

Biblical Covenant Order in the Home

The War Against Covenant Order

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 5 - Chapter 02 – Study 01

When two no longer walk together

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To the husband and wife reading this together,

As I was working through the previous studies, there was a question that continued returning to my mind. It is a question that I have seen arise in many marriages over the years, and it is one that is often left unanswered.

We have spoken about the covenant itself. We have spoken about the responsibilities of the husband. We have spoken about the responsibilities of the wife. Yet there is another part of marriage that deserves careful examination because it touches every husband and wife who have spent any amount of time living together.

What happens when one spouse fails the other?

That may seem like a simple question, but the more I saw, the more I thought about it, the more I realized how much of marriage is affected by the answer.

A husband may know what God requires of him, yet still find himself wounded by the actions, attitudes, or words of his wife.

A wife may understand her responsibilities before God and still carry hurt, disappointment, frustration, or even loneliness because of the actions of her husband.

The reality is that two imperfect people living together will eventually affect one another. No husband lives in complete isolation from his wife, and no wife lives in complete isolation from her husband. Their actions touch one another every day, for good or for evil.

What I have observed and experienced, however, is that many couples spend years focusing on what was done to them without ever examining what those experiences produced within them.

A husband remembers the disrespect, but not the bitterness that slowly followed. A wife remembers the neglect, but not the resentment that quietly took root afterward. One remembers the harsh words. The other remembers the coldness that came later. One remembers the criticism. The other remembers the

withdrawal that followed. Both can often describe the injury in great detail, yet neither has spent much time considering the effect that injury has had upon their own heart.

It is often easier to remember what happened than to recognize what it produced. A husband may clearly remember the words that wounded him while giving far less attention to the discouragement that followed. A wife may remember the disappointment she experienced while overlooking the caution, loneliness, or resentment that slowly developed afterward. The event itself may be remembered for years, while the effect it has had upon the heart remains largely unexamined.

Over time the situation becomes even more difficult because the original problem is no longer the only problem. New problems begin growing out of the old ones. Reactions produce more reactions. Hurt produces more hurt. Frustration produces more frustration. What began as one failure eventually becomes a chain of failures stretching across months or even years.

I have seen husbands who sincerely believed that all the problems in their marriage began with their wives. I have also seen wives who sincerely believed that all the problems in their marriage began with their husbands. In some cases, both could point to genuine failures. Yet neither seemed willing to consider how their own responses had contributed to what the marriage had become. That is not an easy thing to admit.

Most of us find it easier to examine the faults of others than the faults of our own heart. We can usually identify the words that wounded us faster than the words we spoke afterward. We remember the moments when we were wronged more clearly than the moments when we responded poorly ourselves. Yet if we are unwilling to examine both, how can healing ever take place?

This study is not about assigning percentages of blame. It is not about determining whether the husband failed more than the wife or whether the wife failed more than the husband. It is about understanding what God requires of each person when living inside a covenant with another imperfect human being.

Can another person's failures excuse our own?

Can another person's sin justify disobedience before God?

If we are hurt, how should we respond?

If we are disappointed, how should we respond?

If we are frustrated, ignored, criticized, neglected, disrespected, or wounded, what does God expect from us then?

These questions are not always comfortable, but they are necessary. Many marriages never heal because both husband and wife spend their energy examining each other's responsibilities while neglecting their own. They wait for the other person to change first. They wait for the other person to apologize first. They wait for the other person to correct what is wrong. Meanwhile, years pass, and the distance between them slowly grows.

My hope is that this study will help both husband and wife step back from that cycle long enough to examine themselves honestly before God. Not because the failures of the other person do not matter. They do matter. But because each of us will ultimately answer to God for our own actions, our own attitudes, our own words, and our own responses.

As you continue, I encourage both of you to read with humility and patience. Resist the temptation to turn every question toward your spouse. Resist the temptation to measure what is written against the other person's failures. Instead, ask the Lord to show you what He desires to correct within you.

For sometimes the greatest obstacle to restoration is not the wound that was received, but what was allowed to grow from that wound afterward.

Your brother and fellow servant in Christ,
John

SATAN'S WAR AGAINST COVENANT UNITY

Amos 3:3 (KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

From the beginning, God did not create marriage as two separate lives moving in different directions. He created a covenant union in which a husband and wife would become one flesh, sharing not only a home but also a common purpose, a common direction, and a common commitment to the will of God.

