

1 Corinthians 7:1-6

March 1, 2015

SEC: Introduction to the Series and 1 Corinthians

We have been coming through every book of the Bible, and because Christ is the theme of the Bible, in every book of the Bible, Christ is portrayed in a different fashion. There is something about His character, who He is, something that He represents that is woven through every book of the Bible. So what we wanted to do is, we are in the midst of a major campaign here of trying to get people to learn their Bibles. We are going to start here in the summer taking three Saturdays, one a month, and go through a class that I taught a number of years ago. It probably was one of the greatest things we ever did in our church called Bible Basics, and it really pulls the Bible together for you. It gives you the picture that you are supposed to be looking for in the Bible and how it really works for you.

We have been doing a lot of things to try to add to that and to help that work its way out in people's lives because we are about the Bible here. So we started coming through each book of the Bible and basically laying Christ out in each book of the Bible, and we have worked our way up to the book of 1 Corinthians. In the book of 1 Corinthians, we know now that that church is having a lot of spiritual issues, a lot of problems, and they really mirror many of the churches that we have out there today. They just do not have a good handle on Bible principles. They are arguing about who won who to Christ and tagging some kind of spirituality to that, who baptized who. It is just a real mess.

We have been coming through, and what we are going to do once we get done with the books of the Bible, the New Testament, coming through Christ, how He is typified, we are going to come back and we are going to study verse by verse the book of 2 Corinthians. Where our church is at, we just finished Romans before we launched into this, and our church has many people in it now that have come into this church over the last eight years or so, have grown, and got a good foundation in the Bible. We are always looking for new people who want to learn the Bible, who want to become part of our ministry family team that can help other people. Now that we are in 1 Corinthians, we are going to take a little time because of the contrast between the two books, and I told you this when we started.

In 1 Corinthians, basically, it is a book on how not to build a church and how not to minister. In 2 Corinthians, you have the book that basically tells you how to build a church and how to minister. So I told you that we are going to spend a little more time with this one, and then we will refer back to our notes when we get into 2 Corinthians, and we will make the contrast because I think it will be very important for you to see it and understand that.

SEC: The Foundation of Christian Life

Last week, I told you that when you get into 1 Corinthians chapter 7, and last week was basically an introduction, when you get into 1 Corinthians chapter 7, this is the New Testament teaching for the church on what God wants the church to know and understand, and the principles on how to operate and deal with the concept of marriage, divorce, and remarriage. As I said last week,

we laid a really good foundation to build on. I am kind of a foundation guy. I think that you approach the Bible like you do building a building. I think buildings without a foundation are not very stable, and I think Christians in the Bible without a foundation are not very stable either. So I am a kind of guy that likes to build a foundation in everything that I do with people's lives. My whole world is spending one-on-one time with people, and we developed our discipleship program, and we call that our foundation lessons. It takes you right after you get saved, gives you a foundation to build on. The Bible Basics you are going to do again this summer, that is all that is. Next level up maybe, same concept. It is a foundation of building things in your life that you can build on.

The Bible makes it very clear in 1 Corinthians chapter 3 that the day you and I got saved, what we basically did was lay a foundation in our life, and that foundation is Jesus Christ. The day you and I got saved, we laid the foundation of our Christian life, which is Jesus Christ. Then the Bible says that we are to be a wise master builder, and every man is to take heed how he builds thereupon. Then he talks about a building process, and that is what each of us are in today. I am not a Bible scholar. I do not want to be, and I do not claim to be. There are no experts when it comes to the ministry, Christianity, or the Bible. No, we are just all students on different levels, but that level depends on the foundation that you build.

SEC: Purpose of the Sermon Series

When we get into 1 Corinthians chapter 7, the reason why I told you last week I want to spend some quality time with this is because in our dealing with people, in your dealing with people, and I told you my overall goal is to prepare servants, people that have need wherever you work, that you have the tools to be able to help them. I wanted you to learn about marriage, divorce, and remarriage, the cause and effect, why things happen the way they are. Now we know, we saw historically how the body of Christ, God's people, got into the mess and the disastrous situations regarding relationships and failed marriages. I gave you some of the statistics last week. I believe that how we got into messes and understanding it is just as important as figuring out how to get out of the mess we got in. I think that when you do not learn from your mistakes, I do not care what mistakes you make.

I want to say something very clearly today, and I said it last week, but I want to keep putting it into what I say because there is a tendency for people that hear what I am saying that it has a tendency that maybe can make you feel bad about yourself because maybe you are in the middle of a bad scenario, or you have come through one, or you have been through one, and God knows you have been through enough beat-up time in your life. That is not my purpose in any way, shape, or form. I say this all the time: I do not care where you have been in life. I really do not care what you have done. We have all made mistakes. The pastor that stands in the pulpit and beats somebody else up for them making a mistake is a pretty foolish individual because we have all made mistakes. We have all had down times in our life, and there is no man on earth that can point a finger at anybody else because the reality is that we all have our issues, have had our issues, and probably will continue to have our issues. So I do not care where you have come from. I do not care what you have done. I do not care what you have been into. The only single thing I care about is really the only thing that God cares about this morning because He does not

care where you have been either. All He cares about is what do you want to do with your life from this point forward?

A number of years ago, I preached a revival. I have told you this story before. It was a place where God came down, and we just really had a revival. I was preaching hard every night, and lights were coming on for a lot of people, and a lot of good things got done. At the end of that week, a man came up, he had to be in his 70s, maybe even his 80s, one of the nicest guys you ever meet in your life. He came up and put his arms around me, thanked me for taking my time away from coming to their church and to preach. He had tears running down his face. He said to me, "You know what? I just wished I would have heard what you said this week 40 years ago in my life." He said there were some things that would have been different. Now I appreciated that, and I appreciate somebody at that age recognizing the fact that he could have done some things differently. I can really appreciate that. I looked at him and I hugged him back, and I told him, "Well, I really appreciate that, but let me ask you a question. What are you going to do with it now that you have heard it?" That is really the question. It is not about where we have been or what we have done. It is about right now in your life, what you heard last week or what you hear on a weekly basis. Now what you are going to hear today, what are you going to do with it now that you know what the truth is? What are you going to do with your life now that you know that God has something for you to do with your life?

Our church here is about people. I was thinking as I was driving in this morning, I was thinking how the many, many, many people who do basically what I started out to do when we started our church. I was one guy, and then God gave me two guys, and then God gave me three or four guys and gals, and pretty soon there were other people doing exactly what I was doing, and that is ministering to people. Now, everywhere I look, everywhere I go, everything I look at, I see men and women in this church ministering to other people that I would never have the hours in the week to do, and that is really what we are supposed to do, reaching out to others. Of course, as I said, understanding how we got into this mess in relationships to me is just as important as understanding how we get out of it.

SEC: God's Three Institutions

Last week, I told you about three institutions that God established. These three institutions are major in your Bible. These three institutions are the bedrock of everything else you are going to go through in the Bible, and I gave them to you in the order of their appearance in the Bible, and then I went back and showed you the order of their disappearance in our world.

