

1 Corinthians 7

Sunday 6/12/2011

I want to invite you to turn again back to 1 Corinthians 7. For those of you that are visiting today, we have been coming through the Bible, taking a book-by-book look at how Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, is revealed in every book. We know that the Bible is written around the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and there are many attributes of Christ throughout the Bible. One of the greatest ways to study Him is to see how each book of the Bible represents something about the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the book of 1 Corinthians, we have come to the fact that in this book, the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed as Christ our Lord. This is interesting because, as we know, the church in 1 Corinthians has a lot of issues. Chapter by chapter, you find that they are struggling with things that, very frankly, are what most Christians struggle with. As a church, like most Christians today, they are spiritually immature. Paul calls them spiritual babies. They have many problems in their life, many struggles within the church, and chapter by chapter, he goes through and really focuses on and deals with these issues.

For us, that is a great thing because it shows us, as the church, the cause and effect of why things happen to people the way that they do, and then it gives us the insight into how we, as the church, are to reach out and to help people. When we got into 1 Corinthians chapter 7, I told you we were going to take our time with this because in this particular chapter, he deals with one of the greatest issues that not only was an issue for them, but it stands for the major issue that we deal with in churches today. That is the issue of people getting married, then people getting divorced, and then people getting remarried.

The Bible has a lot to say about that, and obviously, we saw how marriage was defined in the Bible. We have taken this chapter and talked about why we want to spend some time with it. I want you to understand that not only have many of you been through that scenario, but if God puts people into your life who are struggling with things caught in this area, and God wants you to be the one He uses to help that person get through it, you need to understand what the Bible says. You have already been able to see, if you have been with us every week, that the Bible's treatment of this is a radical turnabout from what most churches do and how they look at it, simply because most of them do not follow the Bible anymore.

I. Review of Previous Rules and Biblical Concepts

We have come through this, and so far, we have talked about the twenty basic rules that you follow in the aspect of these three areas: marriage, divorce, and remarriage. We have now looked at six of them.

1. Rule number one, if you remember, was the fact that in the Old Testament, there were grounds for divorce. Moses gave those grounds because of the hardness of the people's heart. But in the New Testament, there are no grounds for divorce. That is why we now know there should be nothing that two Christians cannot work out together. In a perfect world, that may be true, but as we have said many, many times, we do not live in a perfect world; therefore,

we have the reasons that we have, and we have been talking about that, and we will talk about that again today.

2. The second rule was that Paul talked about the gift of celibacy, being able to stay single and never marry. We know that that is not for everybody. I would say today it is probably not for hardly anybody, but it is a gift that God gives to certain people, and we covered that.
3. We talked about how the Bible says that the saved person, and the example was the wife, is not to leave her husband. That is because we are supposed to be able to work things out, and we talked about that.
4. In the very next verse, we saw that he gave a New Testament exception, and that is what we call and now understand as a biblical separation. Sometimes the situation gets so volatile, sometimes it gets so absolutely impossible that the only way that you can deal with it is to basically go to neutral corners, and under the structure of a New Testament local church with people involved in helping you, then in time, you can try to get that worked out and get back together.

We added two more last week, and we talked about particular circumstances where you have people that find themselves where we talked about the reasons for this, that maybe a saved person is now married to an unsaved person, whether it be a man or a woman, or a woman to a man.

5. We talked about the Bible says, and the fifth one was that if a man is with an unsaved wife, and they get along, and the unsaved wife is pleased to dwell with him, the husband is not just to say, "Well, I am a Christian now, or I got right with God, so I have to leave you." That is not an option; that is not what you do.
6. Rule number six was the reverse of that: you have a woman with an unsaved husband, and they get along, and that happens many, many times. The Bible says that just because now you recognize that you should not have married an unsaved person, however it happened, you do not leave that person; you stay with them. We now know why, and we are going to talk about it again here just a little bit, because that is what God does. God will reach down through the person who wants to do what is right and will always inject Himself in any scenario through that. That is why it is so important not only to always do what is right but to always understand the biblical principles.

Along with these rules, we have learned a ton of biblical concepts, and I cannot tell you how important those are and how, in this particular area, when you learn these, they really become the backbone of how you deal with people. You have heard me say, and I say it again, that everybody is different; every circumstance is different. It is hard for me to stand up here and give a textbook scenario that fits everything that you deal with; that is not going to happen. But the biblical principles are always the same. You may have to vary in how you use them.

I used the example of a lawyer last week with a law library. When he has a case that he has to defend, he will go to his law library and pull out many, many law books that deal with case law on the particular subject he is going to do. He may get fourteen or fifteen books so that he is prepared to understand all of the ramifications of what he is going to have to defend. For you and for me, we need to do the same thing, not with law books, but with biblical principles. You ought

to build in your life a library of biblical principles that you keep in here, out of the Word of God, that helps you work through and deal with everything in your life.

A lady said to me a couple of weeks ago, and we were talking about some issues that she was going through, and she said to me something that many people have said to me many, many times in the last many years of my life. She basically said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if God just came down and made every decision that you had to make for you?" She said, "Life would be so simple if God would just come down and make every decision you had to make so you would never get screwed up." She said that to me, and she is a nice lady; she did not go to our church. Yes, there are nice ladies that do not go to our church. She said that to me, and she was as honest as she could be. I looked at her and I smiled, and I said, "Well, you know what? I really appreciate what you said, but the truth of the matter is, He has already made every decision for you; He just put it in a book."

I have news for you: He has made every decision for you that you have got to make. You will never have to make a decision by yourself; you never have to. God is not going to come down and tell you individually when you are faced with a problem, but He wrote you a book of principles that tells you exactly how to make every decision in life, based on just as good as He was already there. You know what the Bible says over there in Peter, do you not? It says, "We have a more sure word of prophecy," and that more sure word of prophecy, if you read that context, is more sure than the very voice of God. The reason why that verse is in there is because God does not come down and speak to us anymore audibly like He did to the prophets and Moses and those guys in the Old Testament. He does not do that because now He has given us His written revelation, the Word of God, which is the very voice of God, which gives you the mind of God, which gives you everything you need never to make a wrong decision.