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

This unity was never intended to be merely physical. God established marriage as a covenant partnership in which husband and wife would walk together, labor together, endure together, and serve Him together. What God joined together was meant to function as one.

For this reason, marriage has always been one of Satan's primary targets.

The enemy understands that he does not need to destroy a marriage in a single day. He does not need to remove the husband from the home or convince the wife to abandon the covenant. In many cases, he accomplishes his purpose through something far more subtle. He works to divide what God joined together.

Division rarely begins with open rebellion. It often begins with small disagreements that are left unresolved, priorities that slowly drift apart, convictions that are no longer shared, and directions that no longer align. Over time, husband and wife may continue living under the same roof while no longer truly walking together.

At first, the consequences may seem small. Daily life continues. Responsibilities are fulfilled. The marriage remains intact on the surface. Yet beneath that appearance, something important has begun to change. Unity is slowly being replaced by separation. Agreement is being replaced by opposition. Cooperation is being replaced by competing directions.

What begins as division between husband and wife rarely remains there. The effects eventually spread throughout the entire household. Confusion replaces clarity. Influence shifts. Trust weakens. The covenant order God established becomes increasingly difficult to maintain.

Scripture repeatedly demonstrates the importance of unity among God's people, and nowhere is that principle more important than within the marriage covenant. A husband and wife moving in different directions cannot provide the same strength, stability, and testimony as a husband and wife walking together in agreement.

This study is not intended to condemn husbands or wives. Its purpose is to expose a strategy that has been used against marriages since the beginning. Before a problem can be corrected, it must first be recognized.

As you work through this study, do not measure what is written by personal opinion, cultural tradition, or past experience. Measure everything by the Word of God.

Ask yourself:

Are we walking together?

Are we moving in the same direction?

Are we strengthening covenant unity or allowing division to grow?

The answers may not always be comfortable, but truth has never been the enemy of God's people.

For what God joins together, Satan continually seeks to divide.

HOW HUSBAND AND WIFE BEGIN WALKING DIFFERENT PATHS

Amos 3:3 (KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

One of the greatest mistakes people make when examining a troubled marriage is assuming that division begins with some major event. Many imagine that a husband and wife become divided because of a dramatic argument, a serious betrayal, or some obvious crisis that suddenly changes the relationship.

While such events can certainly create division, they are rarely where the problem actually begins.

In many cases, division enters a marriage long before it becomes visible.

A husband and wife may continue living together, sharing responsibilities, raising children, attending church, and fulfilling the normal duties of daily life. From the outside, very little may appear different. Yet beneath the surface, they may no longer be moving in the same direction.

This is often how division begins.

God did not establish marriage merely so that a man and a woman could share the same home. From the beginning, He joined them together so they could walk together in purpose, direction, and service to Him.

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

The phrase "one flesh" speaks of far more than a physical union. It describes a covenant relationship in which two lives become joined together. What God intended was not two independent paths existing side by side, but one covenant journey shared by both husband and wife.

For this reason, unity within marriage is far more important than many people realize.

When husband and wife share the same convictions, pursue the same priorities, and seek the same spiritual direction, they strengthen one another. That is what it means *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so, a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Prov 27:17"*

Difficulties still arise, disagreements still occur, and challenges still come, but they face those things together. The covenant remains stronger because both are pulling in the same direction.

Problems begin when that unity slowly starts to disappear. One spouse may begin placing greater importance upon things the other no longer values. Spiritual priorities may become different. Goals may begin to change. Convictions that were once shared may no longer be shared. What once united them gradually begins to separate them.

At first, these changes often appear small. They may seem insignificant enough to ignore. A husband may assume the differences are temporary. A wife may believe the distance will eventually correct itself. Both may continue with daily life without recognizing that the foundation beneath them is slowly changing. Yet separation rarely remains small.

What begins as a difference in priorities often develops into a difference in direction. What begins as a difference in direction frequently develops into disagreement. If left unresolved, disagreement can eventually become division. This process usually happens so gradually that neither husband nor wife recognizes its seriousness until the consequences begin appearing elsewhere within the marriage.

In many cases, neither person can identify the exact moment the change occurred. The distance develops little by little. What once felt natural begins requiring greater effort. What once produced understanding begins producing frustration. Husband and wife may sense that something has changed long before they are able to clearly explain what that change is.

Conversations become more difficult. Decisions become more complicated. Cooperation becomes less natural. Frustrations become more frequent. Matters that once seemed easy to resolve

now require greater effort because the couple is no longer approaching them from the same perspective. Satan understands the danger of this better than many believers do.