1. Marriage The first one was in Genesis chapter 2, and the first institution that God established is the concept of marriage. We talked about how marriage was not a man's idea; it was God's idea based on Adam and Eve and how it laid itself out through Genesis.
2. Civil Government By the time you move on to Genesis chapter 10, you will find that the second institution that God establishes, and that will be civil government. You are going to find in the Old Testament that is why God calls out a nation. That is why God gives the nation of Israel the laws that they have. They are not just a nation as such; they are a religious nation based on God's concept and His relationship with civil government. So He gives them

not only a religion in the Old Testament, He gives them a nation, the nation of Israel. I really enjoyed the Prime Minister of Israel right now. He really wiped up on Obama this week. I thought that was good. He is a tough guy. Most people do not know that he led the raid on Entebbe back in the, I think it was in the late 70s, when Idi Amin down in Africa, Uganda, the terrorists stole the plane, hijacked it, flew all the people down there, and half of them, like 150 of them, were Israelis, and they kept them in a hangar there at the airport. Idi Amin was playing both sides against the middle. Obviously, they let all the non-Jews go, "We are going to wipe out the Jews." The Jewish military put together one of the most ingenious plans to rescue them that has ever been done in the annals of military history. So when you are talking about this guy over here talking to the president, he is the guy that you are not going to fool around with. This guy, his idea is, "You kill one of us, we will kill 10 of you." He led the raid, and it was an incredible deal. I do not mean to take time from my message, but I will give up preaching anytime to tell a good war story, so listen to me. What they did was, they got four or five C-130s. They did not ask to tell anybody what they were going to do. They had to fly 1,800 miles one way and then back. So what they did is they flew out there, they had a special commando team, and the Israeli commandos are the best commandos in the world. In the cover of darkness, in the middle of the night, and with no lights on the runway, these guys landed these big C-130s, three or four of them. Inside the C-130s, they had a Mercedes-Benz just like the one that Amin drove and a guy dressed up like him. In the middle of the night, nobody heard the planes land, and these guys let the ramps down, and the commandos went out and went into darkness and kind of surrounded the place. These guys went in, and this car drove up, and these terrorists came out, and everybody was asleep. They had all of the Israelis in one little spot there and had explosives all wired around. If anybody tried to get them through a gunfight, they were going to blow them all up, so you could not do that. So this big Mercedes-Benz in the middle of the night drives up, these terrorists, they can tell them who Amin is, he gets all straightened up, this guy comes up and out the thing and snatches him. Everybody comes in, and the thing is over in about 10 minutes. I think three or four or five Israelis got killed, but it was collateral damage. It was one of the greatest military operations. He led that raid. His brother was the only commando that was killed. He is an incredible guy. He is somebody to watch in history because he is going to bring the nation of Israel back to, he will always bring it to a military focus point. That is why when Obama wanted him to give back the land that they got back in the Six-Day War in '67, he told him where he could take that and put it. Politically nice, which is, it is not going to happen. This guy is a good guy. But civil government was the second one, and God established civil government. We see the civil government as the nation of Israel, and of course, God is going to bring back that government to the nation of Israel in the Tribulation and in the Millennium, which we have already seen for Him.

3. The Church The third one is the church. That covers the New Testament. You see, you and I are not part of a nation. Back in the Old Testament, it was a religious nation. One nation, God lifted up against all the other nations and said, "You are separate," because we are dealing with civil government. In the New Testament, Christianity does not work by a government. We are not a Christian nation. There are no Christian governments. There are only God's people who are part of a spiritual body when you get saved and make up the body of Christ.

That is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. You want to remember that because we are going to come back to that here in just a little bit.

SEC: Breakdown of Institutions and the Church's Role

Last week, we saw the complete and total breakdown and failure of all three of these institutions. We now know why that happened because they dumped the Word of God. We talked about the Bible being like salt. When the salt loses its savor, then the whole thing breaks down. We went through and showed you the cause and effect of why we, the body of Christ, are in such distress today in relationships based on the failure and the breakdown of these three institutions, and of course, the church suffering because of it today. We saw, as I said, the end result today is most of God's people. It is a tough thing to say. We find that most of God's people—I am not talking about the people that are out in the bars or do not go to church. I am talking about people that are in churches every Sunday. We have God's people today that are in total rebellion to the Word of God and its principles. We are just like the nation of Israel was in 606 B.C. before the great captivity came. We have a form of godliness, but we deny the power thereof. We carry our Bibles. We go to church. We do not go to the places we should not. We like the theme of 1 Corinthians, "Jesus is Lord." Like he says over there in that great passage in Luke 6, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" All the while, God's people today, the body of Christ, are playing the game of Christianity as Israel did right up to when God brought the captivity. I am not going to get off my message today, but you can see what is coming. We have talked about it before that there is a captivity coming for the body of Christ. We will not spend a lot of time on it today, but do not think for a moment that God is going to allow us to do what we have done with the Word of God and not have a price to pay for it. But anyway, that is another message. We have talked about that before.

Now, I want to begin reading today in 1 Corinthians 7, and I am going to read the first six verses or so, and then we are going to come back and we are going to start looking. I told you that there are 20 rules of engagement here, not rules of engagement as far as getting engaged like marriage, but rules of engagement as far as dealing with people with problems when they come in, and that is my goal. My goal is to help those who come into our church that are struggling in relationships, and then my goal also is to help those who want to really be able to reach out to others because God has people in your world today that need the message that you have. My job is to help you get it a little clearer.

Let me just say this before I go any farther. I will not forget it, but it is an appropriate time to say it because it is going to happen today, and I already asked if I could do this. Mark and Sonja, I want you to know, I will tell you, I want to say this publicly for everybody. It has been a long time in my ministry, and I know when Sonja you came in, you had issues that you were working through in your life and everything, and Mark did too when you came in, and you came in long before he did, but I want to tell you something, and I want to say this publicly. It has been a long time in my ministry that I have seen two kids do it by the book and do it the way it needed to be done. There was not a time that when you got worked with with people that they did not tell you guys, "No, that is not what you want to do, you want to do this." You never argued; you just did what you saw the Bible said. You said something to me a long time ago; you probably do not

even remember saying it. Remember when we first met, somebody invited you over to a softball game. I think you played that night, you and your sister both, and Mark was not even in the picture yet. He was in that movie, cowboy movie out there someplace, and he is my cowboy. Anyway, you said something to me, we invited you to church that day. You came the next day, and I think you have never, never, you have been back every day. I do not think you have missed other than when you were sick or whatever. But anyhow, you said something to me after that service. You said, "You know what, this is something I have been looking for all my life." You said, "I will never not be here and listen to what the word of God has to say," something like that. You know what, you were true to it all the way down through it. Because you did what was right in your own life of taking the very things that I am talking about today and putting them into your life, God gave you the desire of your heart. God gave you what you wanted. He got into the word of God, and now I fully am confident that this marriage is going to be a great marriage, and you guys are going to be a great couple for the Lord. I am happy that you are here. I am happy for the small part. There were many other people that had more in your life to do than I did. I was just a guy that cracked the whip. But it is a thing where I wanted to say that before I go any farther because where I am going today when I am talking about, you kids have done it by the book, and I want you to know that today that I am proud of you, and it is an honor to do your wedding today. So I know last week I said I enjoy funerals more than weddings because funerals are more permanent. But yours will be a permanent one, I guarantee you. I appreciate that. So God bless you.