Truthfully, she is a nice lady, and I really like this lady, and I think she is obviously saved. But you know what the truth of the matter is? If God came down today and started telling us about the decisions we have got to make tomorrow, you know what some of us would do? We would not listen to Him anyhow. We think the fact that God would come down and stand in our presence and say, "Bob, this is what you need to do," that that suddenly would make us do it. It does not work that way. Human nature is not any different if God was here than if He is in that book, and He is here; He is living inside you if you are saved. So, we get these ideas that, "Oh, if God would just come down and tell me..." Hey, He has already told you what to do, and the fact is, we do not listen to Him, and that is why we make the problems we get into.

So, we have learned a lot of great biblical principles on how God views the issue of marriage, divorce, and remarriage, and we have got some really good, solid Bible definitions now. We saw last week also how God sanctifies the marriage; that means He sets it apart. He sets apart the marriage for the saved person and the children. So, we know now that if a person does find himself in a situation where one is saved and one is not, however it happens, God does not throw you under the bus. He always covers our weaknesses, and He always makes a way.

I think that at the end of last week's message, and I have really tried to put this all the way through the message, and it is certainly true today in this message, I think the greatest single

teaching that comes from this chapter when you read it and get all of the rules together, get all the principles together, is the great fact that there is always, in any situation we find ourselves, something that we can do. God never leaves us in a place where there are no options for us. Granted, the longer you wait to fix the problem, the harder the option may be. The longer you wait to deal with the problem, the harder it may be.

There is a great story in the Bible, and this is so true. If you go through the New Testament, you will find that there are three or four different people that are dead in the Bible. When you find them in the Bible, somebody dead, especially in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, it is always going to be a picture of an unsaved person.

The first little girl, the story you find, is a little girl that is twelve years old. This little girl is twelve years old, and she is dead. Jesus goes into her, and they say she has died, and He brings her back to life, and immediately, she is up and on her way, and she is doing everything that she needs to do.

Then, as you go on through the Bible in the New Testament, there is another story about a guy that probably is in his thirties or forties, and he is dead. Here, too, it is a picture of an unsaved man, and Jesus brings him back to life. You know, that is the picture: if you are here this morning and you are not saved, you may be walking around, talking, eating, driving a car, but spiritually, you are dead. You are as dead as any man in the cemetery spiritually. So, these pictures of people who are physically dead in the Bible, when God brings them back to life, it is a picture of you and me before we were saved, how we were dead in trespasses of sin. But when Jesus saved us, He brought us, as the old song says, "out of the darkness into the light," and now you are alive in Christ Jesus.

So, this guy is about thirty or forty, and when he dies, and He brings him back, he needs help. He just does not get up and bebop around like the twelve-year-old; he needs help. They feed him, and they help him to walk.

Then you have a man in the Bible who is an old guy; his name is Lazarus. He is probably seventy or eighty years old, and he dies. When he dies, Jesus shows up. You know the story of Mary and Martha, and Jesus says, "Lazarus, come forth!" And Lazarus comes back from the dead. But in this particular case, now keep in mind, you had a little twelve-year-old girl, and you are told that she is twelve; she is up, gone. You have the guy who is in his thirties or forties; once he comes back to life, he gets life, he needs a lot of help. Then you have Lazarus, who is probably in his seventies or eighties, and when he dies and is brought back to life, the Bible says he is wrapped in grave clothes. The Bible says that Jesus says that the people around him, "Loose him, and let him go." They had to completely unwind him from all of the grave clothes.

Do you know what those three pictures represent? They represent that the longer you wait to get saved, the harder it is to do something for God after you get saved. The little girl, twelve years old, up and at him. The guy, thirty or forty, he had to have help. But Lazarus, after seventy and eighty years, you do not just walk away from seventy or eighty years of living your life and doing your own thing and then serve God; he needs a lot of help.

My point is this: the longer you wait to get help, the longer you wait to get what you need in your marriage relationship or even your own personal relationship, the harder it is. But the great concept is that God always has something that you can do. There will never be a time in your life, and if you do not hear anything else I say this morning, because maybe somebody is here that is not saved, or maybe you are here this morning, and you are really left out in left field as far as your own personal relationship with God, but my point is this: there will never be a time in your life that God will not help you get where you need to get, to get out from under the weight of what you are under. But there will come a time where God will not be able to help you because you will put yourself so far down, you will not allow God to help you. My advice to you: never get to that state. My advice to you: do not ever let that happen. Get to the place in your life as quickly as you can that no matter how hard it may be, no matter what you have got to do, you do what God says to do in that book to get your life where God wants it to be, whether you are saved or lost. The longer you wait, the harder it is going to be.

Then we looked at three new aspects that we put into a marriage relationship that really kind of gave it more clarity. That is the aspect of lordship, fellowship, and relationship.

- Lordship is your own personal relationship with God.
- Fellowship is the walk that you have with God.
- Relationship is as you take those two and bring them into the relationship with your spouse.

This goes back to saying the great principle that your marriage together will only be as strong as your individual relationship is separately, and that is just the way that it is.

Then we wove one great theme through our message last week, and we are going to do so again today, and that is the great concept that is found in verse 15, and it simply says, "But God hath called us to peace." The bottom line with the Bible is reconciliation, and true reconciliation. You always find husbands and wives who, in any given scenario, once they get separated or even they get divorced or they have all kinds of problems, they will say whatever they have got to say. They will say, "I will do whatever I have got to do." Then once they get back together, then it starts to go back, and the guy begins to get an attitude, or the gal begins to get an attitude, and now they begin to renege on what they said they were going to do, and it goes right back to where it was before. I am not talking about that. I am talking about God has called us to true peace, and the only way that you, in a marriage scenario, can understand and have the true reality that is really real is under the structure of a New Testament local church that keeps both parties accountable.

Human nature by itself will always take the shortcut. Human nature by itself, usually whatever the problem is that you have in a marriage, it will always be the thing you have got to watch the most because it will never just eradicate itself and go away. It will always be something you have to keep your thumb on. It will always be something you have to keep the biblical principles built around because it will always creep out of the box, and it will always come back and be your problem if you do not deal with it biblically and honestly.