He knows that a husband and wife walking together in agreement possess a strength that is difficult to overcome. He knows that unity creates stability within the covenant. He also knows that if he can slowly lead husband and wife in different directions, many of the problems he desires can eventually develop on their own. For this reason, division often becomes one of his most effective weapons against marriage.

The danger is not merely that husband and wife disagree on a particular issue. Every marriage experiences disagreements. The greater danger is when those disagreements reveal that the couple is no longer moving toward the same destination.

That is why Amos asked an important question:

Amos 3:3 (KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

The answer is obvious. Two people cannot continue walking together if they continually choose different paths.

Eventually, one of two things will happen. They will either work to restore unity and agreement, or the distance between them will continue growing.

This is often where the real struggle begins.

Before division can affect a marriage, it must first enter it. Before it can weaken a covenant, it must first create separation. Before it can produce visible consequences, it must first persuade husband and wife to stop walking together.

And that is exactly where Satan often begins.

HOW SMALL DIVISIONS BECOME LASTING DIVISIONS

Song of Solomon 2:15 (KJV) Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

Many marriages do not suffer because husband and wife suddenly decide they no longer care about one another. More often, the damage occurs because small problems are allowed to remain unresolved until they become part of everyday life.

One of Satan's most effective strategies is convincing people that a problem is too small to address. A disagreement remains unresolved. A frustration goes unspoken. A hurt is never discussed. A concern is quietly ignored. Each individual matter may appear insignificant when viewed by itself, yet over time these unresolved issues begin accumulating. What could have been corrected early gradually becomes more difficult to address because it has become part of the normal pattern of the relationship.

This is one reason Scripture repeatedly emphasizes reconciliation, forgiveness, patience, and communication. God understands that unresolved issues rarely remain isolated. Left alone, they often grow.

A husband may begin noticing attitudes or behaviors that concern him, yet choose silence because he wishes to avoid conflict. A wife may experience disappointments or frustrations that she never fully expresses because she believes discussing them will accomplish little.

In many cases, silence does not develop because the issue no longer matters. A husband may remain deeply concerned while believing that raising the matter will only produce another disagreement. A wife may continue carrying disappointment while doubting that further discussion will accomplish anything meaningful. The concern remains, but the willingness to address it gradually weakens.

Both continue functioning within the marriage, yet neither realizes that distance is quietly developing between them.

In some marriages, a wife may begin feeling alone long before she is physically alone. The routines of family life continue, yet the sense of partnership she once enjoyed begins slowly fading. She may struggle to explain exactly what has changed, only knowing that the relationship no longer feels as close or as connected as it once did.

At first, the effects may appear minor. Conversations become less meaningful. Important matters are discussed less frequently. Time spent together becomes more routine and less intentional. The marriage continues, but the sense of partnership that once existed begins weakening.

Many couples assume this is simply a normal part of life. In some ways they are correct. Every marriage experiences seasons of difficulty. Every covenant will face pressures, disappointments, and challenges. The problem is not the existence of difficulties. The problem arises when difficulties are accepted rather than addressed.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

Notice that Scripture connects unresolved conflict with giving place to the devil. Satan thrives wherever problems remain unaddressed. He understands that division becomes much easier to maintain once people grow accustomed to it.

Over time, what once felt abnormal begins feeling normal. Matters that once caused concern receive less attention, and issues that once motivated action are gradually tolerated. This is often how marriages slowly drift apart without either husband or wife fully recognizing what is happening.

The danger becomes even greater when assumptions begin replacing communication. Instead of discussing concerns, husband and wife begin assuming they already know what the other person thinks. Instead of seeking understanding, they draw conclusions.

Questions that once would have been asked are no longer asked. Clarification is no longer sought. Husband and wife begin interpreting words, actions, and intentions through conclusions they have already formed. As a result, misunderstandings often become more frequent even while communication becomes less effective.

Instead of working through problems together, they learn to live around them.

As this pattern continues, the relationship becomes increasingly defined by accommodation rather than unity. The covenant still exists, and the marriage remains intact, yet the closeness, agreement, and partnership God intended begin weakening.

Satan does not always seek immediate destruction. In many cases, gradual deterioration serves his purposes just as effectively. He knows that if enough distance develops between husband and wife, future conflicts become easier to create and far more difficult to resolve.