Let us have a word of prayer and then we will get into our time today. Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We thank You for the time that we can have today and look into Your word. We thank You for the folks that are here. Lord, let these visitors know today that we are just a church that believes the Bible, loves the Bible, that I am just a pastor that believes the most important thing in the world are the people that God gives him. We just want to impart the word of God today. We take people where we find them. We never make judgments about them. We never think ill of them. We know that in an imperfect world, You have people with imperfect problems. Our job as the body of Christ is to help take them when they want to do what is right, to help them straighten it out. Look behind, but look ahead and look around and do the things that we need to do in our lives. So we thank You today. We thank You for the joyous day of Mark and Sonja and their wedding. We thank You for their testimony. We thank You, Father, for the word of God that You have given us that really makes it all possible. So we love You. Open up our hearts. Open up the word of God through Your Spirit. Give us those things that we need. In Jesus' name, for Your sake we ask it. Amen.

SEC: Understanding 1 Corinthians 7 - Permission vs. Commandment

All right. It says in 1 Corinthians 7:1-6:

1 Corinthians 7:1-6

1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

Now, the first thing I want to do here, and I told you last week that the standard teaching about marriage, divorce, and remarriage that every Baptist church follows today is not the biblical format that is written down in the Bible for the churches. I told you that in the Old Testament, which churches today try to put God's people under, God does not look at marriage and divorce and remarriage the same way He does in the New Testament. It is the difference between grace and under the law.

The first thing I want you to see today, I want to draw your attention to three key verses. These are absolutely key in understanding this chapter.

The first one is in verse 6:

1 Corinthians 7:6

6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

The second one is in verse 10:

1 Corinthians 7:10

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord.

The third one is in verse 12:

1 Corinthians 7:12

12 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.

What in the world is he talking about? What business does Paul have telling somebody something that is not of the Lord? That is how it is looked at many, many times. Of course, that could not be farther from the truth. What you see here, what I told you last week, is these verses show you that there is a difference from the Old Testament under the law than the New Testament under grace. You want to mark these verses.

Verse 6 says, "But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment." You know what he is saying? He is saying that what I am about to tell you is not covered in the Old Testament. There

is no commandment on it. But I am going to give you added revelation and speak something by permission. What permission? Permission of the Holy Spirit of God given to the New Testament church, something that was not under the Old Testament nation of Israel. That is where you start to see this thing, and this is what you have got to see. He changes things up in the New Testament.

Now look at the next one, verse 10: "To the married, I command, yet not I, but the Lord." Here is something in verse 10 that is in the Old Testament, and it is going to be okay to take what is in the Old Testament and apply it to the New Testament. You see, there are some things that stay the same, and then there are some things that he changes. It is the difference between going from the Old Testament law where there is no grace to the New Testament grace under the church where there is no law. It is the difference between going through in a situation where God is dealing with a nation under a civil government rule under the Old Testament law and coming into a body of believers that is not under the law, but is under grace. So he adds things. Some of the things carry through. Many of them do not. It is simply the difference between under the law and under grace.

Now look at verse 12. Here is our little radical verse. Verse 12 says, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord." What is he saying? I have actually heard preachers and read articles where guys say that this is where Paul is out of fellowship with God and is speaking outside of what he should speak. How ludicrous is that? I mean, how ludicrous. All scripture is given by inspiration of God. Once you take the fact and accept the fact that everything in that Bible was put in there by God and no mistakes in it, that will not work. No, no, no. Anything but what the Bible is saying. What he is saying there, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord," this is where again he is going to get added revelation to the body of Christ that is not covered in the Old Testament when the Lord gave Moses the law. See how that thing works? Now that shows you the verses, and we talked about this last week. This is why you do not follow Matthew chapter 5 and chapter 19 when you get into the New Testament.

I do not know how many times I have taught you this. This is a basic fundamental rule when it comes to the Bible. For the church, you and me, we have our own apostle. The nation of Israel had 12 apostles. The church has seven apostles. Maybe you did not know that. But the head apostle is Paul. It was Paul who God gave the revelation about the body of Christ that you and I are part of that make up the church. So if you want absolute, 100% places where you do not have to wonder or think twice that it is directly written to you, the church, you go with Paul's writings. I have said it many, many times: all the Bible is written for you, but not all the Bible is written directly to you. The first major step you make in the Bible is being able to determine what is written directly to you and what is written maybe for you but not directly to you. Now by saying that, I say it again. Whenever you are in a book that Paul wrote, now that we know that he is the apostle to the church, that he was given the gospel to the church, and he writes the books to the churches, 100% of the time you are safe in his. That is why you do not go to Matthew 5 or 19 to find New Testament teaching for the church. You go to the book that is written by the man who established the church. He also through God established the doctrine for the church and everything. Why would you think that Paul would set down everything else we do in churches,

but when it comes to marriage and divorce or remarriage, he did not, and you have got to run back to the Old Testament? It does not make any sense. Well, it does not make any sense if you know the Bible, but that is where you are at today.

SEC: Rule 1: Grounds for Divorce

Now let me give you today our first rule on marriage. Let me explain this, and I am going to break down these rules. There are a lot of concepts here, and I do not want you to confuse the concepts I give you with the rules. So I will tell you the rules as we go, and then at the end of the message, I will again give you the rules so you understand so you do not get them messed up. So we do not get into the thing like we do in Bible study, and I say, "All right, this is number five," and I have got four, or I have got three, or I have got nine. No, I understand, and that is all my confusion, not yours.

Here is your first rule:

4. In the Old Testament, there were grounds for divorce. Now you have got to listen very carefully. In the Old Testament, there were grounds for divorce, and found in Matthew chapter 5, Matthew chapter 19, Deuteronomy chapter 24. The Bible says that death in the Bible is considered a divorce when your spouse dies. But also in the Old Testament of the law, the Bible says that Moses gave the decree for a divorcement under the Old Testament law. Of course, the Bible says when the Pharisees asked Jesus about this, he gives us a little more light on it. He says, "Yes, basically that is true, but Moses did that because of the hardness of your heart." He says, "From the beginning, it was not so." So there is a case where God allowed under the law Moses, who represents the law, to put in a clause of divorcement as adultery as the issue that in the Old Testament, there is a ground for divorce in the Old Testament. Now this is what we saw last week that this is the teaching that wrongly so gets taught to the church today. This is why you are told that if you get a divorce and the ground is not adultery, then if you get remarried, then you have lived the rest of your life in adultery, and all that kind of stuff. That is just simply not true. Not true. Of course, the thing I want you to remember is the first part of rule number one simply says that in the Old Testament, this is what I want you to remember, in the Old Testament, there were grounds for a divorce. You could come in and say, "She has been with somebody else, I do not want her," and you could give her a written letter of divorcement in the Old Testament. Here is the killer. This is when you put the Bible to it, it is much worse than what the Baptist standard teaching is on it. But this is Bible teaching. In the Old Testament, there were grounds for divorce. But in the New Testament, listen to me now, in the New Testament, there are no grounds for divorce under any circumstances. Adultery is not even considered into it. In the Old Testament, there were grounds because you are dealing under the law. In the New Testament, there are no grounds under any circumstances for any person who was married to get a divorce. Now why is that? Why is that? Well, first of all, because there should be not two things, two Christians cannot work out. I mean, there is no, we are part of Christ's body. When you get married, it is a spiritual thing in the New Testament. It was not a spiritual thing in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, what you have is when two get married and they are saved, they are in the same body. The Bible tells you how many times there should

