biblical) Ephesians 5:30-31, “For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” (ONE) A prenuptial agreement is a plan for how to separate before a couple even tries to become one. It keeps some or all of what one person has out of the hands of the other -- just in case. Thus it interferes with a full commitment to become one. Marriage is not a temporary commitment. It is a permanent one. It is a vow before the Lord to take another human being as your spouse. Are you sincerely saying, “for as long as we both shall live,” if you have made exit plans in advance? Marriage is a serious matter, not to be taken lightly. If you won't marry someone without a prenuptial agreement, then that tells me that you don't fully trust the one you claim to love. Love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8). A prenuptial agreement means you are entering a marriage with the idea that there may be problems in the future that cannot be resolved. If such is the case, you shouldn't be marrying that person.

II. Wrong Reasons To Marry

What do you do if you're engaged but have serious misgivings about your decision, red flags popping up left and right? Do you a) get married, since you've set a date, sent out the invitations, spent a boatload of money, are too embarrassed to back out, and believe that most people get cold feet anyway? Or b) call the whole thing off until further notice? I think most of us would choose the latter, and would recommend thus to any friend or family member having serious doubts. But in practice, it isn't what we many of us do, and understandably so: Calling the whole thing off is difficult, painful, and risky.

A. Feeling It's Too Late To Call It Off

Many saints are afraid to break off an engagement to the person they told they would marry months ago. When it came down to it, you realized you were incompatible on many levels. Many had doubts at the inception of the relationship, but ignored them. So, the mistake many make is to continue the relationship not realizing that it's like trying to force a puzzle piece into a place it didn't fit. Many realize that if they had heeded their gut-wrenching doubts, and paid attention to their parents' words, ("I know you say you love him or her, but he or she is not the one for you") they wouldn't be in this unhappy relationship.

B. Lust And Looks

How do you know it is true love when you find it? How can you be sure it is true love or lust? What are the differences between lust and love? Lust is something that is gratifying the flesh. Marriage is an "until-death-do-us-part" commitment. It ought to be approached from a joyous, yet cautiously-solemn, vantage point. Marriage should be embraced for wise reasons, not foolish ones. Marriage on the basis of mere physical attraction is a foolish mistake. Many couples have watched the degeneration of their marriages because the relationships were grounded principally on external features.

C. Finances

Determined to have the "better life," many marry the first young man or woman who is able to offer them economic stability. Many who fall into these situations soon learn the heartbreaking lesson that a happy home is more than dollars and cents. These individuals don't love the person but they love the things the person can give them. They love the money. The Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

D. Impulsivity And A Mistake

Many may say "all my friends have marital mates, why should they be left in the cold?" Peer pressure is so great at certain times in life. Far too many have impulsively "run off" to "get married" on a dare, or because others were doing it. Quick decisions can generate a life-time of bitter experiences. Marriage is not something with which just to play. Marriage should not be entered just to cover a mistake. In this age of lust and promiscuity, what should a couple do when they discover that a child has been conceived

out of wedlock? Sometimes, a “we-must-get-married” is the quick-fix formula. In the event of such a situation, a Christian couple, first of all, should not just think marriage first. The couple should consider their options. Do they really love one another, and are they committed to serving God? If so, they well may wish to marry, and allow God to direct them in their future plans together. On the other hand, if you are not in love, “getting married” is not a resolution to the issue of the child, and it certainly will not enhance the happiness of the child.

III. Marriage (God’s Blueprint For Marriage)

A. The Command To Love Is Needed Because Many Saints Come To The Table With Issues (They Need Loving And A Safe Environment To Share Their Deep Thoughts And Issues)

Many times we forget that many husbands and wives come to the marriage with many issues and problems. Many have had a miserable past. Many have had a terrible childhood which may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, depression, wrong treatment, unfaithful friends/spouses, bad parents, alcohol, and drug abuse. Many were placed on pedestals at a young age and grew up prideful and arrogant. Many were taught they were better than others and grew up thinking others were beneath them and now they look down on others. Many were materialized at a young age by parents and caregivers to love the world system and grew up loving money and materials things. And today there are many husbands and wives who come into the marriage covenant loving money and material things. And many don’t believe they are loved if they aren’t showered with money and materials things. So, many come into the marriage loving the world and the things in the world. Many married couples don’t know how to handle deep issues and that’s why we need the help of the Holy Spirit and mature saints in the Body of Christ. For many men in particular, deep and honest communication can be very threatening. Too many wives and husbands are afraid to be honest with each other. The Scriptures, however, emphasize being open and vulnerable. Paul modeled transparency when he wrote to the Corinthians, many of whom were not exactly his admirers: “For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you” (2 Corinthians 2:4). Paul was not afraid to weep or say, “I love you.” Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus (John 11:35). Reaching this level of meaningful communication is not easy, but the rewards far outweigh the cost. Many times we long to be heard and understood. The most natural place for this to occur is within the safe harbor of a healthy marriage. That “safe” harbor can be created and maintained only by a couple committed to each other. At its root, love is a commitment

