1Thess #58

Allow God’s love to find a home within you!

Open back up today in HOSEA, this time in chapter three.

Be prepared at the end of the message to partake in the LORD’s Supper.

We have to cover some delicate subject matter related to marriage today, so make sure you are objective…not subjective!

I want to open up with some principles that you should have gathered in the last few lessons;

/God will use mature Bels to give the example and teach the hard lessons for the benefit of others. Job, Joseph, Noah, Hosea and Paul were all great examples of God using positive, mature Bels to teach all Bels that HIS plan and HIS way is not of this world. To teach all of humanity that HIS word and HIS power are the only source of truth and eternal security.\

SM means the Bel is able to handle the difficult callings and stand in God’s plan so as to be example for others.

Everything written in the Bible has not only life lessons within it, but spiritual application for grow and divine wisdom within it.

/Rom 15:4 For **whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.\

Encouragement of the scriptures means you are allowing God’s word to wash over you habitually.

SM Bels understand that sometimes GOD has to use their life, or even shake up our little fish bowl of comfort, in order to not only help us grow but for the benefit of others.

/God’s grace is the foundation of virtue love. It is never a license for people to abuse you when you walk in God’s grace plan and impersonal, unconditional love. Every situation will be different and it is a matter of intimacy between you and GOD as to how you handle unjust treatment. It is never handled with outbursts of anger or retaliation. Separation and firm truth as well as application of Biblical problem-solving devices are the answers. \

As we prepare for Hosea chapter three - I want to read some of chapter two because it highlights prophecy related to the end times.

/Hos 2:17 “For **I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth**, So that they
will no longer be mentioned by their names.

This is a call to the Jews who will turn to GOD during the 7 years of Tribulation and they will be headed into the 1,000 reign of Christ on earth.\

The typology is that Gomer and nation of Israel will have a turning point in their walk.

Not all Jewish people will come to believe but many will during the 7yrs of Tribulation.

/[Hos 2:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/2/18/s_864018) “On that day **I will also make a covenant for them** With the animals of the field, The birds of the sky, And the
crawling things of the ground. And I
will eliminate the bow, the sword, and war from the land, And will let them
lie down in safety.

This points to the peace and perfection of Christ 2nd Advent. \

This will be what happens after TLJC wipes out the battle of Armageddon upon HIS return to earth.

There will be a baptism of fire and then the Millennium reign of Christ will begin.

/[Hos 2:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/2/19/s_864019) “**I will betroth you to Me forever;** Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In favor
and in compassion, 20And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. **Then you will know the LORD**.

Sadly, many of the Jews would reject Jesus Christ at HIS first advent. But everyone will know the Lord Jesus Christ at the 2nd Advent. \

Now jump over to chapter three, let us look at God’s love that we need to understand and learn to apply.

/Hos 3:1 Then the LORD said to me, “**Go again, love a woman** *who* is loved by *her* husband, **yet is committing adultery, as the LORD loves the sons of Israel**, though they **turn to other gods and love raisin cakes**.”\

Hosea is being told to go out and retrieve his wife who has now gone back into temple prostitution.

Not just go out and get her - but fully accept her back and love her.

/Hos 3:1 - the LORD said to me, **“Go again, love**(*'āhaḇ*) **a woman *who* is loved by *her* husband ;**

Hosea is called to maintain love for Gomer. Not just impersonal, unconditional love, this also meant intimacy as in sexual and the closeness of love within marriage.\

A-HAV, means to love with intimacy meaning both in friendship and sexual.

This means both of what we call personal and impersonal love have to be at their peak for this to take place.

Hosea had to be at a high level of SM for this to be his calling. God is showing all of us and certainly the nation of Israel, that HIS love is supernatural.

Even when we are unfaithful and reject HIM – GOD still loves us both personally and impersonally.

/Hos 3:1 - *yet is committing adultery, as the LORD loves the sons of Israel,* though they *turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.*”

Every time we go into the cosmic system with the majority of our time, talent and treasure we commit adultery. \

Raisin cakes were compressed cakes that were often used in the temple worship of BAAL.

Many times, they were considered a delicacy depending on how they were made. Which tells us there was effort and work they went into the making of these compressed cakes.

In fact, some types of raisin cakes, they made, were from dried grapes and then soaked in wine. So, they were used for intoxication (pharmakia’), which was added into the sexual perversions of BAAL worship.

Hosea is being asked to be the example of how GOD loves the Bel who goes astray chasing another love.

The Bel who blatantly goes back into the cosmic system and spends their time, talent and treasure on things outside of their relationship with God.

Infidelity is difficult to recover from once it hits a marriage.

Think about repeatedly operating in adultery – deliberate prostitution, and then being the one who has to receive that spouse back into the marriage.

That is how GOD has to deal with so many Bels who go back into the cosmic system and choose to live in the OSN instead of their union with Christ.