be no schisms. No schisms in division, no division in the body. There is a oneness in the body. We have the mind of Christ. They did not have that in the Old Testament. We have the Holy Spirit of God living inside that. They did not have that in the Old Testament. Everybody here this morning is saved. You are in the body of Christ, and your wife or your husband is not only your wife and your husband, they are your brother and sister in Christ if you are truly saved. You are in the family. That is not like my family where I can say to my mom or my brother or whoever and say, "I never don't have a brother, but if I had one, you know what? I am done with this family and never coming back." I can say that, but the bottom line is she is still my mother because I was brought into this world by her, and it really does not matter what I say in a physical sense. Well, in a spiritual sense, you are in Christ's body. There should be nothing that two Christians should not be able to forgive and forget and to work out. Now, get what I am about to say and listen very carefully because this is very important. In the New Testament, there are no biblical grounds for divorce, but in the New Testament, there are reasons for divorce. That is the key here. That is the most important thing I am going to say to you today. There are no grounds for it, but there are reasons for divorce in the New Testament. That will be in any given situation, either one or both of the people simply will not do what the Bible says. After a while, it goes on and it goes on and it goes on for whatever reason. There is no fixing it, and it is gone. Now let me put it into a context where you can grasp because I know that is probably a shock to your system. But just like there should be nothing that two Christians cannot work out in a marriage relationship, there should be nothing that two Christians cannot work out in a church, and there should be no splits in churches. How does that work for us? Listen, we live in an imperfect world. In that imperfect world, we have, we are all imperfect people. Imperfect people get into all kinds of situations and circumstances. When it comes to a church or it comes to a ministry, we do not have the luxury to pick and choose who we minister to. We should not have that luxury. Whatever a person is at is where and how they got there is really of no concern. What is of a concern, as I said earlier, is where do you want to go from here? Because I am telling you folks, let me say this. In your work with people, when you work with people and deal with people, some of you already see this in bad marriages, there will be some marriages that simply cannot be fixed. Now God is always willing to take you where you are at, but the longer a person or a couple or whoever waits to get the help they need, it is just a clear, simple principle, the less chance you have. I want to make it very clear in saying these things, and I am not saying anything here today to make anybody, anywhere, no matter what your past life has been, and I may not even know it, I do not care to know it. I am telling you this. This is what the Bible says. This is how it lays itself out. But in an imperfect world, it does not work that way. So what the church does and what Paul does here in 1 Corinthians 7 is make sure that real church of Jesus Christ does not wind up being like most Baptist churches that take somebody who has made a mistake in life and then throws them under the bus. That does not solve anything. I have known churches that, and I told you last week how that when the marriages started to fail, people went to church. They knew enough to know that this is where I go to get help. But what did they do? They got clobbered. They got clobbered. I am telling you, I have known people that have gotten pregnant out of wedlock. Most churches turn down their noses at them. I was talking to Mike the other day when him and I have our

meetings, Mike Hammond, and he was telling about a situation in their church where this girl and this guy, she got pregnant and they were not married. They wanted to get married. The pastor said, "Yeah, we will marry you, but you cannot get married in the church. So I will marry out in the field." Then they passed the word around, and nobody, none of the real Christians in the church would come to the wedding. Here is a young couple that already got their back against the wall. They already got two strikes against them. If there is anybody at that time that the church needs to reach out to, put their arms around. Oh, and do not give me this thing about what they did. You want to talk about what you and I have done? No, no, excuse me. You want to talk about what you have done? That was by permission, not of the Holy Spirit. Give me a break. Are we so pious as God's people that when somebody, hey, you know what my first thought is online? What did Jesus say? He said, "The whole have no need of a physician." If you are doing great and you are doing fine and you got it all together, you do not need a physician. You know who needs a physician? Those that are sick. We are physicians, spiritually. Well, you are going to see the doctor. He sits down. He listens to your heart. He looks in your mouth. He looks in your ears, and then he tells you what he has told the last 67 people. "You got a virus." Then he gives you a prescription. You go home, and hopefully it is a broad enough antibiotic that you get well. Well, that is what we do. You come in, sit down in my office. You tell me what you see spiritually. I look in your eyes and look in your nose and look in your ears, and I check your heart. See where it is at with the Lord. Then I give you a prescription. Here is what you need to do. Same thing. How pious has the church become today that you find people who get into problems? So what? So what? To me, it is great job security. You sinners out there keep me in business forever. It is like Joe Christensen or any other cop. You got great job security because there is always going to be crime. I got great job security. There is always going to be sin. But you know what? You got to take people where they are at. Do you see how far the church has come from where Jesus was? Nobody else. What they wanted to stone the woman at the well. He wanted to listen to her. Because that is our job. I want you to understand that these are the hard rules of the road, but I want to tell you, and I am telling you right now. Sometimes, it gets so bad and it goes for so long. I mean, the longer the husband waits to admit that he has got some issues and get help, the longer the wife waits to get the help that she needs. I am just going to be honest. The less chance you have. Sometimes too much damage is done. I never pass judgment on people. I do not look down at people. I take everybody on an even thing. You can make a hundred million dollars a year, and you can make \$9.98 at McDonald's. If you even make that much at McDonald's, I do not know. You know what? I look at you to say, in fact, I would probably tend to look at you more than I would the guy with a million dollars because I just with the biblical principles to go along with that. But my point is this. I do not pass judgment on people, but I have got to tell you this, and you are going to learn this in ministry, and some of you already have found this out. I can only work with what somebody brings me. I mean, I used to be an electrician. Well, really whether I was trying to be an electrician, like Kevin. I remember one time, and I was never good at electrical work. I can do the basics, but this three-phase stuff, and I was all right at it. But my deal is that I am such a sloppy precise person. Now you take Kyle. He is down in Wichita today, but Kyle is a perfectionist. If you ever have Kyle build you something, it will be perfect. It may take him longer than