B. Marriage Relationship

Marriage is a divine institution. It is a divine institution, because God Himself originated it: Genesis 2:22-24 “And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Eph. 5:30-31 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” The world did not invent marriage. We received it from God.

It was God who made Adam. It was God who said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." It was God who made Eve. It was God who brought her to Adam. God officiated at the first ceremony in the Garden of Eden. In the word of God, marriage always refers to a man's and woman's relationship for life. It is an agreement by which two people vow to live together in mutual affection and fidelity until they are separated by death. Marriage, like the church, is an institution created by God to portray a spiritual relationship, to the glory of God. God instituted this union for many purposes: To prevent promiscuous intercourse between men and women, To promote domestic harmony, and To secure a place for rearing children to love God to name a few. 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. Marriage comes with the label, "Much assembly required!" It takes a lifetime of work to put it together the right way. Most couples plunged in without carefully reading the instruction manual (God's Word), confident that we could figure it out. And those who don't read the instruction manual quickly get into trouble and frequently need to read and re-read the manufacturer's instructions. Most of the problems in marriages can be traced to our neglect of reading and obeying God's instructions.

C. Christ As Head

Ephesians 1:22 says, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church." The word "head" is clearly a metaphor that occurs in a context dealing with Christ's authority "over all things." Colossians 2:10, "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." This clearly implies that Christ is the only leader and authority figure (head) over all other authority in the universe. In the context where "the church is subject unto Christ" (Ephesians. 5:24) Christ is said to be "the head of the church" (Ephesians. 5:23) which indicates that the word head once again implies authority. "Now when head is used metaphorically, figuratively, as it is here, it refers to priority in function. That is what the head of our body does; it runs the body; it is in charge; it is the direction setter of the body. Used metaphorically, therefore, the word head means primarily leadership, and thus it is used in this passage."

D. Husband's Role

1st Corinthians 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Ephesians 5:22-30 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. The Apostle Paul says that the husband is head of the wife as Christ is head of the church. "This comparison of the husband with Christ reveals the sense in which a man should be his wife's "head." "He is her head as being vitally interested in her welfare. He is her protector. His pattern is Christ Who, as head of the Church, is its Savior!" God placed ultimate

responsibility with respect to the household on the shoulders of the husband. Husband, God is commanding men to love their wife, as he loves himself. That command is from God to the husband. It is not the wife's responsibility to enforce that command. The Father has given those commands and He will see that they are obeyed. "Head" does not mean male dominance, where a man lords it over a woman and demands her total obedience to his every wish and command. It's not a Tarzan and Jane or Caveman mentality.

E. Wife's Role: "HELPER" Genesis 2:18 .Yes, Man Needs Help, "It is not good that man should be alone". Purpose of woman's creation? Bible reveals; is to help husband.

It's important for us to look clearly at what the Bible says on this subject. A wife is to be her husband's help mate and a lifetime companion, a friend, and a lover for her husband to enjoy every day. Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (1 Timothy 2:9) A wife is to be modest in public and erotic in private with you. A modest woman is a lady. There is much sin and temptation that results from women showing too much skin in public. Just think of the pleasure of knowing that no one sees too much of your wife's legs and other parts of her body.

F. Submission: The theme of submission mentioned in Ephesians 5:21 is now taken up and developed in detail from the church (The One New Man/Body of Christ) in general to the Christian household in particular. Accordingly, submission-authority is discussed in three domestic relations: that of (1) wives and husbands (Ephesians 5:22-23), (2) children and parents (Ephesians 6:1-4), and (3) servants and masters (employer/employee) (Ephesians 6:5-9). The head of Jesus Christ (God the Son) is the Father (God the Father) and Jesus as the Son makes Himself willingly submissive to his functional head – the Father. Therefore, just as Christ is submissive to His head (God the Father) and to His authority and leadership over Him, so the wife is to be submissive to her head (the husband) and to his leadership and authority over her.