For this reason, small divisions should never be treated lightly. A small division today can become a larger division tomorrow. A small misunderstanding can become lasting resentment. A neglected problem can become an established pattern that affects the entire relationship.

This is why the little foxes mentioned in Song of Solomon are such an appropriate picture. The vineyard is not destroyed all at once. The damage occurs gradually until the fruitfulness that once existed begins disappearing.

The same principle applies to marriage.

The greatest threats to covenant unity are not always the dramatic events that capture everyone's attention. Sometimes the greatest threats are the smaller issues that remain uncorrected year after year.

What begins as a small division rarely remains small. If left unaddressed, it eventually becomes part of the foundation upon which the relationship operates, and foundations determine the strength of everything built upon them.

WHEN UNITY IS REPLACED BY OPPOSITION

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (KJV) Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

One of God's purposes for marriage is that husband and wife would strengthen one another. The covenant was never intended to be a relationship in which two people continually pull in opposite directions. God designed marriage so that each spouse would contribute to the strength, stability, and well-being of the other.

When unity exists, husband and wife become a source of encouragement to one another. They help carry burdens, provide support during difficulties, and work together toward common goals. Their differences do not disappear, but those differences are managed within the framework of a shared commitment to the covenant.

Division changes that dynamic.

As small divisions become established within a marriage, husband and wife often begin viewing one another differently. Instead of seeing each other as partners working toward the same destination, they gradually begin viewing one another as obstacles standing in the way of what they personally want.

This change is not always obvious at first.

A husband may become frustrated because he feels his concerns are not being taken seriously. A wife may become discouraged because she believes her needs are not being understood. Over time, that discouragement can begin producing loneliness. She may continue fulfilling her responsibilities, caring for her family, and participating in the daily routines of life while increasingly feeling unseen, unheard, or disconnected from the person she expected to walk beside throughout life. The marriage continues, yet the sense of companionship that once strengthened her may begin quietly weakening.

Each begins focusing more heavily upon areas of disagreement and less upon the common ground that once united them. As this pattern continues, conversations that once produced understanding begin producing frustration. Discussions that once strengthened the relationship become opportunities for conflict. Matters that should be resolved through cooperation instead become sources of tension.

What makes this particularly dangerous is that opposition often develops long before hostility appears.

Many couples assume that because they are not constantly arguing, their marriage is healthy. Yet opposition can exist even in relatively peaceful homes. A husband may move in one direction while his wife quietly moves in another. One may support a particular goal while the other offers little encouragement toward it. One may seek greater spiritual growth while the other remains indifferent. Open conflict may be absent, yet unity is still being weakened.

For this reason, the absence of arguments should never be confused with the presence of unity.

A marriage can experience very little visible conflict while still suffering from significant division beneath the surface.

Amos 3:3 (KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

The question is not whether husband and wife occasionally disagree. Every marriage experiences disagreements. The question is whether they remain committed to walking together despite those disagreements.

When that commitment begins fading, opposition often becomes more common.

A husband may begin expecting resistance whenever he raises certain concerns. A wife may begin expecting criticism whenever she expresses certain feelings.

These expectations are often shaped by previous experiences. A husband who has repeatedly felt dismissed may begin anticipating opposition before a discussion even begins. A wife who has repeatedly felt criticized may begin preparing herself for disappointment before she has fully heard what is being said. Past experiences begin influencing present conversations.

Rather than approaching one another with openness, both begin approaching one another with caution. Communication becomes guarded. Trust becomes weaker. Understanding becomes more difficult to achieve.

Sometimes the problem is not that communication has completely stopped. Husband and wife may continue speaking every day. Responsibilities continue to be discussed. Decisions continue to be made. Yet one or both may begin feeling that they are no longer truly understood. A husband may feel that his concerns are heard but not fully appreciated. A wife may feel that her feelings are acknowledged but not fully understood. Over time, this can make openness increasingly difficult.

This is one reason unresolved division is so dangerous. The longer it remains within a marriage, the more likely husband and wife are to interpret one another's actions through the lens of past frustrations. Previous disappointments begin influencing present expectations. Situations that might once have been viewed generously are increasingly viewed with caution. Conversations are no longer evaluated only on their own merits but also through the memory of what has happened before.

Statements are misunderstood. Motives are questioned. Good intentions are viewed with suspicion. Problems that could have been resolved become increasingly complicated because the relationship itself has been affected.

Satan understands the value of this outcome.