anybody else, but it will be absolutely perfect. That is the way he is. Everything he does is perfect. I have got guys like that that you know that do other things that whatever they do, they really do a good job at it, and it is perfect. You ought to see the deck that I would build you. I am far from that. You see, in electrical thing, I could put the wires together and hook all those things up. But you know what? What really got me was cutting holes in people's ceilings. You would get a job order, and you go to a woman, say she has got this, like a fan right in the middle of my ceiling. Well, now, you know, my first response is, "Well, why in the world did not you tell him that when you were building it?" I mean, you know, "But I want it now." So now what do I do? How do you find the middle of a room? I mean the exact middle. I can eyeball it. It will look good till I put it up there. Then it is going to be off. You only get one chance of cutting a hole in the ceiling. I would hate those things. I would absolutely be paranoid about it. One lady one time, she said, "I want it. I want to tie it all together here to here to here and here." I said, "Lady, I said, I am an electrician, but I am not a magician. You got wires going everywhere here." My point is this. I am not a magician. I do not have in my office upstairs in the upper room. I do not have in that cabinet over here. Love potion number nine, 10, 11, or 12. There is no special mix that I can mix and fairy dust, but you do not want to be fairy dust. Sprinklies, and I can put on you that will make you spiritual and make you do. I just cannot. I wish I could. I understand some things. It takes 10 times longer to get out of something than it took you to get into it. That is why I always tell you, sin never leaves a man any better than it found him. The longer you wait, you have the compounding effect, and then both of you get anger that turns to bitterness that turns to hatred, then you get your pride in it. You get hurt, and then your marriage becomes a battleground, and it is like when you went down to the World War One Museum that was called the war to end all wars. But it did not, but that was a very gruesome war because it was what they called a static war. Static means you are stationary. It was a trench warfare. You had your trenches here 200 yards. You had the German trenches, and you stayed there for months. Nobody gained any ground. Nobody lost any ground. You just stood there and took pot shots at each other and lobbed a grenade every once in a while, and that is what your marriage becomes. It becomes an entrenched static warfare. Nobody gains any ground. Nobody loses any ground. It is a thing where it just becomes a problem. In my marriage enrichment series, it is on tape. I tell men and women, and it is so valuable in some areas that prolonged damage comes to the place where it just gets people to the point where they just do not want to try anymore. I am not saying that. I am just telling you what the Bible says. I am telling you the principles involved. I take people wherever they are at. I have a whole, and we will see it before we are over today. I have a whole format that I use that I follow, but I am trying to make this point, and when you talk to people at work, many times they have problems, but they do not want to do anything about them. Let me ask you a simple question, and this will illustrate what I am trying to say to you. Tonight when you go to bed and you get really sleeping good, and all of a sudden about three o'clock you wake up for some reason, and you think your house is on fire. When do you decide to call the fire department? I mean, it is a simple question. I mean when you finally smell smoke because you do not want to wake them up either. Maybe you see smoke coming under the door. Maybe some of you are right ready to go as soon as a smoke alarm goes off. Or maybe for some of you, you have

got to open the door and see the orange flames flickering in the kitchen. Or do you run outside and wait with your cell phone in hand, let your neighbors get around, and wait till the fire really gets going for you to call. Or better yet, do you wait till the kids are trapped on the second floor, and the house is totally engulfed in flames, and then say, "Okay, honey, call them now." When do you call them? My point is this. The longer you wait to get help, second by second, minute by minute, day by day, month by month, and year by year. Just like in your marriage and in your house. There comes a point of no return. You do understand that. There comes a point. You cannot save anything. Your furniture is gone. Your pets are gone. Your photos are gone. Your jewelry is gone. Your money is gone. Family members may be gone. Everything that was your life is now gone in that fire. You know the tragedy of that is it was always in your hand to avoid by the simple price of a smoke detector or the simple ability of dialing 911. Let me ask you a question. Do you have any smoke detectors in your home? Early warning systems that and you know something is going on. Let me ask you this question. Do you have any early warning smoke detectors in your marriage? Be that the key. You see, I know last week was not an easy message for a lot of people because people, and I like this, people have made mistakes, and I feel bad about this, and this is not my intent. I worry, you do not think I do, but I worry about things like that because it is always the good people are trying to do what is right who seem to take the message more to heart than they probably need to or beat themselves up, and the ones that need to take it just fly off someplace. But I feel bad, you know, some of the things I had to say last week because I know that it is never my intention to make anybody feel bad, and I certainly, you know, things are what they are, but I have a responsibility to preach the Bible no matter what. I am not saying that anybody got mad about it because you are all pretty spiritual people here, and a lot of you come to the place of that great verse in Proverbs that you love the honeycomb, even the bitter things are sweet, and that is just the way it is. But you know, all I am doing last week and today really, I mean, I know I am trying to teach you some things about working with other people, but all I am doing today and last week is passing out free smoke detectors. That is all. That is my job. My job as a pastor is to provide fire insurance. If you are unsaved here this morning, my job is to try to get you saved to keep you from the fires of hell. If you are saved this morning, my job is to give you some insurance that will ensure that you do not beat the fire of the judgment seat of Christ. So it is, and you ought to have smoke detectors in your house. You have got to have them in your marriage. You have got to be able to, you have got to be able to know when things. I mean, I will not kid you. There are some situations that get so messed up that they are unfixable, and in that case, you know what you do. You just pick up the pieces and help them as individuals to see who really wants to do what is right, and you take them where they are at and try to get them into the book and back on track. It is the way it is. You just cannot beat people up who are already beat up. You just cannot. There is no value in it. That is not what Jesus did. I think many times pastors take out their own frustrations on their people, and that is wrong. If you are here this morning and you are hurting and you have got struggles, you have got issues, you need God's people around you not to beat you up. We need to do things for you, help you, encourage you. So you made a mistake. So it is a bad mistake. We have all made bad mistakes. That is why you treat and deal with people in every situation differently because the same principles are involved, but

the different issues demand different ways that you apply it. But after years and years of warfare, sometimes you just cannot fix it. My plan, if I cannot fix you, and I say this on the top, I cannot fix you as a couple, then I will fix you as individuals and see what God does. Hey, I never give up on what God can do, but God can only do what we allow Him to do.

SEC: Rule 2: The Choice to Marry

Now the first thing he says here, and that is our first rule. The first thing he says here in 1 Corinthians 7:1 becomes our second rule. This is where we get into it. Looking back at 1 Corinthians 7:1, it says:

1 Corinthians 7:1

1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

Now that is in the sense of Genesis 26:10-11. If you do not have that verse there, you want to put it there. That means to get involved with any relationship and never marry. Now before you have a heart attack, let me explain some things. What Paul does in 1 Corinthians chapter 7 is he covers all the bases. He gives you everything in the New Testament to the church that you need to know about marriage, divorce, and remarriage. So he gives you the whole enchilada, so to speak, and he lays the whole thing out, and he says basically the first thing you need to do, and everybody needs to do this, consider the fact should you get married at all. Now I say that to say this, later on we see that this is a specific spiritual gift that God gives to certain people, very few people I might add. But it needs to be a consideration of every young man and every young lady of understanding to see where I have met people in my life over the years in my ministry, 40 some years, that function very well single. Some people God gives the ability to stay single all through life, and the aspect of lust or fornication just never becomes a real issue. God gives them that gift and that ability to be able to do that because of the fact that He has got something for them to do. Most people do not fall into that category. It is not a failure. It is not something that you have got to go out and say, "Oh, I failed God because I could not stay single." No, that is not how you look at it.

He says in verse 7:

1 Corinthians 7:7

7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

Paul was this way, but he says also in verse 9:

1 Corinthians 7:9

9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

That burn there is defined for you in Romans 1:27, the burning of passion or lusts, and most people do not fall into this category. So he says in verse 2:

1 Corinthians 7:2

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

This is the area. This is the first rule, and the first rule that everybody ought to look at before you get married, not saying it is going to happen, but it is in here. So you have got to look at it, and if you cannot stay single, it is okay. But there are people who God gives that ability and gives that gift, and that is why he puts it in here.