I have seen that with alcoholics. Most alcoholics do not think they are alcoholics. Most alcoholics think they can handle the drinking, and they really cannot. So, unless something really

radically changes in their life, nothing really changes. Let me tell you something, and this is a great principle: I do not know what your problem is. Over the years, I have seen many, many problems that people have had that have caused them to split up. Many times it is alcohol; alcohol is a terrible thing. Many times it is drugs. Many times it is just other things in your life. Many times I have seen many, many men have tremendous anger problems where their anger gets explosive, and you could not tell them they have an anger problem any more than you could tell the guy that is an alcoholic he is an alcoholic, because only other people really see our problem because we do not get honest with ourselves.

The bottom line is this: I do not care what you do, where you go. You can have an alcohol problem; you could go to Alcoholics Anonymous for a hundred years. You could have an anger problem, and you could get everybody's book on it, and you could spend the rest of your life living next to Dr. Phil. You could have a problem and go through the rest of your life doing what everybody tells you. But I have some great bad news for you: until you look at whatever your problem is and you see it as God sees it and you hate it like God hates it, you will never change it. You can go to Alcoholics Anonymous for the rest of your life. If you do not see how God hates it and make that hatred your hatred against the thing that ruins your family, ruins your life, you are never going to change it. If you do not see your anger issue as something that is going to destroy everything and has destroyed everything and will continue to destroy everything, and you do not see that as God sees it and put it under a structure of a New Testament church where you can be held accountable and deal with it, you will never change it. You will just go back to say, "I am sorry," she is dumb enough to believe you, and it just moves right on down the line. Of course, that is why these things never get solved.

God has called us to peace. I did not give you the references for this last week, so I am going to give you them now. I told you that the peace of God is in two formats:

- Peace with God in the Bible is found in Romans 5:1. That is the day you got saved. The day you got saved, you made peace with God.
- In Philippians 4:7, after you get saved, you do not have to make peace with God anymore. Now you have the peace of God, and that passes all understanding, and the Bible says it keeps your hearts and minds. That will be found in Philippians 4:7.

II. The Solomon Principle

Now today, we want to begin reading again in chapter 7, and we want to pick it up around verse 12 and then come down through verse 24 as we move through this chapter. But before we do that, I have injected great concepts into this because I think the concepts that I give you help you better understand not only the context of what we are reading but how to use it, and it gives you an insight into some things. So, I have throughout this stopped for a moment of time and injected things into this that helps you get definition, that helps you understand biblical principles, how they are laid out. At this time, I think it is time to give you this. It is probably for me the greatest single principle that I follow in dealing with people, human beings, and human nature. I am going to introduce to you probably the single greatest principle that I follow.

Now, I have a lot of principles that I follow, but there is one simple principle that everything I deal with, it goes back to this. Either some principles will apply maybe to this situation or not for this one or this one or that one, or maybe this will apply to these group over here. This one will go to everything that you deal with. Some of you already know it because you have worked with me with people for many years, and we have talked about it, and I have showed you how to use it. Many of you have. I do not ever, I have never preached on this before, I do not think. I do not think we ever had this question in Bible study. It probably got out by word of mouth if some of you know it or in private times. But this is the greatest single principle that I use in dealing with people that helps me understand what I am dealing with.

Now, I told you this before: I do not judge people. I do not care what problems you have. A husband and a wife can come in, and he can be this, or she can be this, and I never look at one worse than the other. You just cannot do that in dealing with people. A sin is sin. We look at things differently. A guy steals \$250,000 out of a credit union someplace, and somebody at work, going down the thing, sees a dollar bill laying on a guy's desk, and nobody is looking around, he puts it into his pocket. In the world that we live in, we think there is a difference because obviously \$250,000 is a lot different monetarily than a dollar. But you know what? God does not see the \$250,000 or the dollar. God just sees the heart of two thieves. So, you have got to learn those things. God does not see the dollar amount. Now, obviously, the dollar amount will have more ramifications with it. The dollar, you probably get away with. You are going to go to prison for the \$250,000, probably. But God does not see the amount. God just simply sees the heart of two thieves.

You know what God knows? God knows what we do not know or do not want to know. God knows that the guy that stole the dollar would have stole the \$250,000 if he had a chance. He just did not get that big opportunity, so he took what he could get. I do not ever deal with people and judge them. I really do not. I know people are people. I know we all have our problems. I know that human nature. I follow what God says in the Old Testament when He talked about Israel. One of the greatest passages back there, He is talking about Israel, and He talked about all that she did to Him and how He loved her, and she stuck the stick in His eye, both eyes. You say, "Well, in Revelation, the Bible says He has got seven eyes." Well, then she stuck Him in all seven eyes. But she just stuck Him, and yet at the end of that thing, He says, "Ah, but you were just flesh. You were weak. You are like the grass that grows up, and the sun comes up, and you melt away." He understands that we have problems. He understands that we are human. That does not lessen the consequences of disobeying God because those automatic principles, Galatians 6:7, start to come in. But God does not judge us yet. God will judge us at the Great White Throne Judgment if you are lost, or at the Judgment Seat of Christ if you are a Christian. Right now, you are supposed to judge yourself.

So, I never judge people. People come in with problems. You know what? I just take them where they are at. The Bible says, "Yet even though I do not judge people," the Bible says in 1 Corinthians, it talks about the fact that "he that is spiritual judges all things." You do not judge people, but I do make a judgment on what people do because it is not about you; it is not

personal. It is just that if you do right things, good things are going to happen to you. If you do bad things, bad things are going to happen to you.

The principle that I use in dealing with people, and every time I talk with them in any scenario, it is probably the single greatest principle I ever use, and it is found in 1 Kings chapter 3. I want to introduce to you, for most of the people that do not know this, the Solomon Principle. I think this is single-handedly the greatest principle that you will use in dealing with people, and you are going to see how it fits into what we are talking about today. I purposely waited until we got to this section so you would be able to make the correlation between the two.

Now, I am going to pick it up in 1 Kings chapter 3, verse 16. I am going to read you a story.

1 Kings 3:16-27

Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.

And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

Now, you can see the problem. It is an honor. Now, this is the problem you are going to get into every time two people come into your house or your office or wherever you talk to them. This is the problem you are going to have when a single person comes in and starts to tell you their version of whatever their problem is in life.

Then said the king, "The one says, 'This is my son that lives, and your son is dead.' And the other says, 'Nay, but your son is the dead, and this son is the living.'" And the king said, "Bring me a sword." And they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other." Then spoke the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it." But the other said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it." Then the king answered and said, "Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof."