He knows that a husband and wife who consistently strengthen one another become far more difficult to divide. He also knows

that once opposition becomes a normal part of the relationship, future conflicts become easier to create and harder to resolve. The tragedy is that many couples do not recognize what is happening while it is occurring. They focus on individual disagreements without recognizing the larger pattern developing beneath them. By the time they become aware of the problem, opposition has often become deeply rooted within the relationship.

What began as small divisions has now produced something greater.

The husband and wife who once strengthened one another are no longer working together with the same unity, and the covenant begins losing the stability that God intended it to possess. This is often the point at which the consequences of division become increasingly visible.

HOW DIVISION CHANGES INFLUENCE WITHIN THE MARRIAGE

Proverbs 27:17 (KJV) Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

One of the blessings God intended within marriage is mutual influence. Husband and wife are meant to strengthen one another through their words, actions, encouragement, and example. When a marriage is healthy, each spouse helps the other grow in wisdom, maturity, faithfulness, and commitment to God.

This influence is not exercised through force. It develops naturally through trust, respect, consistency, and daily interaction. Over time, husband and wife learn from one another, encourage one another, and help shape the direction of the covenant they share. For this reason, influence becomes one of the most valuable resources within a marriage.

When unity exists, influence tends to strengthen the relationship. Encouragement is received. Advice is considered. Concerns are taken seriously. Husband and wife may not agree on every matter, yet each recognizes the value of the other's perspective and contribution.

Division begins changing this dynamic.

As opposition becomes more common, influence often begins weakening. A husband may continue expressing concerns, but his words no longer carry the same weight they once did. A wife may continue offering guidance, yet her counsel may be increasingly dismissed or ignored. Neither situation develops overnight. It is usually the result of a relationship that has been slowly affected by unresolved division.

This is one reason trust is so important within a marriage. Trust allows influence to flourish. When trust weakens, influence often weakens with it. The issue is not whether one spouse continues speaking. The issue is whether the other spouse continues listening.

Many couples fail to recognize this change while it is occurring. They continue discussing problems, making decisions, and carrying out responsibilities. Yet beneath those activities, something important has shifted. The willingness to receive influence from one another is gradually diminishing.

A husband may become less willing to consider his wife's concerns because past disagreements have produced frustration. A wife may become less willing to accept her husband's guidance because repeated conflicts have weakened confidence in his judgment. In either case, the relationship becomes less cooperative and more resistant.

As this pattern continues, husband and wife often become increasingly dependent upon their own perspectives. Rather than seeking understanding, they become more focused on defending their own positions. Rather than working together toward solutions, they become more concerned with proving themselves correct.

James 3:16 (KJV) For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Scripture repeatedly warns about the dangers of strife because strife does more than create conflict. It damages the environment necessary for trust, cooperation, and mutual influence to thrive. Satan understands this principle well.

He knows that a husband and wife who continue influencing one another in positive ways remain difficult to divide. He also knows that if he can weaken that influence, the relationship becomes increasingly vulnerable to misunderstanding, frustration, and further separation.

The tragedy is that many couples focus entirely on the visible disagreements while overlooking the deeper issue developing beneath them. The arguments themselves are often symptoms rather than the root problem. The greater problem is that husband and wife are gradually becoming less receptive to one another.

In many cases, this change develops quietly. A husband may stop sharing certain concerns because previous attempts seemed unproductive. A wife may stop expressing certain feelings because she no longer believes they will be received well. What began as openness gradually becomes caution. Conversations she once would have welcomed become conversations she increasingly avoids. The desire to be understood remains, yet the expectation of being understood slowly weakens. Over time, silence can begin replacing the openness that once helped strengthen the relationship.

Neither may intend to create additional distance. Yet what begins as self-protection often contributes to further separation.

Once that occurs, resolving future conflicts becomes far more difficult.

Advice is less welcome correction is less accepted, encouragement carries less weight and understanding becomes harder to achieve. The covenant may remain intact, yet one of its greatest strengths has been weakened.

God designed marriage so that husband and wife could sharpen, strengthen, and support one another throughout life. When division damages that process, both individuals suffer loss, and the relationship itself becomes increasingly vulnerable.

For this reason, protecting unity is about far more than avoiding arguments. It is about preserving the trust, respect, and influence that allow a husband and wife to continue strengthening one another as God intended.