SEC: The Concept of Due Benevolence

Then in verse 3, we see another concept. This is not a rule, but it is a concept, and this is completely unknown to people today, and this is where you are going to begin to see how these things work. Now, let me make a blanket statement. Marriage and a successful marriage is not hard. It really is not. It is like everything else we have to do in the world today. We make it a lot harder than it is. It is like studying to learn in the Bible. That is not hard. It is like the Christian life. That is not hard. Where it becomes hard is when we try to do it our way instead of God's way, and I tell people, there are two ways to get to St. Louis. You can go right out here. We always talk this in Bible Basics class. Use it as an example. You go right down here and get on I-70, and about 230 miles, 340 miles down the road here of I-70 going East, you are going to run into St. Louis. It will take you about three and a half hours. Now, there is another way to St. Louis. Go right down and get on I-70, but go West. Go through Colorado, go through Wyoming, go all the way out to the California coast, then you get on a big ferry. Make sure it is a big one. You go all the way to the coast of China, go to China, go through India. Work your way up to Europe, make your way up through France, Germany, all those places over to the French coast, and then get on a bigger ferry and go to the United States Coast, and then pick it up in New York and then drive through New York right on down to St. Louis. See, you get two ways to get there. My point is you can get there quickly or you can get there in a long time. Take that same scenario and put it with the Bible. You, there are two ways to get the Bible. You can get it by going to St. Louis my way, or you go to Bible College and go through Hong Kong, China. It is your choice. Christian life the same way. You can get a few basics down, discipleship, work it that way, or you go through non-conglomerate China and go that way. Marriage is the same way. You can take the easy route and follow a few basic fundamental because marriage is like the Bible. It is built on just a few basic fundamental concepts that if you do not have, you are not going anywhere, and you will go through the hardest part of China. Wow. I am doing long gone by, you are going to get it to go that way.

Now look at verse 3 here. It comes the concept of due benevolence.

1 Corinthians 7:3

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

Now, verse 3 says the wife should get something called due benevolence. Now if you are not careful, that is going to be an alimony check. So let us try to avoid that. That is going both non-

Chung China the way we want to go the other way. Let us talk about benevolence for a moment. This is an unknown concept. Most husbands do not have a clue what benevolence is or how to give their wife due benevolence, and yet somebody says, "Well, it says the wife do." Yeah, but staying with the principle, talk about last week. Look who is told to do it first. Say that thing. Now benevolence is one of the greatest character qualities of God that God gives to us because benevolence means to give of yourself to and for the success of others. That is benevolence. That is benevolence.

Last week, I gave you a concept in 1 Peter 3:7 was unknown. How the husband is supposed to honor his wife as the weaker vessel. Have you anybody figured that out yet? I did not give you the answer last week, did not give it on purpose. You see what I am saying, the success of your marriage, any marriage, when you start dealing with people, is based on just four or five little concepts that make or break any marriage relationship. I told you about Jethro and Moses. I told you how it is the little things that when you deal with the little things in your life, they never become big things. Song of Solomon 2:15 says, "It is the little foxes that spoil the vines," not the big foxes.

Now, let us define this little concept here. Let us define what it means for due benevolence, what it means to give success to the others. As human beings, we have three basic needs. Male or female. We have these three basic needs, and this forms the format for our benevolence. You and I, male or female, we both have physical needs. You and I, male and female, we both have emotional needs, and you and I, male and female, we both have spiritual needs. I think that just as a side note. This is probably the number one mistake that men make because men and all people think that because we have women, men and women have the same, have the same three needs: physical, emotional, and spiritual. That may be true, but they are not met the same way. They are not met the same way. You see, as men, we get our self-worth by what we do. We really do. That is why you see you guys out there going to town out on softball or basketball or whatever sport you play. You are into it, man. I mean, you take it real seriously, and I am not saying you should. We get our self-worth by being a great salesman, doing a good job at work, good job on the ball field, whatever we do, and we get our self-worth by bagging the biggest deer, shooting the biggest turkey, catching the biggest fish. We call them bragging rights. But we take our self-worth by what we accomplish, and the mistake that guys make is they think that their wife or a woman gets her self-worth by what she does, and that is just not true. The woman does not get herself worth because she does a good job at work or she does a good job with her kid. That is not what she gets it from. The woman gets herself worth by knowing that she is the only person in the man's life that she is married to, and he is the number one. She is the number one thing in his life. That is where she gets her security. That is where she gets her self-worth.

I went to a, I live right behind Raytown South, and I will give you an example of this about three or four years ago. It has been now. I went up there. They had kids playing. They play football. I guess it was, it was not a big one, it was a varsity, not a varsity. It was junior varsity, whatever it was in the afternoon. So I went up, and I like to watch them play. So I was sitting down here about four rows back from the front, and mom and dad obviously were, mom and dad were sitting in front. Their kid was quarterback. The reason I know that is because they both had

jerseys with his number on, his name on it. So that was the first clue I had, and the kid was a pretty good quarterback. Of course, I know nothing about football. So I mean, could have been blind and deaf, and I would have thought he was good. But anyway, one play, they snap the ball, and it becomes what they call in football a broken play. I am not sure what that means. But anyway, he was scrambling, and like any good quarterback, he is going to get what he can get for his team, and I appreciate about the kid. He tucked the ball into his arm, put his helmet down. He ran through the thing and did not get very far. About four linemen, about 600 pounds of raw meat, just killed him, just clobbered him, and I never forgot. I was sitting there, and his mom and dad both stood up. The dad, the mom stood up, and she put her hands over her mouth. She said, "Oh my God, they are going to kill him." Her dad stands up and said, "That a boy, son, give it to him again." See, I said, I was sitting right there. I said, "See there. They look at it differently." She looked at it, "They just killed my baby." He looked at it, "Son, you really plowed into him good. Good job." Now there it is. See, the needs are not the same, and the biggest mistake we make is thinking that they are.

You remember the basic concepts about the Bible when God created a woman that she is not even a direct creation. The Bible tells her she is the weaker vessel. Why in Genesis 5:2, she does not even have her own name. It says that they called their name Adam. Adam gave her her name Eve. That is why a woman who is not married does not have her own name. She has the name of her husband, and when she gets married, she takes the name of her father. When she gets married, she takes the name of her husband. She does not even have her own last name because she is not a direct creation because of the way God made her. Genesis 3:16 tells us that the Bible says that the woman's desire will be to her husband. She is totally dependent on man, either her husband or her father, for those basically three needs that do benevolence, and God meets those. God meets those things. God meets those things in a man through the Word of God and his growth as he gets into the Bible, and a woman can come to church all day long, and she can grow and do some thing, but the bottom line is she will not really grow. She will not really be what she needs to be until the husband takes those things that he has got from God and then gives those three things to her because that is due benevolence. Now that does not mean that he has to sit down and have your own Bible study. Some people do, some people do not. There was no real format to it. I am not suggesting that if you are not doing it this way that you are not doing it right. There are a number of ways you can do it. The bottom line is as long as it gets done.