1 Kings 3:28

And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

Now, I have got to confess to you, I read that story years and years ago, and there is another place where it is accounted in the Bible, and it says after this great event that all Israel wondered after the wisdom of Solomon. I have got to be honest with you, when I first read that, I thought that was probably a pretty stupid thing to do. I mean, I did not see the wisdom in it. I mean, what if they both would have said, "Go ahead and cut it in half"? Would Solomon have done that? And then, as I grew up in time and learned my Bible and started working with people and getting principles in the Word of God, one day, the lights came on. I understood exactly what he is talking about here.

You see, this scenario fits every scenario that I deal with. It fits every scenario that you are going to deal with because Solomon did not know these women from Adam. He did not know Adam either, but he did not know them in any way, shape, or form. Yet the Bible says they are both harlots. Both of their characters are in question. Neither one of them are married. They obviously have these children out of wedlock. They are harlots, and now they come before the king who does not know them from anybody, and they are laying out and talking this great story. Now, he does not know who is telling the truth or who is not. He does not have a clue of which one is being honest and which one is lying. He does know that one of them is lying. Figure it out. I mean, they both, reading the thing, they both sound pretty convincing to me.

You are going to get in scenarios sometime where people come in and they start telling you their issues, and you want to believe them, but if you are smart, you take caution in believing what somebody says. I have learned over the years that people tell their side of the story simply by telling their side of the story. They want to—it is human nature—we want to make us not look as bad as we really are. That is why people who have problems, they do not always want to admit they have a problem. We all have one inherent character from Adam's fall, and you notice it all the way back with Adam and Eve, and that is that we like to blame our problems on somebody else.

When Adam and Eve were in the garden, they had a perfect setup back there, and the devil showed up. You know what happened? You know what happened when God came down and finally cornered them and got them together? He said, "Adam, what did you do?" What did Adam say? He said, "Well, the woman you gave me gave me that food." See, he blames it on her.

Then God looked at her, and He said, "What did you do, woman?" She said, "The devil." She blames it on the devil. Rule number one is nobody really wants to take personal responsibility for who they really are. Poor devil gets blamed for more things than we could ever think of. I have a shock for you: next time you think the devil is coming down and laying on you and giving you all kinds of problems, I have some great news for you. The devil does not waste interballistic cotton missiles on mosquitoes. The devil is not going to come after you or me. You know why? He does not have to. We will do a fine job of screwing ourselves up. That is why we get the idea that the devil is hovering over us, giving us all... No, no, no, no, no. That is what you read in "Hot Stuff" comics; that is not true. You see it on a paranormal; that is not the way it works in the Bible. He does not waste his time with you and me. Why? Your flesh and my flesh will do just fine because that is the way it works. You did not see any devil back there in Genesis 3 when God is meeting with them. He is gone. He is over behind the bushes laughing someplace. He is watching the whole thing go down. No, human nature said, "No, the woman God, you gave me, she did it." And then she said, "Well, the devil that you created, he made me do it." That is what we do.

The Solomon Principle fixes that. Solomon had no idea, and you are going to find yourself when they come in and they talk to you that you do not know really who is telling the truth and who is not because everybody likes to tell it from their position. Yet, cutting two kids in two does not sound—it sounds pretty stupid to me. It is like telling somebody, "If you just come to church, get in the Bible, come to Thursday night Bible study, and get in the prayer group, and start putting the Word of God in your life, it will solve all your problems." That sounds pretty stupid too, but it works.

As I got older, I saw what he was talking about, and I saw the great spiritual principle because Solomon calling for a sword and threatening to cut that child in two, to simplify it, the sword produced who was lying. The New Testament principle goes along with this in Hebrews chapter 4 because the Word of God is likened to a sharp two-edged sword, and the Word of God will always produce who is lying in time.

Now, when you learn this principle, you will understand why I do the way I do. Two people come in; they have issues; they have problems; they want to fix them. You know what I do? I do not know who is lying. I like them both. I know they are both sinners. I am not under the delusion that one is better off than the other. I know that it causes both people problems. I understand that. I am not interested in where the perpetrator is. I am interested in who wants to do what is right with truth. So, I am like Solomon; they are both messed up as far as I am concerned, and I do not know which is right. I have not walked around them and watched them for the last ten years, five years, fifteen years, twenty years. So, I only have one option. I do the same thing as Solomon did: I put them under a sword. When you put somebody, two people, under the accountability of the Word of God, the sword, you know what the sword always does? It produces who wants to do what is right and who does not. It will always produce the truth.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Now, that is what the Bible does. That is what the sword did. You notice that when he put them under the sword back in 1 Kings 3, it did not take very long to find the truth. You know why? Because the Word of God, a sharp two-edged sword, is quick. You know, you can fake a lot of things, folks. I love you to death. You can fake a lot of things. I can fake a lot of things. I do fake a lot of things. So do you. But I will tell you one thing you cannot fake: you cannot fake true spirituality. You cannot. I mean, you can fake this, and you can, as the Bible says, you can put gold earrings in a pig, but it is still a pig. And you can gussy yourself all up and look nice and shave and cut your hair the right length and get a seventy-five-pound King's Day's bobbie up to carry in a wagon because they are so big behind you. The bottom line is, at the end of the day, that does not make you spiritual. It does not fix anything. The only thing that that book does is it is quick. It shows you pretty quickly because you cannot fake true spirituality. There is something about being under the authority of that sword. There is something about you having to listen to it every week when there are things down in your life you really do not want to fix that pretty soon you just say, "I am going someplace else. I will just do something else." You can have every excuse in the world that the Bible has already ratted you out. You are running under the Solomon Principle, and you failed the test.