THE LIES THAT KEEP DIVISION ALIVE

John 8:44 (KJV) When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

One reason division often survives for years within a marriage is because the people involved gradually begin believing explanations that justify it. What once troubled the conscience eventually becomes familiar. What once seemed dangerous begins appearing normal. Over time, husband and wife may adapt to conditions that would have concerned them greatly when the problems first appeared.

This should not surprise us.

Satan has always used deception as one of his primary weapons. Throughout Scripture, he rarely succeeds by presenting evil openly. Instead, he persuades people to accept false conclusions, distorted perspectives, and comfortable excuses that prevent them from recognizing the true condition of their situation. Marriage is no exception.

When division first enters a covenant, it often creates discomfort. Husband and wife recognize that something is wrong. Communication is becoming more difficult. Unity is weakening. Trust is being affected. Yet rather than addressing the underlying problem, many begin adopting explanations that make the situation easier to tolerate.

One of the most common lies is the belief that division is harmless as long as open conflict is avoided. Many couples convince themselves that everything is fine because they rarely argue. They continue sharing responsibilities, paying bills, attending family events, and maintaining daily routines. Because there is no constant hostility, they assume there is no serious problem.

Yet the absence of conflict does not necessarily indicate the presence of unity. A marriage can appear peaceful while significant division exists beneath the surface. Husband and wife may have

simply learned how to avoid the subjects that expose their differences. They may have learned how to coexist without truly walking together.

Another common lie is the belief that time will solve the problem. Many assume that if they simply wait long enough, circumstances will improve on their own. Yet unresolved division rarely disappears without effort. More often, it becomes increasingly established within the relationship. What is neglected today frequently becomes more difficult to address tomorrow.

Ephesians 4:27 (KJV) Neither give place to the devil.

Scripture warns believers not to give place to the devil because problems that remain unaddressed often provide opportunities for greater problems to develop.

A third lie is the belief that unity is unnecessary.

Some couples begin viewing marriage as little more than two independent individuals sharing the same space. As long as each person is free to pursue personal interests, goals, and priorities, they see little need for shared direction or deeper agreement. This view stands in direct opposition to God's design for marriage.

God did not establish the covenant so that husband and wife could merely coexist. He established it so they could walk together as one flesh. The covenant was intended to produce unity, cooperation, and mutual commitment.

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Another lie that often appears is the belief that the problem exists entirely in the other person.

When division remains unresolved for long periods of time, it becomes easy for each spouse to focus exclusively upon the failures of the other. A husband may become convinced that his wife is responsible for every difficulty. A wife may become equally convinced that her husband bears all responsibility. As long as

both individuals remain focused entirely upon the shortcomings of the other, meaningful restoration becomes increasingly difficult. Genuine healing requires humility. It requires the willingness to examine ourselves honestly before God rather than concentrating exclusively upon the faults of someone else.

The danger of deception is that it allows problems to survive without being challenged. As long as division can be explained away, justified, ignored, or blamed entirely upon another person, little motivation exists to address the underlying issues. The covenant remains weakened while both husband and wife become increasingly comfortable with conditions that God never intended them to accept.

Truth plays an essential role in restoring a divided marriage because people cannot address problems they refuse to acknowledge. Deception allows division to remain hidden beneath excuses, justifications, and assumptions. Truth exposes the actual condition of the covenant and allows husband and wife to examine their situation honestly before God.

This is why deception is so effective. As long as husband and wife continue believing explanations that justify division, little motivation exists to address the underlying problem. The covenant remains weakened, the distance continues growing, and the conditions that produced the division remain unchanged. Only when those deceptions are exposed can meaningful restoration begin.

THE HARVEST OF A DIVIDED COVENANT

Galatians 6:7 (KJV) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

One of the most important principles found throughout Scripture is that actions produce consequences. Seeds eventually produce a harvest. Decisions eventually produce results. The same principle applies to marriage.

When unity is cultivated, the benefits often extend far beyond the husband and wife themselves. Trust grows. Stability increases. Cooperation becomes easier. The covenant becomes stronger and better able to withstand the challenges that every marriage eventually faces.

The opposite is equally true.

When division is allowed to remain within a marriage, its effects rarely remain confined to the original disagreements that produced it. Over time, division begins influencing the overall character of the relationship. Communication becomes more difficult. Trust becomes weaker. Cooperation becomes less natural. Problems that once could have been resolved quickly often require significantly greater effort because the relationship has already been affected by years of unresolved distance.