Divorce is the quick and easy fix in our society today, but it was never the design of GOD that marriage be a disposable union.

It was always designed as a sacred and permanent union.

God hates divorce…Malachi 2:16!

Divorce is brought up in scripture but only in a very meticulous and unique set of circumstances.

/Mat 19:7 They said to Him, “Why, then, did Moses command to **GIVE *HER* A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE** AND SEND HER AWAY?” (Deu 24:1)

The unique circumstances were immediately turned into a divorce gimmick. Mankind distorts and twists that which GOD commands us. \

The example of Hosea and Gomer is the real way we are called to handle adultery.

Not an easy pill to swallow!

/[Mat 19:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/19/8/s_948008) He said to them, “**Because of your hardness of heart** Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but **from the beginning it has not been this way**. 9“And I say to you, **whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality**, and marries another woman commits  adultery.”\

Even though there is a slim margin for divorce, GOD has a heart of reconciliation and restoration first.

SM is needed for this type of restoration.

/The example of Hosea seeking restoration in his marriage with Gomer, teaches us that at SM the Bel can apply God’s grace and love. Even in the most unfair treatment, there can be healing and restoration of the worst circumstance. It can never be achieved from our flesh, nor can it be achieved until the Bel has grown into maturity.\

Unfortunately, most marriages will crumble under infidelity because one or both parties can not achieve levels of SM and apply God’s word.

This is very difficult and most times because of lack of forgiveness and a real lasting effort from both parties – that marriage will fail.

/Impersonal, unconditional virtue love focuses on the solution and the savior, not the problem and the person. The marriage suffering under adultery may forge forward under this love, yet eventually for that union to have success, personal love (intimacy) has to be re-introduced. Both parties have to increase their love and occupation with Christ for this to work.\

A marriage can go on cruise control with virtue love. Not very glamorous or pleasant, yet it is mandatory for the marriage to have lasting power.

 But you also have to have personal love which can have good times and bad times - because it is backed by virtue love.

 REPEAT

No intimate relationship exists solely on attraction and personal love, it has no lasting power.

Virtue love is the foundation that makes personal love last.

Most Christian marriages fail due to a lack of spiritual growth between both parties – they fail, because they built a relationship on personal love which is really unrealistic expectations.

Let us wrap up this study of Hosea and Gomer and get ready to partake of the LORD’s supper.

/[Hos 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/3/2/s_865002) So **I purchased her for myself** for fifteen *shekels* of silver, and a homer and a lethech of barley.

We were all bought from the slave market of sin and spiritual death by the person and work of Jesus Christ!\

The silver coins and the homer and LEC-ATH (half) of barley was a large payment. A homer was usually a dry measurement of about 58 gallons, this was a homer and a half.

Hosea didn’t really need to *“buy”* his own wife or even to hire her as a prostitute. She already was his legal wife!

But as a display of love and commitment, Hosea went beyond what was expected or even reasonable for a temple prostitute. He paid her wages and the temple percentage probably for several months or longer.

[Hos 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/3/3/s_865003) Then I said to her, “You shall live with me for many days. You shall not play the prostitute, nor shall you have *another* man; so I will also be toward you.”

From this point forward Hosea and Gomer’s marriage began to heal.

[Hos 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/3/4/s_865004) For the sons of Israel will live for many days without a king or leader, without sacrifice or memorial stone, and without ephod or household idols.

Again, much of this is future prophecy for the first coming of Christ and also the end time events of the 2nd Advent as well.

Hos 3:5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

As we prepare to take in the Lord’s supper let us remember we are the bride of Christ.

He has sacrificed for us because of HIS great love for all of us.

His love goes beyond the story of Hosea and Gomer but that was the example HE set forth for us.

/Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1Jhn 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.\

Perhaps you have never come to believe upon TLJC – it has always simply been faith alone in Christ alone.

He is the only avenue into heaven which is eternal security.

I would hope and pray today you would turn to Christ - and realize HE died for the sins of the whole world, and HE is the only savior.

And if you are already born again and saved you recognize this story of Hosea and Gomer, is Christ reaching out and calling you closer to HIM…no matter how far you have journeyed into the cosmic system.

/Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.\

There is no other name of the heavens that can save us and no other name under the heavens that will love us and always be there for us…that is Jesus Christ.

/Jhn 10:28 and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 “My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. \

HE loves you on your worst day as much as HE loves you on what you think…is your best day.

I ask today that we bring our Lord Jesus Christ into remembrance with a full, grateful heart.

The Apostle Paul wrote…

1Cor 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread;

[1Co 11:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/24/s_1073024) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In remembrance of our Lord let us eat the bread.

[1Co 11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/25/s_1073025) In the same way *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.”

[1Co 11:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/26/s_1073026) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

In remembrance if our Lord let us drink the cup.

Let us pray…………amen.