Hebrews 4:13

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

When you put the Solomon Principle in effect in anybody's life, just as Solomon brought out a sword and said, "Okay, just cut the baby in half because I do not know what is going on here," when you put two people under the authority of the Word of God, that book, the sword, will always show you which one wants to do what is right and which one does not want to do what is right. It will show you which one really wants to fix the problem and which one does not. It does not matter what they say; it does not matter what their excuse is. God's structure for the day and age that we live in is the New Testament local church and the Word of God. Putting another structure or some other structure in your life, no matter what it may be, and not facing the issues and dealing with them, is to stop what we are going to talk about today. This is exactly what happens. It does not take long because the Bible says it is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even the dividing asunder. It divides. It shows you what is real. It shows you who is real. So, you do not have to sit there and say, "Well, I do not think he is on the up and up. I do not think she is." I am going to tell you right now, "I do not think she really wants to do what is right." Somebody else says, "I do not think he is going to do what is right." You do not have to say that. You put them under the sword, and the sword will produce who is going to do what is right. You are getting a scenario that six weeks, eight weeks, three months down the line, you do not have to get mad at me about it. You do not have to even warn about it. When they start to backpedal and not do what they said they were going to do, you know what you are dealing with. When they say, "Oh, I want my marriage to work. I want to do this. I want

to do that. But I am not going to go to church. I am not going to get with you. I am not going to get the help I need. I am just going to..." Hey, you know what you are dealing with. You see, life is really simple when you just use the sword. This is one of the single greatest principles that you are ever going to find. It is one of the single greatest principles that simplifies dealing with people because you do not know what is going on. So, let the Bible do the work for you. Let the authority of the sword in their life show you who is real and who is not.

III. New Rules and Application

With that principle in hand, let us read over our text here and begin to lay out the next set of rules and Bible principles on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Now, we want to begin today kind of where we left off last week, and we will back up here in verse 12 and then, though we already went through those, put it into a context, and then we will move on into uncharted territory here.

1 Corinthians 7:12-15

But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

Now, in verse 15, we have another great principle, and this is going to lead us to rule number seven here in just a moment. Again, I want you to see that the concept of verse 15 is based on verse 6 and verse 12. This is added material. He said in verse 12, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord." He is now giving you extra material for the church that is not found in the Old Testament. Because we are under grace now, they were under a law back then; it is not the same. We already know that is why we do not use Matthew 19 and Matthew 5, because that is not to the church.

Now, he says there, "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace."

7. Rule number seven is simply this: God will always provide for the person who wants to do what is right in any given situation. This is why the Solomon Principle is so important. The only way you can find the person who wants to do what is right is by an unfathomable system that shows you, under the authority of a sword, which one is lying and which one wants to do what is right by the Bible the way it needs to be done, and the one that does not. So, God will always provide for the person, male or female, who wants to do right in any given situation and who will do right.

Now, in a perfect scenario, and I told you last week that I cannot get into all the different ramifications, so I have got to pretty much give you a textbook case in some of these. In time,

you will learn how to do that and make it work for you. But in a perfect scenario, here is how it should work. Now, for those of you that are paying attention here and trying to learn this, watch how these principles come in step by step as I tell you this scenario.

Husband and wife come in to see me. They have got some very bad issues, and it is not your garden variety type. This is a bad deal. It has gone way too long, and it has gotten very bad. When they do get together, come into my office, it is World War III. They cannot even drive in a car to my office. Anything that they say becomes explosive. There are no nice things said. They do not have any good times together. It is a thing where he lives upstairs, she lives downstairs, and when they meet in the middle, they throw things at each other. It is that bad. It is a thing where they cannot have any civil conversation without erupting. He cannot say something to her without his anger just going off the scale. He cannot do something to her. She is so on guard against him that she looks at everything he does with suspicion. It is just a real mess. The wife, as the weaker vessel, this thing has gotten bad. Hurt has turned to anger. Anger has turned to bitterness, and now bitterness has turned to hatred, and it is absolutely explosive. You cannot even, sitting in a room, you can feel the tension radiating out of them. It is bad. It is just really like the radiation. You can have four air conditioners on, and it is 112 in here. It is really, really, really bad.

The wife, basically as a weaker vessel, she cannot deal with it anymore, and sometimes it gets that way. She is absolutely broken. The husband has failed to meet her spiritual needs, her emotional needs, and her physical needs. There has been, for whatever reason, no lordship, no fellowship, no relationship, and she simply comes to the point where she is just about as down and broken as she can get. Now, remember, the whole purpose of everything here is to try to get this thing restored because God has called her to peace. But that is in a perfect world when you do what is right. In many, many cases, it never gets to that point.

She separates under the New Testament guidelines. She says, "I just cannot deal with it." I have had many women over the years separate under the aspect that have told me. She said, they say, "You know what? I want to make this thing work, but this thing is so bad. We cannot talk if we do not get some distance between us. If I do not get out of there, I am going to wind up hating him, and it is not going to be able to be fixed. I have got to get out of the situation because it is a dead end street. It is going nowhere. Every day it is worse. It has gotten terrible. I cannot deal with it anymore, and I want to do what is right, but it is so explosive that I cannot stay in that situation anymore because I am going to completely turn against it, and I do not want that to happen." So, that is where the biblical separation comes in. I said, "You do not get biblically separated so you can go out and party and do whatever you want to do." You are in a very bad, explosive situation, and in a perfect textbook scenario we are talking about here, that is what the woman does under 1 Corinthians 7:15, and she separates with the idea of hopefully getting back together.

The husband and the wife both, they start to come in separately now. It does not do any good together. I mean, it just does not, and you may not think that people can get to that point, but brother, they can. I am telling you they can. When they get to that point, you are a fool to think that you can sit down with both of them and get anything accomplished. You can cut the air with

a knife. So, all you can do is get him in one at a time, and you start to deal with their individual issues, and that is really what needed to happen to begin with, but it got out of control.

I tell couples all the time, I tell the wife, "You cannot change your husband." I tell the husband, "You cannot change your wife." All you can change is who you are. As I go back to the rule here, I told you that if you do what is right in your life and you change who you are, and your spouse, husband or wife, will not change who they are, God is going to come down and take care of you, and God is going to come down and deal with them, and sometimes that dealing is getting them out of the relationship. That is just the way that it works. God has called us to peace, but if you want to stand in the process or the way of the peace process, you will see how that works out for you.