Many couples focus primarily on the immediate conflict while overlooking the cumulative effect of repeated division. Yet marriages are often shaped more by long-term patterns than by individual events. A single disagreement may have little lasting impact. Years of unresolved division can gradually reshape the entire relationship.

This is one reason Scripture places such importance upon reconciliation, forgiveness, patience, and unity. God understands that relationships are either being strengthened or weakened by the choices made within them. They rarely remain unchanged. The harvest of division often becomes visible in ways that neither husband nor wife expected when the problems first began.

Few couples begin their marriage expecting to arrive at such a place. Most can remember seasons when conversation came easily, encouragement was freely given, and the future felt shared. This is one reason the harvest of division can be so discouraging. The contrast between what once existed and what now exists becomes increasingly difficult to ignore.

Emotional distance increases. For many wives, this distance is felt long before it is openly discussed. Daily routines may continue unchanged, responsibilities may still be fulfilled, and life may appear normal to others. Yet the relationship itself no longer feels as close. The husband is still present, but the companionship, encouragement, and emotional connection she once enjoyed may feel increasingly difficult to find.

Meaningful communication becomes less frequent. Shared goals become less common. The sense of partnership that once existed becomes increasingly difficult to maintain.

In some marriages, both individuals continue fulfilling their responsibilities while no longer experiencing the closeness that once characterized the relationship. They continue sharing a home, yet much of the unity that once strengthened the covenant has been replaced by routine, accommodation, and distance. This is not the picture of marriage that God established from the beginning.

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

The covenant was intended to unite husband and wife, not merely place them in the same location. God's design involved shared purpose, shared commitment, and a shared journey through life. Whenever division weakens that unity, the marriage inevitably loses some of the strength God intended it to possess.

The tragedy is that many couples recognize the harvest only after years of sowing have already taken place. The distance feels large,

but it was created gradually. The division feels permanent, but it developed through countless smaller choices made over time. This should also provide encouragement.

If division develops through repeated choices, unity can likewise be strengthened through repeated choices. Problems that took years to develop may not disappear immediately, but restoration becomes possible when husband and wife are willing to acknowledge the problem, address the causes, and begin moving in the same direction once again.

The purpose of examining the harvest of division is not to produce discouragement. It is to help us recognize where certain paths lead. God repeatedly warns His people because He desires restoration rather than destruction. He exposes problems because He desires healing rather than continued harm.

The condition of a marriage today is often the result of seeds planted yesterday. Understanding that principle allows husband and wife to examine their covenant honestly and consider what kind of harvest they are cultivating for the future.

RESTORING WHAT GOD JOINED TOGETHER

Malachi 2:16 (KJV) For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away...

Throughout this study we have examined how division enters a marriage, how it grows, and how it affects the covenant relationship between husband and wife. We have also seen how deception often allows that division to remain far longer than it should.

The question that remains is whether restoration is possible.

For many couples, the answer may appear uncertain. Years of disappointment, frustration, misunderstandings, and unresolved conflict can create the impression that the distance has become too great to overcome. Yet Scripture repeatedly demonstrates God's desire to restore what has been damaged, heal what has been broken, and reconcile what has become divided.

This does not mean restoration is always easy.

Problems that developed over many years rarely disappear overnight. Trust may require time to rebuild. Communication may require effort to improve. Habits and patterns that became established over long periods often require patience and persistence to correct.

Yet difficulty does not make restoration impossible.

The first step toward restoring unity is recognizing the problem honestly. Husband and wife cannot address division while pretending it does not exist. They cannot repair distance while denying it has developed. Meaningful change begins when both are willing to examine the condition of the covenant truthfully before God.

The second step is accepting personal responsibility.

While circumstances vary from one marriage to another, genuine restoration rarely occurs when both individuals remain focused entirely upon the failures of the other person. Lasting change becomes possible when husband and wife begin asking what they themselves can do to strengthen the covenant rather than concentrating exclusively upon what the other person should do.

James 5:16 (KJV) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

Humility has always been one of God's greatest tools for restoration. Pride often protects division. Humility creates opportunities for healing.

Another essential part of restoration is forgiveness.

Unforgiveness has a way of preserving yesterday's wounds and carrying them into today's relationship. Even when circumstances improve, unresolved bitterness can continue producing distance. Forgiveness does not erase the past, nor does it excuse wrongdoing. It allows healing to begin where resentment once remained.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you... And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Restoration also requires a renewed commitment to unity.