Ephesians 5:21-22 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." (Submission has nothing to do with equality). Headship has nothing to do with equality. Men and women are equal under God in every way. The Word of God tells us that wives are to submit to their husbands as submission rendered by them truly is submission rendered to Christ Himself. When the wife yields her will to that of her husband, she yields to the Lord provided the husband's direction are in the fear of God (Ephesians 5:21) or in line with God's will. (Fear meaning what pleases God). The Word of God gives the reason in Ephesians 5:23 why wives should be submissive. Just as Jesus is divinely appointed head or authority over the church (The One New Man/Body of Christ), in the same way the husband is the divinely appointed "head" or authority of his wife.

G. Children's Role: Ephesians 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

"CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS!"

We must understand clearly which children are addressed. Is this command only for naughty children? Are the good children not required to obey this command? Or, is this a word only for the young children, so that older children, say 10 years or older, do not need to hear it? Or might this be a command only for natural, biological children, but if you happen to be an adopted child, it does not apply to you? The text does not make any limitations. Each and every child is addressed. Children, including teenagers and young adults living at home with your parents, you may not go home after church and say, "That text did not apply to me." God is our ultimate authority, higher than parents, higher than government. None is higher in authority than Jehovah God and Jesus Christ who sits at His right hand. And the text brings that out as a reason why children are commanded to obey the Lord. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." When the text says, "this is right," it means "this is in accordance with the law of God." This is righteous. This is the way a person lives who desires to be pleasing to God. The context brings out this fact, for verse 4 reminds parents of their duty to instruct their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Such instruction involves teaching our children to obey.

IV. Starting Out In Marriage

A. Principle Of Leaving (Ephesians 5:31) "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

The Parents And In-Laws Place In The Marriage

A husband and wife have a better chance for a successful marriage if there is some independence-physically, emotionally, and financially-from parents and in-laws. Some husbands and wives never quite leave their father and mother when they get married. Consequently, they have not chosen their spouse above all others. In truth of fact, they never made the proper marriage vows from the beginning and results become inevitable. Cleaving is established in the marriage. Do not allow relationships with parents to become too important. A common problem is to "complain" to a parent when we are not happy with a spouse. Some parents are always hearing negative things about their son-in-law or daughter-in-law. These kinds of things can accumulate in the hearts of parents and create resentment toward their child's spouse.

B. Principle Of Cleaving

The marriage is a unto death due us part. Many times there is no commitment on the spouses' parts. Instead of learning how stay and solve their problems together, they pull apart and walk away when things get tough in the marriage. Outside of God, the most important relationship God instituted was the husband and wife relationship. Not the parent/child relationship or the father/son relationship or the relationships that Satan has instituted through the world system. The reason is because from the husband and wife relationship comes the family. Husbands and wives must return to spending quality time with each other and the husband and wife getting back to doing the things they use too before the children came along. The problem today is that many married couples have taken all their time and

energy and put them into the children while the marriage relationship begins to suffer. After years of focusing on the children and not the marriage relationship, many couples grow apart and once the last child leaves home, they really don't know each other. Children need to see their father and mother show affection and love towards one another because many go out and emulate those same things in their marriage.

C. Principle Of One Flesh

Intimacy does not happen overnight. The word says in Genesis 2:24 and they shall be one flesh. They became one in a physical relationship, spiritual relationship, and emotional relationship. Their lives blended together in a oneness. You share the same name, children, and spiritual needs. Learning how to love is a very important piece. Learning how to love just doesn't happen overnight since the fall of mankind. They become one in maturity, in other words, men can't stay boys forever and women can't stay girls forever. They must become one spiritually and mature together spiritually.

V. Problems In The Marriage:

A. Married But Unhappy Ephesians 5:22-30 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Husbands Love, Wives Submit and Children Obey and Fathers Not Provoke Their Children. Follow these commands and there will be happiness in the marriage

Many saints are living in loveless, emotionless and uncaring marriages. There is no respect in the marriage, the husbands and wives are at each others' throat constantly. There are many signs indicating an unhappy marriage. Infidelity, frequent arguments and Disrespect, emotional and physical abuse, lack of communication, lies or keeping secrets from one another, using material things for happiness, drugs, alcohol, not spending time with each other, lack of intimacy and affection, poor body language, depression and loneliness, unrealistic expectations for each other, arguing about finances frequently and no emotional connection. Happiness will not just come, there is an order that God designed since the fall that the husband and wife must follow in order to have some happiness in the marriage. God specifically gave commands to the husbands and the wives as well as the children.