You see, I am your pastor. I meet the three needs of this church. This church has the same three needs. You have physical needs. You have emotional needs, and you have spiritual needs. When I teach you the Bible, I teach you and put heavy emphasis on what Bible principles, you know why, because in a church as a Christian, those are the things that when you apply them to your life make a strong Christian that makes a strong church. Okay, in your marriage relationship, you are the pastor. Just as I said many, many times, maybe it makes better sense to you now if this church falls and fails. I will not blame on anybody. It is my responsibility as a pastor, but I carry that thing right over into my marriage, into your marriage. The bottom line is you are the pastor. It is not a question whether you are or you are not. The question is, are you a good pastor or are you not? You see, same thing with me. Due benevolence is simply you meeting her needs through the Word of God and then her in return meeting you. That is why she is called to help

me. This is due benevolence. Your wife will be whatever you decide to do with this concept. Shall she be married the mother of Jesus who is the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, or shall she be Job's wife, "Curse God and die"? But it is in your hands. It is in your hand. And failure to meet those three needs will always lead to a complete breakdown. It goes right back to what I said last week that you try to run something that God ordained marriage by your own set of rules. You see, there is a format in this benevolence meeting her spiritual needs. However, you decide to do that. However, that works. It does not work the same way for everybody, but she gets her spiritual stability through you, and then that forms the basis for meeting her emotional needs, and that will be her emotional stability. Sure. She gets them from the Bible, but she gets them reinforced through the due benevolence. Then that forms the basis for meeting and fulfilling the physical needs, the ministry, the family, the day-to-day things. It is just like your relationship with Christ. Your marriage should get better and closer and tighter and more defined as the years go by.

SEC: The One Body Concept

Now the next thing he says in verse 4, he said:

1 Corinthians 7:4

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

That is the one body concept. Now this concept is found and explained in Genesis 2:23 and other places in the Bible. Adam says back there in Genesis 2:23, a very interesting statement. He says, "She is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh." But notice he does not say anything about blood because Adam back then, he says bone of bones and flesh of flesh. You see the bone of bones is the physical relationship, but the flesh of flesh is the spiritual relationship. That is why in Luke 24:39 when Jesus comes out of the tomb and he is got that spiritual body and Thomas comes over to him. He says, "See the hands, the holes in my hands and my feet." He says, "A spirit does not have flesh and bone." There is nothing about blood. You know why? Because that is his spiritual body. So the bone of my bone represents the physical part of the relationship, but the flesh of the flesh, that is something else. Adam did not have any sinful flesh. This is before the fall, Genesis chapter 2. He had some kind of flesh that did not know sin. No sin was imputed to it. Jesus certainly did not have any sin in Luke chapter 24. He just come out of the tomb after the crucifixion. You see Ephesians 5:31 says again adds to it:

Ephesians 5:31

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.

Now that is a spiritual union. That is a spiritual unit takes place in marriage. Verse 32 ties it together. He says:

Ephesians 5:32

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

See how it works. I mean most marriages all they ever get concerned about and all they ever fulfill, and they do not even do this very well, is the physical side of things. And they never even get close to the other two and then wonder why they have issues. It is not about just how your wife's body belongs to you and hers to you. It is not about that. It is together your one body as to what Christ wants you to do and be for him.

Here is how it works. Here is how it works. Here is the bottom line. Mark and Sonia left, so I will use them as an example. They are going to get married today. Got a man over here and a woman over here. This is Mark. This is Sonia. They are going to go through all the traditional ramifications. Many of you will be there. I will walk down the aisle, and they are going to come home, and two are going to get married. We are going to go through Ephesians and talk about that, and the Bible says that today that these two are becoming one. Basically, we will meet you through the marriage ceremony, and I know that does not do the trick for you, but it is the thing where this is the concept. So next week when they get back from their honeymoon or next week whenever we see them, whenever we come back, if they when they were to get back around here, you will see Mark come in, and you will see Sonia come in. Oh, wait a minute. This is not right. You are supposed to be one. You are supposed to, Mark and Sonia are supposed to be inside each other. I mean, you know, no more Mark and no more Sonia. The Bible said you two become one. What is going on here? You are still separate. It is a spiritual thing.

Now, let me tell you how it works in God's mind. This is why God ordained marriage. This is why there is no, there are no grounds for divorce for the church. But there are reasons when the two get married in God's sight, those two become one spiritually. Not physically. They are still separate people, but in God's mind, the two become one. Well, how can you have that be a marriage takes two to make a marriage if the two become one? How in the world can you make that a marriage? It says a man and a wife. They are going to be married, but then they join themselves. Each other to become one flesh. We got a problem here. What it takes to be in that marriage. That is correct. This is why God ordained marriage because of what it represents, and this is what it brings into the Bible that most people never figure out that when the two become one at that point when that marriage is joined together. They do not have a marriage because it takes two to have a marriage. There needs to be another person that makes up the point of that marriage. You know who that person is? That person is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. When those two become one, and Christ becomes the second part of that marriage. You figure it out from there. You tell me now that does not happen. Somebody said, "What? It did not happen to my man." It does not happen in most marriages. I am not saying that to make you feel bad. I am saying that because I am here to help you pick up your fire alarm on the way out. Would you please? Every room in the house but one in your car, that way when you smoke a cigarette, it will go off, and you will be knowing your trouble. But anyway, I am telling you this is a spiritual thing. That is why the stuff from the Old Testament does not fit into it.

SEC: Defrauding and the Three Needs

Now here is look what he says in verse 5. This is another concept here.

1 Corinthians 7:5

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Incontinency, if you do not have it down in here, that is lack of control. Now, I know what the verse is basically teaching. It says basically, do not use sex or the lack of sex as a weapon to get what you want or to punish someone. I understand all that. But it also says there will be times that the two people have a consent to abstain from it because maybe it is something they are going through or spiritually or whatever. It is whatever it is. But he uses a very strong word here. And it is the word defraud. Now fraud or defraud is deceit or deception. Fraud is to gain control or advantage over someone by a deception. You see when husband and wives use the physical, and that is all they ever have to base their whole relationship on. And they never get the other two together. Remember now it is three. It is spiritually, physically, and emotionally because in the Bible, three is the number of completion. So you have got to have all three of them. Based on what I always said, when a marriage is just built on a relation of physical, and the other two are never met. Then basically that is all you have is the physical, or if you use your physical relationship, and it is not a direct result of the spiritual and the emotional, then he is saying your marriage and your relationship, you are defrauding each other. It is more about just the physical. All three needs that we have need to come out of the other and need to work together. In other words, you have your, you have your emotional relationship. I assume your spiritual relationship builds into the emotional, the emotional builds into the physical, then everything is balanced out.

