

THE "LIFE AND BIBLE" SERIES

Living Out Our Christianity *With An Attitude*

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1:9-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

*A SERIES ON DEVELOPING A PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE
WALK WITH GOD AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SITUATIONS*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Divorce, Marriage, Grace, Forgiveness

Introduction to the Text;

Colossians 1:9-14

Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in **all wisdom and spiritual understanding**; **:10** that you may **walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing *Him*, **being fruitful in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; **:11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **:12 giving thanks to the Father** who has **qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **:13** He has delivered us **from the power of darkness** and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, **:14** in whom we have **redemption** through His blood, even the **forgiveness** of sins.

In Our Last Study We Looked at...

BEING A CHRISTIAN AND **AVOIDING DIVORCE** *what must the Christian do to save the marriage ?*

1.) Stop – and think about **who you really are**

there is no perfect person in your marriage...

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Marriage creates a Spiritual Environment +/-

2.) **Remember** – that you no longer **belong** to you

marriage is a “type” a “model” of God’s union with us.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; **therefore** glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Marriage is the Ultimate Ministry

3.) **Know** – that you have all that you need for **success**

marriage is where you can be safe and accepted.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Marriage is where reality takes shape.

4.) **Understand** – what the **will** of God is for you

marriage is a super-natural, spiritual institution

Ephesians 5:21

We’re to be **submitting** to one another in the **fear** (reverence) of God.

This “**Submitting**,” means, to yield, to take second place, allowing the other

5.) **Obey** – by living your life **for** the Lord

marriage is where you can develop & mature

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

Today, in our **atheistic / god-less** culture;
*Divorce is viewed as an **option**, an **alternative**, an **out**.*
if things get tough or go wrong I can always leave...

2 Timothy 2:3

You (a husband and wife) therefore must endure **hardship**
as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Endurance, Perseverance & Commitment

are lost disciplines and the absence of them
have led to the destruction of our society.

There is perhaps no greater test of our “obedience” to the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ and the Bible than when a Christian is faced with the threats & evils of a divorce.

Divorce is the “Spiritual Dissection”
of (2) people who **have** already become one...

The New Living Translation of

Malachi 2:16

“For I hate divorce!” says the LORD, the God of Israel. “It is as cruel as putting on a victim’s bloodstained coat,” says the LORD Almighty. “So guard yourself; always remain loyal to your wife.”

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

1.) **Seek every Biblical directive first**

What is God’s Heart on Marriage & Divorce ?

Mark 10:2-12

The Pharisees came and asked Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce *his* wife?” testing Him. :3 And He answered and said to them, **“What did Moses command you?”** :4 They said, “Moses permitted a *man* to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss *her*.” :5 And Jesus answered and said to them, **“Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. :6 But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ :7 ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, :8 and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. :9 Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” :10** In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same *matter*. :11 So He said to them, **“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. :12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”**

Matthew 5:32

But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Matthew 19:3-6

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?” :4 And He answered and said to them, **“Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ :5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? :6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh.**

Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

what are the grounds for divorce? Adultery = Sexual Immorality / Infidelity

In a long list of “sinful choices” is the act of adultery

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor **adulterers**, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **:10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

2.) Exhaust every opportunity to **reconcile**

contrary to popular thought;
*divorce should never be the first step when things
go terribly wrong in a marriage.*

Getting Cheated On

is perhaps one of the most damaging and scarring events in all of human life.

It cannot be overcome without the power of God
Actively, Powerfully and Patiently

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **:19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **:20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

8 Key steps to Reconciliation

- (1) trusted, proven help must be sought out and committed to.
- (2) all threats & distractions must be eliminated.
- (3) An atmosphere of healing must be established.

- (4) the Bible has to be foundational.
- (5) goals must be set and monitored.
- (6) forgiveness must be exercised daily.
- (7) a united front must be created.
- (8) a lifelong maintenance / warranty program applies.

Colossians 3:18-19

Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as is fitting** in the Lord.
:19 **Husbands, love** your wives and **do not be bitter** toward them.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

3.) **Avoid the counsel of others**

Proverbs 1:10

My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.

"human" wisdom / knowledge is very dangerous
regarding marriage and relationships.

Your "friends" might try to make you feel better by saying things like this;
"hey, let's go out and give him some of his own medicine"

"do to her what she's done to you"
"it's time to get even"

Psalm 1:1-2

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; :2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

The Fear of The Lord
should govern your decision-making process.

Job 28:28 - Proverbs 1:7

Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding...
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Luke 16:18

“Whoever divorces (putting away) his wife and marries another **commits adultery**; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her (new) husband **commits adultery**. – *because the divorce was a fraud in the first place. one sin can snowball into an avalanche of sins effecting others !*

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

4.) Never let emotions make your decisions

anger, hurt, pain and fear
will never lead you down the right path. Our emotions will derail us every time!

Be the Christian **brother** / Be the Christian **sister**

2 Corinthians 10:5

casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

(to the husbands and wives) Ephesians 5:1-33 (to the husbands and wives)

Therefore be **imitators** of God as dear children. :2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. :3 But **fornication** and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; :4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. :5 For this you know, that no **fornicator**, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. :6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. :7 **Therefore do not be partakers with them.** :8 For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light :9 (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), :10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. :11 **And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.** :12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. :13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. :14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” :15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, :16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. :17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. :18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, :19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, :20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, :21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. :22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. :23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head

of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. :24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in everything. :25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, :26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, :27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. :28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. :29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. :30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. :31 *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* :32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. :33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects *her* husband.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE MIDST OF A DIVORCE

5.) Find a Christian friend to **intercede** with you

F i n d a r e a l C h r i s t i a n F r i e n d -

I mean a friend who loves God more than you and will **(1)** keep their mouth shut about your situation, And **(2)** that will stay on their knees with you and **(3)** that keeps pointing you to what God has said in His Bible.

1 Corinthians 7:3-16

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. :4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. :5 **Do not deprive one another except with consent** for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. :6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. :7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. *(now single)* But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. :8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; *(single)* :9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*. :10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart *(divorce)* from *her* husband. :11 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.** :12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, **let him not divorce her.** :13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, **let her not divorce him.** :14 For the unbelieving husband is

sanctified (*graced or covered*) by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified (*graced or covered*) by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. :15 But if the **unbeliever departs**, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace :16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save *your* husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save *your* wife?

- suck it up, stick it out, make it work

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. :27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Next Week

we will look to the Bible about what to do if divorce is inevitable.

LETS PRAY FOR MARRIAGES.