So, they start to come in, and because they are out of the war zone, because a truce has been somewhat declared, I can start to get the husband to take responsibility for where he is at and the wife to take the responsibility where she is at, and I get them to quit blaming each other and work on the lordship relationship, show him what his relationship should be, help him work through his anger issues, help him begin to put a process in his life that every time he feels that or that comes out of it, he knows what to do with it. It is not going to happen overnight, but he will have to deal with a lady on how her problems and get her to recognize her lordship relationship. In time, if individually they start to work on their individual issues, not each other, not together—cannot do that right now—give themselves some breathing room, get the gas away from the fire, and separately they begin to build themselves individually. In time, they can get back together and restore that marriage. I have never seen it fail. You know why? Because God has called us to peace, but there has to be a new thing. You cannot do it your way. You cannot get yourself in a mess. God puts you into a scenario that is biblical, and you say, "You know what? I do not need that. I will do it my way." That is a recipe for disaster. If you knew how to fix it, it should have been fixed by now. The very fact that you are now what, five, six, seven, eight, ten years into this thing, and it is not fixed, that would lead me to believe you cannot fix it or you do not want to fix it. You decide.

But that is the situation you find yourself in, and you know, when you take it and you begin to deal with individual problems, and I tell people this all the time, we are famous for wanting to work in our areas of our lives on everything but what we need to. We are famous for wanting to put off the most important issue of fixing in our life to the last thing. That is human nature. Unless you get your head screwed in straight with God and the Word of God, and you make those things your first things in your life, you are going to have some issues.

I tell people three little simple concepts about fixing your problem:

8. First thing you need to do is identify the problem. That means get honest with yourself. That means you need to realize that this issue is your issue. If it is alcohol, it is alcohol. If it is anger, it is anger. If it is pornography, it is pornography. Whatever it is, identify your problem.
9. Then the next thing you do after you identify the problem, you isolate the problem. If you have a problem with anger, quit working on your prayer life. If you have a problem with

anger, quit working on your soul-winning skills. If you have a problem with anger, quit worrying about who the beast is in Revelation 17 and 18. If you have a problem with anger, quit worrying about who the ten virgins are, five were wise and five were foolish. If you have a problem in your life, and you understand you do, and you get honest with yourself, then the next thing you do is isolate that problem. That becomes the focus of your whole world. Maybe it will be multiple problems, but you have to walk away from it, pretending it is not there, saying, "Okay, well, I will just let time pass, and it will all smooth down, and I will tell him or her how much I love him. I will get this back thing, get her, and we will get a bonfire, hold hands, and sing 'Kumbaya,' which will lead to 'Love Potion Number Nine.'" That is an idiot's take.

10. You have got to identify your problem. You have got to isolate your problem, and then when you get that thing isolated, you identify it, you have got to annihilate it. You have got to get every principle, everybody you can, anything in your life. You have got to get in that church. You have got to sit down with a pastor. You have got to get what you need for your problem and not worry about fixing her problem or her worrying about fixing his problem. You have got to identify, you have got to isolate, and you have got to annihilate. You have got to eradicate it out of your life. You only do that with biblical principles.

Now, this separation gives time for healing when it is done biblically. They both have to be in the same church. They both have to be under the same kind of authority. Never, never work with anybody on a serious basis when they are going to somebody else's church. It is like a doctor does not treat somebody else's patients. You have got to work with what God gives you. Do not worry about what God takes away from you. You give them time if it is done right. You get into a situation where it can heal. You do not keep tearing off the scab every time you are together. Time for reflection, time for the identifying, for the isolation, and for the annihilation of the problem. God's Spirit gives them time to deal with each person. Add to that, they are here on Sunday morning. They are here on Thursday night. They have one-on-one time with me. They have their prayer groups or their support groups that help them. You have got a recipe that is going to fix the problem. It all gets you to a process that in a process of time they can get back together.

But it is when you start to see the attitude develop. It is when they do not want to be around God's people anymore. It is when they will come to church, but they are not going to really get involved in anything. It is when they have got an attitude that starts treading water backwards. It is when they say, "Well, I cannot come to church anymore. I am going to go do something over here, but we are still going to work on our part." You are out of your mind. No, excuse me, you are still out of your mind. You have not fixed a thing, and you are not going to fix a thing. Those are the things. The process under the Solomon Principle, it works.

Now, let me explain this to you. Sometimes not all cases are like this. Honestly, many, many people can work it out while they still stay together. It has not got that volatile yet. It is not as explosive yet. But also, we know that sometimes this is a course of action people take, and after they separate, you find many, many times that either one of them or both of them simply will not want to do what is right. Now, we are talking about a scenario where one wants to do what is

right and the other does not. We are talking about the Solomon Principle, but the Solomon Principle will show you when neither one of them want to do what is right, and the determining factor is, "Do you do what the Bible says?" Where are you on Sunday morning? Where are you on Thursday night? Where are you at in the meetings that you get what you need? That is the key. That is the key. That is the key.

Over the years, and literally hundreds of people, and over the course of years I have dealt with, there is one couple that stands out in my mind that—and I cannot even remember their names—it has been years ago, and I have had many, many, many, many, many, but this one was always around the time that I really began to understand the Solomon Principle. So, it always sticks out in my mind, and this is a great example of verse 15, "of the unbelieving depart, let them depart," and then the principle of rule number seven.

Now, this couple was probably, if I remember correctly, probably in their mid-thirties. They had been married ten or so years, I do not know, maybe fifteen years. They had kids, but it was a terrible situation. It was a very bad marriage, and it went on way too long before help really got to them. When they came in and talked to me, and I hear this all the time, they both want to do what is right. So, at that point, I do not make a judgment. I just, "Okay, let us see, put the sword over him." You see, and I give him a plan of action. I am going to say it again: the Solomon Principle is the greatest thing you will ever use because you can lie to me, but you cannot lie to that book.

Our Bible says, "If any man love God, the same is known of him." 1 Corinthians 3:3. This verse is not in the Bible, but I will add it on to it anyhow, like Paul did, "I speak this by permission, not by commandment." If any man does not love God, it shows. You cannot fake it. You can fake a lot of things. You cannot fake true spirituality, not when you have major, major problems. It is like water. Water goes everywhere. Have you ever had a pipe break in your house? The thing I hate about a leak in the roof is it is leaking in the kitchen, but the real hole in the roof is two blocks over. You have to pay somebody a thousand dollars to get up in your attic and watch the drip and watch it run down a pipe, jump over onto a board, run down the beam, run over here, come over here, go down on a green, run over here, come back up, get over, and then leak over in the kitchen someplace. It goes everywhere. Your sin is the same way. You cannot control it. We deceive ourselves when we think we can. You cannot hide it. You cannot mask it. You think you can, but you deceive yourself to think it. It is like an alcoholic. He deceives himself into thinking that he is controlling alcohol. He is not; the alcohol is controlling him. It just allows you to think you are controlling yourself for the purpose of deception. Sin always controls us. That is why you have got to break that control.