You see marriage is no harder than as I said earlier the Christian life on learning the Bible. It is not hard. The first thing you do in all three cases, say, "I want to, I want to learn the Bible." Okay, somebody else says, "Well, I want to have a good Christian strong life." Okay, so much as, "I want to have a good marriage." Okay, the first thing you do is you change who you are. If it is a married relationship, then you find your role in the Bible biblically defined as the husband and wife, and then you start to learn how to make that thing work. Just that simple, and many of you have done that. Mark and Sonia have done that. You build a Christian life the same way. You build a Christian life by applying Bible principles. You see if you want to build your Christian life, you change who you are, and then you do this, you build a strong Christian life by the application of biblical principles. You want to learn the Bible. Okay, change who you are. And then you learn the Bible by application of Bible basics. See now you want to build a good marriage. Okay, change who you are, and by the application of these basic concepts, the due benevolence, not defrauding, honor the wife as the weaker vessel, get into Ephesians 5, find your role, and then you, that is how you do it. It is not hard. It is simple. It is just following the basic three or four things that you have to get and you have to define.

Of course, you know, I will give you a great verse, and this is a great verse for many, many things. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is found, you do not have to turn to it. I will just tell you, you can look it up later, and you need to mark it, found in Job 9:4. It says, it is two parts to the verse:

Job 9:4

4 He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

That first part of the verse basically says God can fix any issue you have. He is wise in heart. He has all the wisdom to show you how that get into the message you got in, and he is mighty in power. He has the ability to deliver you from whatever you are dealing with. That is a great verse. God can fix any issue you have. God has the wisdom to do it and the might and the power to get it done. That is a great verse. "He is wise in heart, and mighty in power," but "who have hardened himself against him and prosper." See that thing? He may have, God may be able to fix any issue you got, be have the power to do it and wisdom to do it. But you have to stop doing it your way and start doing it his way. You cannot continue on anybody in any situation. You cannot continue on. There are seven basic universal laws in the Bible. They are absolute laws. It is like the law of gravity. Everything in the universe, everything around you operates on these seven laws. Two of them deal with you and me. The first one is the law of sowing and reaping. Galatians 6:7. The second one is the law of human collapse that Judges 21:25. These two laws automatically go into effect the moment you and I do anything outside the word of God. The moment we step out into a relationship, the moment we violate the biblical principles, the moment we go do our own thing, these two laws began to go into effect. You see in Christianity. We get saved, and we live our lives any way we want, and a search for sexual come up or relationship will come up or circumstances will come up or an opportunity will come up totally wrong. But we will step into that relationship or step into this scenario, and because God's judgment is not immediate. You know because lightning does not come down and kill you on the spot or you see the neighbor's house being blown up, and then God saying change your ways or yours is next. His name was on the list right before yours because judgment is not immediate. We think we got away with it. That is human nature. We are all that way. And that is just not true. There is an absolute law of sowing and reaping and an absolute law of human collapse. We get into marriage, have absolutely no idea what it is, how it works, how it runs, and off we go two, three, four, five, six, ten years later. It is all done. We ask you scratch our head and wonder why it is not that God cannot fix your marriage. It is the fact that you have to do right for him to fix it, and by that time in most cases, doing right together is not an option. That is why you take people where they are at. That is why you try to help them. This is not a bit of gloom and doom message. This is the facts of life about relationships given in 1 Corinthians chapter 7. There is no reason for anybody on this planet in this room to feel bad about whatever situation you were in, out of, or whenever, as long as you want to do what the Bible says, the light is green.

SEC: The Man's Responsibility in Marriage

Now guys, let me leave you one more thing here, and now we are going to be done. I want to clear up something that many times has been a bad definition of things, and I think it leads to a lot of things. I am going to leave you with one last verse, and it is totally using wrong context. I do want everybody to turn over here. Turn over to Mark chapter 10. We take people wherever they are at. We do not beat them up for where they have been or what they have done. Our job is to help people, but we have to realistically understand that sometime before a person is willing to get to that point, a lot of damage can get done. So we help do whatever we can. We take the same

position here that God takes whenever you are ready. We are ready. But let me leave you with this guys. This is very important.

Mark 10:1-9

1 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.

3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For 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 cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Now here is the verse, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Now the standard teaching of verse 9 is you hear it all the time, "Do not let any other man come in and destroy your marriage." That is the standard Baptist teaching. I have always been a little worried about that because it did not say anything about the woman. I mean they have done their share tearing up marriages. But it basically says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." We are famous for taking verses out of context. But when you get the context of this of verse 9, the man of verse 9 is the same man of verse 7 and verse 2. That is not talking about just some man coming into your marriage. This man here are the hardness of his heart. This man here not wanting to do what is right. In other words, the only man that can put asunder your marriage, fellas, is you and me. We are the only ones. Not your wife. He said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," and the man of verse 9 is the man of verse 2 and the man of verse 7. He is the man who wants to get rid of his wife for every cause. As Christ and the church, as the Lord of your marriage, you have the power, and you and me alone, like it or not, you and I have the power to put it together or put it to asunder. That thing is based on the hardness of their heart. So when you understand that concept, you will realize that the whole aspect of marriage is based on just a few simple basic absolute principles that no matter where you are at, no matter how many failures you have had, no matter how you failed, you can fix it.

Last story. Back in Genesis. Story Cain and Abel. The Bible says that Abel was a keeper of the sheep, Cain was a tiller of the ground. There came a day that they were going to bring their sacrifices before the Lord. The Bible says that Abel went out and took one of the flock, obviously a little lamb, killed that, brought it in as a sacrifice, and the Bible says God had respect unto his

sacrifice. Cain, being a great farmer that he was, he walked out into his field, and I am sure he looked at the best crops he had, and I am absolutely certain that he picked the very best that he had, and he brought it into the Lord to offer it for sacrifice. You know what the Bible says that the Lord had respect unto Abel's sacrifice, but he did not have respect unto Cain's. Then a great verse in the Bible. When the Lord meets Cain, the first thing he says to him, "Why has thy countenance fallen?" You know what countenance fallen means? It means you are not happy as you were 10 seconds ago. Obviously something has been said to you. Now you are mad. Now you are upset because of the fact that I accepted your brother's, but I did not accept yours. You know what, anytime you preach something like this, you probably have people just like that. Some people's inside, maybe you are not showing on the outside, and your countenance now is down. But let me say something to you. I will say the same thing the Lord said to Cain. He says, "Cain, why is thy countenance fallen?" Cain said, "Because you accepted his, you did not accept mine." The Lord says, "What is the problem? You go get one from one of his lambs and bring it over to me. I will accept it just like that." And the Bible says Cain left the presence of the Lord. You know what the problem was not the sacrifice. The problem was Cain did not want to do what was right. Now, you know, bottom line is simply this. Hey, do what is right. I do not care where you are at, could care less. It is never too late to do what is right until you are dead. It is a thing where these concepts are absolutely infallible when these concepts carry through all the way through the Bible, and it is our job as a church to bring people in who are hurting, bring people in who have needs, and then help them with those needs and help them with those needs.

All right. You learned two principles today.

5. You learned that in the Old Testament there are grounds for divorce, but in the New Testament there are not.
6. Then you learned a great concept to stay single if you can and not to take a wife. But if you cannot, then follow the rules in 1 Corinthians chapter 7 because that is a gift. We have probably seen a lot of principles go along with it.

Next week, we are going to define what marriage is. We are going to move right on into this thing, and you will see how these principles apply. Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We do.