The goal is not merely reducing conflict. The goal is rebuilding the partnership God intended from the beginning. Husband and wife were created to walk together, support one another, and pursue a common direction before God. The closer both move toward God's will, the easier it becomes to move closer to one another.

Amos 3:3 (KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Agreement does not require perfection. Every marriage will continue facing challenges. The goal is not a life free from difficulties. The goal is a covenant in which husband and wife remain committed to addressing those difficulties together rather than allowing them to create greater separation.

God established marriage as a covenant, not merely a contract. Covenants are strengthened through faithfulness, commitment, patience, forgiveness, and perseverance. When those qualities are cultivated, unity becomes possible even in relationships that have experienced significant difficulties.

The purpose of this study has not been to assign blame. Its purpose has been to expose a strategy that weakens marriages and to encourage believers to recognize the importance of protecting covenant unity.

What God joins together is valuable. It is worth protecting. It is worth strengthening. And when division has entered the covenant, it is worth the effort required to restore what has been damaged. For many marriages, the path forward begins with a simple decision: to stop walking in separate directions and begin walking together once again.

A COVENANT WORTH PROTECTING

If you have worked carefully through this study, you have likely recognized that division rarely appears all at once.

Most marriages are not damaged by a single event.

More often, the damage develops gradually through small compromises, neglected problems, unresolved frustrations, and separate directions that are allowed to continue unchecked.

What begins as a small division often becomes a larger one. What begins as distance can eventually become separation. What begins as opposition can gradually weaken the unity that God intended the covenant to possess.

The purpose of this study has not been to convince you that your marriage is beyond hope.

Quite the opposite.

Its purpose has been to help you recognize the importance of protecting what God has established before greater damage occurs.

Every marriage faces difficulties.

Every husband and wife will experience disagreements.

Every covenant will encounter seasons of struggle.

The question is not whether difficulties will arise.

The question is whether those difficulties will drive husband and wife further apart or motivate them to draw closer together.

God never intended marriage to be sustained by convenience alone. He intended it to be strengthened through commitment, faithfulness, forgiveness, patience, and mutual devotion to His will.

For this reason, I encourage you to examine your own marriage honestly.

Are there divisions that have been ignored?

Are there frustrations that have remained unresolved?

Have separate priorities replaced shared purpose?

Have you become accustomed to conditions that God never intended to be normal?

These are not comfortable questions, but they are necessary ones. Many problems remain uncorrected because they remain unexamined.

If this study has revealed areas that require attention, do not ignore them.

Bring them before God, pray about them, discuss them honestly and address them while they are still small.

The goal is not merely avoiding conflict. The goal is restoring and protecting covenant unity.

For what God joins together is precious, and what is precious should never be surrendered carelessly.

May the Lord grant wisdom to husbands, grace to wives, humility to both, and strength to every marriage that seeks to walk according to His ways.

John

Servant of Christ

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

PROTECT COVENANT UNITY

If this study has helped you recognize how division can slowly enter a marriage, do not allow these truths to remain only on these pages.

Few marriages become divided overnight.

More often, separation begins through small frustrations, unresolved hurts, neglected conversations, and directions that slowly drift apart. What begins as a small distance can eventually become a much greater one if left unaddressed.

Take time to honestly examine your marriage.

- Are husband and wife still walking together?
 - Have small divisions been allowed to grow?
 - Is unity being strengthened or weakened?
- Are both moving toward the same purpose and direction before God?

The enemy continually seeks to divide what God has joined together. Recognizing that danger is often the first step toward preventing greater damage.

SHARE THIS STUDY

Many husbands and wives are experiencing distance within their marriage without fully understanding how it developed.

Consider sharing this booklet with:

- Couples experiencing growing division or distance
 - Husbands seeking to strengthen covenant unity
 - Wives desiring restoration within their marriage
- Anyone seeking to understand God's design for walking together as one flesh

Sometimes the first step toward restoration is recognizing the path that led to separation.

The truth that helps restore covenant unity should never be hidden.

CONTINUE GROWING

Additional Bible studies examining marriage, family, discipleship, obedience, and Christian living are available at:
<https://zionsroar.org/biblical-studies>

NEED HELP?

You do not have to face these challenges alone.
If you have questions, need guidance, or would like to study these subjects further, reach out to us.

We would be honored to study the Scriptures with you and encourage you in strengthening your home according to God's Word.

A family united in God's truth becomes far more difficult for the enemy to divide.

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.