So, after two or three months of working with them, the husband being under the Solomon Principle, it is obviously he is feeling uncomfortable. Now he is going to look for all kinds of other excuses. But in this case, because of the way it worked, he finally breaks down, and he knows there is no avenue. He knows he wants out of this because now it comes out that there is another woman involved, and he is not interested in fixing it. See, it has all been a sham up to this point. It was a sham the first time they came in. It was a sham the second time they came in, but that old Solomon Principle just nails you. You cannot keep hearing the Word of God unless

you either like pain a lot, or you just realize that a good chewing out from the Bible is the best thing you can get. Like the Bible says, the Bible is a honeycomb, but even the bitter things are sweet. You learn to love it all.

So, finally, now we find out that the real issue, the Solomon Principle, has really done its work, and it does not have to be another woman. It could be anything. It could be an anger issue. It could be, I had a situation where the guy had a terrible pornography problem, and it was affecting everything in his life with his wife and everything like that, and he finally, after it came out, it came out. Why? Because the Solomon Principle works. Oh, he is sorry. Feels terrible. But in his mind now, this is where he goes: "Oh, too much damage has been done. I know I am too hurt. I just, I cannot come to church anymore. I am going to still be in my Bible, but I just cannot come to church anymore." Or, to him, there is nothing left to salvage, and he wants to move on, and it can go both ways. It does not have to be a husband; it can be a wife. It goes both ways. He will not listen to biblical principles. He will not let anybody help him past this point. He rejects the idea of getting debimboed and working through his life with his relationship. That is not in the cards. His mind is made up. He is going to leave it all and going to lose it all.

Now, in this final meeting, and there is always a final meeting, in this last meeting, after his wife hears all of this with tears running down her face, she looks up at me and says, "Bob, now what do I do? I do not want to get a divorce. I know I have been a part of this problem, and I know I have got my issues, and I, for the first time we met, we talked. I knew there were things in my life I had to work on, and I want to work on them, but I do not want to lose my marriage. Now, what do I do? And more important, if he is going to leave, and I cannot make him do what is right, how does God look at me now?"

Now, you see, there is the scenario. I say, "Well, dear, I know it hurts. And right now, I know that your world is probably as black as can be, and I understand all of that. And I know that not only now are you dealing with the fact that you had a marital problem, but now you are also dealing with the fact that you are married with a grand deception. And it all hurts. But I think the thing that you have got to focus on today is, you know, that situations like this are always in life, and you said it. The only thing you really have got to worry about today, because the rest will take care of itself in time, you have got a good church. You have got people who love you. You are learning the Bible. You have got the right to be with them. You have got the right attitude. You want to solve your problems, and you cannot fix it. And your main concern is the best concern I have heard today, and you are concerned now, 'How does God look at this?'"

I said, "I am going to give you a principle that you need to focus on, and this principle will get you through with all the support you have around you and the teaching you get, the one-on-one time." This is where 1 Corinthians 7:15 comes in, and rule number seven begins to be applied. I look at her and I say, "The Bible clearly says, 'But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.'" She looks at me, begins to open her mouth to say something, and the man says, "Oh, wait a minute. Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Oh, that cannot be right because I am a saved man." Then I look, "Well, well, well, well, it is right, and the bottom line is, if you are a saved man, saved men do what is right. I mean, please do not tell me you are a saved man, a child of God.

You know what is right. You know what is wrong. You have a Bible's chance to fix this and do what is right, and you just walk away from it."

You see, the Solomon Principle always deals with the issue. I look at her and I say, "Hon, the unbelieving depart, let him depart. You are free. You are not under bondage. You fix yourself. You get your issues right. Move on with your life, and the hurt will pass. You are clean in God's sight. We will help rebuild you. We will get everybody done." The husband says, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, hey, I do not like that. I told you I am a saved man." And I said, "I told you, if you are a saved man, do what is right. The proof of you and me being a child of God is not what we say. Welcome to reality church today. It is what do you do with what the Bible says when you are faced with the right or the wrong choice?"

This is the theme of 1 Corinthians, the book of 1 Corinthians. Luke 6:46, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" John 14:23 says, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." What does John 8:47 say? "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." Now, that is what you have got. You are not a Christian because you say you are. You are a Christian because when push comes to shove, you do what the Bible says.

We live in a Christian world today that says, "I will be a Christian; I will just do whatever I want to do." Well, that may work in your world. It does not work with God. Now, maybe this guy was saved. Personally, I think he was. But the point of what I am saying is, and what Paul is saying is, if you act like an unsaved man, then you get treated like an unsaved man because there is a good chance that is what you are. That is why in 1 Corinthians chapter 5, you had a guy that had sexual relations with his own father's wife. He would not repent and do what is right. What did Paul say? "Deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh." Treat him like an unsaved man. That is the concept. There is no latitude recognizing the Bible of not doing right. Saved people do what is right. Unsaved people do what is wrong. It does not matter what the area is or the situation is.

11. Rule number eight: If an unsaved person departs, he leaves or she leaves, they will not do what is right, then you are not under bondage anymore. You move on with life. You do what you have got to do to protect yourself legally, and then you get on with it. The Bible just told you that a brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases.
12. Rule number nine, going back to what we said last week and really hitting it this week: You are not a Christian because you say you are. You are a Christian because you are a changed person. I choose me. I said, "I read this someplace; it must be just me. I thought old things were passed away; all things become new." No, no, no, it is "all things are passed away," and the things I want in my life can be new, but I want to keep some old things. It does not work that way. You see, the Solomon Principle does not let you get away with that attitude. The Solomon Principle forces you to a point where you are going to do right or you are going to do wrong. It erases the latitude that we like to put in our lives. It keeps you right down whose baby this is. That is why people, the first time they start having problems and the Holy Spirit of God starts to begin to deal with them, the first thing they do is find another church. "Oh, I

cannot do this anymore. You know, it is so hard." You are darn right, it is hard. "Well, you do not know what I am going through." I know exactly what you are going through. He has got that sword dangling over your head. You want to play church. You think this is a nice, fun place. Then now you realize that there is a reality to what you are at. You have got to fix what is wrong with you.