B. Dangers Of Flirting (Infidelity Doesn't Occur Out Of The Blue/How Do Spouses End Up At Motel 6 Room 325?)

As Paul warned, “Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Many times those flirting will say “Flirting” is innocent. We were only talking. It wasn't going anywhere. I'm not seriously interested! Do you think I would cheat on you? How could you think that? This can easily turn into an argument. Most infidelity doesn't occur out of the blue. It happens between people who know each other—either in a friendship or professional relationship—and have grown increasingly attracted to each other. Combine this with feelings of distance in a marriage plus opportunity, and you can get infidelity. The longer temptation is allowed to be present, the greater the chances that an affair will happen.

C. The Dangers Of Emotional Infidelity (Playing With Others Emotions Can Be And Is Deadly At Times)

Most affairs begin as an innocent connection between two people. You may be brought together through work, church, or school. But if your guard isn't up and your boundaries aren't well-established, a newly developing connection can quickly become entangled. Many in the Body of Christ fail to realize that as we spend time together, either face-to-face, through the computer or by phone, Satan can use those mediums to gradually suck us into an emotional affair that can rip a marriage or a relationship to shreds even though the relationship never becomes physical. We in the Body Of Christ should be careful not to allow relationships even to begin to develop inappropriately. As Paul warned, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Talking or venting to a person of the opposite sex about what your marriage lacks, what your partner lacks, or what you're not getting to make you happy sends a loud message that you're available for someone else to 'love and care' for your needs. It's also a breach of trust. Sharing thoughts and deepest concerns, passions and problems is what deepens intimacy; it builds an emotional bond between two people, time better used in marriage relationships.

D. Emotional Infidelity Leads Right Into Physical Infidelity

Many Saints Are Taking On The World's Perspective About Infidelity

We in the Body of Christ must use our spiritual eyes to see that Infidelity or cheating" as it's more commonly called, has become the "in" thing to do nowadays. The rich and fabulously wealthy seem to swap mates as easily and readily as most of us change our socks or our underwear. The tabloids are full of celebrity couples or superstars who marry, stay together for a short time, and then split up because one (or both) have strayed outside of the marital bounds. It's almost become a national past time, right up there with hot dogs and baseball.

E. Finances (One Of The Main Reason For Divorce/Many Times It's Till Debt Do Us Part)

In a majority of marriages, finances have always raised tensions for couples, it may be harder than ever these days to avoid conflict. That's because today's range of family complications — moms leaving and re-entering the workforce, late marriages that bring debt and adult children, shrinking pensions and baffling health care choices — are demanding ever-more financial decisions from couples who can't even agree on whether the house is warm or cold. Many couples do not look past the wedding day. One main reason that many marriages end up in divorce is the lack of discussions couples have before they get married regarding their views on finances, what debt they are bringing into the marriage, experience they have with budgets, what they envision their financial future to be, and many more.

VI. Marriage Destroyers

A. Not Studying God's Word Together.

The bonds of your relationship with God and each other are strengthened when you read God's Word together rightly divided. Reading the Bible has a way of centering couples on who they were called to be. We can't use God's Word as a resource if we don't know it, particularly as it relates to marriage. And even if you know the Word, there's always more to learn and glean. Husbands and wives should always dedicate a regular time to "see what sayeth the Lord. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2nd Timothy 2:15)

B. No Prayer Life

This is the most powerful tool you have as a couple. Although it's important that you each have private time with God—praying for your spouse, marriage, family, etc. —there's a unifying effect when husband and wife join in their petitions. It brings calm to situations and reminds you Who's in control, even if the two of you are on different sides of an issue. In addition to your personal prayer life, be sure to pray together regularly. Don't forget the desires of your spouse's heart when you pray. Ephesians 1:16 "Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;" Romans 1:9, " without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."

C. Hitting Below The Belt (Corrupt Communication/Hate Speech)

In the heat of conflict, we say things that we all regret. Things come out of our mouth, and the moment it launches from our lips, We regret having said it. We wish we could pull it back and stuff it back into our mouth. Taking The Gloves Off!!! Sometimes in the midst of a disagreement, words can be thrown that cut like a knife. Sadly, we ignore the Word of God which says in James 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:." Ephesians 4:29-32 " Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. "Not everything that comes to our mind needs to come out of our mouth."

D. No Intimacy or Sexual Relations Due To Arguments And Corrupt Communication

If you are fighting, the last thing you want to do is to be intimate with each other, right? Conflict is a barrier to intimacy in marriage. The two are not one, but two. One of God's purposes for sex is to foster "oneness" or unity (Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6) in your marriage. Couples who don't have regular sexual relations are allowing a barrier to come between them. No sexual relations in marriage means the couples is less unified.

E. Finances (One Of The Main Reason For Divorce/Many Times It's Til Debt Do Us Part)

In a majority of marriages, finances have always raised tensions for couples, it may be harder than ever these days to avoid conflict. That's because today's range of family complications — moms leaving and

re-entering the workforce, late marriages that bring debt and adult children, shrinking pensions and baffling health care choices — are demanding ever-more financial decisions from couples who can't even agree on whether the house is warm or cold. Many couples do not look past the wedding day. One main reason that many marriages end up in divorce is the lack of discussions couples have before they get married regarding their views on finances, what debt they are bringing into the marriage, experience they have with budgets, what they envision their financial future to be, and many more.

VII. Divorce:

Divorce is an issue that effects us all. All of us are touched by it either in our own family or in our circle of friends. Marriage was meant to be for a lifetime. God established the institution of marriage in the Garden of Eden. It was meant to last for a lifetime. Marriage is a conditional contract. The husband and wife, by taking their marriage vows, both agree to do certain things. Everyone knows it takes two to make a marriage work, and both must uphold their end of the bargain or the marriage breaks down. "Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife" (I Corinthians 7:10-11). I Corinthians 7:12 and 13 "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him." Divorce ought to be a rare event that is done in extreme circumstances where the other person has violated the terms of the marriage union made so badly that measures need to be taken temporarily until the issue is resolved. No one should walk away from their marriage without first getting as much help as they possibly can and trying their absolute hardest to keep it together. When it all comes down, only you and God can know what you need to do. There will be marriages between good and faithful persons who make a sincere effort to honor their vows that still fail, and virtually every Christian denomination recognizes that the dissolution of a marriage cannot always be avoided. Certainly in cases where abuse is present in the marriage, divorce may be the only option available. Many saints constantly deal with emotional and verbal abuse. Many just don't know what years of emotional and verbal abuse can do to a husband or wife in a marriage.

Verbal and emotional abuse can drive husbands and wives away. The effects of emotional abuse are often silent. Verbal and psychological wounds leave a spouse forever changed. Emotional abuse is often overlooked, unnoticed or confused with other causes. Emotional abuse tends to happen every day. The effects are more harmful because they're so frequent. Emotional abuse is often the hardest type of abuse to recognize and overcome because its scars aren't visible to the naked eye. Unlike physical and sexual abuse, emotional abuse doesn't leave behind scars or other physical evidence. The long-term effects of this type of abuse in a relationship can be long-lasting and devastating and can even affect the abused person for the rest of his or her life, especially if the abuse is never addressed through the Word of God. Verbal abuse doesn't leave physical bruises, but it can cause deep and lasting mental scars. When it comes to domestic abuse, we think of the external signs: black eyes, broken bones, bruises or bleeding. But we must remember that any form of abuse is devastating. The long-term effects of verbal and emotional abuse can be just as devastating, if not more so, than the long-term effects of physical violence. The old adage goes: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never harm me."

But ultimately, it's often words that can do the most damage. Other people's words have an incredible power to affect how we see and feel about ourselves. While positive words of encouragement can uplift and inspire us, negative words cut to the core and resonate over and over again. "It is the put-downs, name calling, insults, belittling and critical statements that have the most serious and long-lasting effect on self-esteem. Many time we encouraged saints in the body of Christ to just hang in there when all the red flags and handwriting is on the wall that the abuser has no desire to change.

"SINGLE, MARRIAGE, SEPARATION, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE" YouTube Videos Series Taught By Pastor Ron Knight

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•01 09 2011 "Why Get Married?" - 1 Corinthians 7

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•01 23 2011 "Separation and Divorce, Pt.1"

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•01 30 2011 "Separation and Divorce, Pt.2"

1st Corinthians 7

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•02 13 2011 "Separation and Divorce, Pt.3"

1st Corinthians 7

<https://youtu.be/WnR5bMmdMaw>

•02 20 2011 "Holy Children and Divorce"

https://youtu.be/xj_d7G2LJDc

•02 27 2011 "Singles in the Church"

1st Corinthians 7

<https://youtu.be/dxblrgl0684>

ARTICLES

I am not sure I understand dating or what a successful courtship even looks like. Can you help? (Click on the website below and then click on the aforementioned question to learn the difference between dating and courting.)

<http://www.gracefordivorce.org/faq/#16>

•Unless The Lord Builds The House

http://www.gbcbw.com/study/books/G_Bing/unless/?id=1&publ=2&chap=0