Now, let us face it, we do not want to do that. We want to fix what does not need fixed. I would dare some to say if I came over to all of your homes today and you say, "Look around all you want," there is probably one closet you hope I do not open. Not that there is anything wrong in it; it is just that is where you throw all your junk, and you do not want me to be killed by the avalanche of soccer balls, baseballs, footballs, because we all have some place in our house, where many times several places, that if you walk in, you know, you better turn the light on, you are going to kill yourself, where you go five feet, and everything you do not know what to do with goes in that place. You never know, ladies, you ever know how men always throw their dirty clothes in one place instead of where they should throw it? You know why they do that? Because they do not want to have to deal with it right now. So, we think in our minds that, "You know, I go play softball, come home, my clothes are all sweaty, throw them in the closet." Do not throw them in the clothes hamper; throw them in the closet. See, we do that because we do not want to deal with the issue. We think if we put them in the closet, everybody will think they are just clothes in the clothes closet. No, when you are in there for a day and a half, and you walk in, you know it is not the clothes that should be in that closet.

My point is, you tell God, "Come into my life. I am Yours now. I am saying You have got everything, but do not open that closet over there because the things in that closet are what I want to keep because I put them in there because I do not want to deal with them. I put them in there because I have got them hid. I put them in there." You could have all the way you want to go. You know where God is going to go first? Now, I am more gracious than God. I do not mean that in a bad way. But if I come to your house and I know where the closet is, I am not even going to go there. I am going to give you some slack. Now, you know why I will give you some slack? Because I do not want you coming to my closet. So, if you say, "Have anything you want, but you know, do not open that door," you know, you do not want to go in there. You know what? That is good with me. I do not want to go in there. You tell God that, and you know what you are going to do? That is the first place He is going to go. It does not matter if you lock it, deadbolt it. It does not matter if you weld it shut. He is going to that door. When you put yourself under the authority of the Word of God, and you want to pretend everything is fine when it is not, and you know what your problems really are, you do not want to fix them. You know what your big deal is, why you do not want to hang out? Because the Solomon Principle will start to turn the searchlight on. You know what you do. Your problem is that God is headed for your closet. That is why. The Bible says all things are open, naked under the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. You are not fooling anybody. You best bet just put it under the blood, make it right with God, and then change what you have got to change. You are kidding yourself.

Now, let us look at the next section of verses here. Look at verse 16.

1 Corinthians 7:16

For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Now, this verse 16 is really the reason why you stay with that person in all the given scenarios before, even if you have to get a biblical separation, you still want to reconcile because you do not know what God is doing. You see, you have got to give the Holy Spirit of God a chance. You cannot have ten years of bad marriage, come into here, give me two months, and then walk out and say it is not going to work. You took ten years to get into it; it is going to take you longer than two months, six months, to get out of it. You do not look at things like that. You look at your own personal issues.

Now, you are in a situation where you come in with your husband or the wife, and the wife, you know, you are here for a while, and then the wife bails out and says, "I am not going back," or the husband bails out and says, "I cannot deal with this anymore. I am going out." Then you know what? You have got the Solomon Principle has done its job.

13. Rule number ten simply is: Give God, the Holy Spirit, and the church time to put Solomon's Principle into play, to put both of you under the sword, and let God work it out. You see, you do not have to make any decisions at that point. You are on autopilot if you will just do what is right in your life as the wife, and the husband does what is right in his life as the husband. Your things are going back together. It is just that simple. You will not be able to stop it. It is an automatic course. You give me a woman who will put herself under the authority of a New Testament Church and do what she needs to do under the Solomon Principle. You give me the husband that does the same thing. I have some terrible news for you, or good news, however you look at it: you are going to get back together. It is just automatic. It is the way it works. It is what is supposed to happen because God has called us to peace. Put a little dash of attitude in, guys. Put a little dash of renegeing on what your problem really was. You have got a recipe now for disaster, and then you will actually run around and scratch your head and try to blame it on everybody else or wonder why it did not work, and the reason why it did not work is because you are an idiot. God gave you a chance. God put you under the Solomon Principle, and once things got comfortable again, then you go right back to your old ways, do you not? Nothing has changed. Nothing changed at all. You do not want anybody in that closet. So, you come up with all the things, "Oh, I love you, but I just cannot do that. I just..." Oh, you are so full of crap. I will tell you what, go sell that someplace else. Working on yourself is a full-time job. The only way it can be done is with the Bible and Bible principles that will force us to do what is right.

Here is what it does: the Solomon Principle forces either the husband or wife to do what is right and make it right, or it forces them out because they do not want to do what is right. In either case, you are out. You are not in charge of it. That is the best situation you can be in. You know, the best situation all of us could be in life is what I went to early when we started, is to be in a position where we do not have to make one decision in life, that God just makes them all for us. We do not have one responsibility whatsoever. We just give it all to Him. Now, that is hard to get to, but I am telling you, you can get close to that and realize that your decision is already made

for you in that book. You do not want to do what the Bible says. That is all it is. It does not make you a bad person. It just makes you a rebellious person. That is all.

Now, look at verse 17, 18, and 19. Here it goes back to our great principle here.

1 Corinthians 7:17-19

But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

Now, that is a weird verse. I am going to tell you, it looks weird anyhow, does it not? It seems to be out of place. We are talking about marriage, divorce, remarriage. Now we are talking about being circumcised like that is going to help anything. But there is a principle here. There is a principle here. This principle goes along with verse 15 and understanding "the unbelieving depart, let him depart." Now, follow me, and you have got it. You want to put your note in your Bible on this one because sooner or later somebody is going to ask you what this means.

He uses the issue of circumcision as an example, and this is really, really easy. Here is the point: the Jews were told to get circumcised under the law. Abraham was given that all the way back in Genesis 12-15. So, that is what they do. But the point he is making, though, even though the Jews were circumcised and the Gentiles were uncircumcised, and in the Old Testament, a Jew had to be circumcised, and a Gentile who wanted to become a Jew who was uncircumcised had to become circumcised under the Old Testament law. He is saying, "But circumcision is not what made them God's people." Circumcision was a sign of the covenant. The fact that a man was circumcised in the Old Testament physically or not circumcised in the Old Testament physically did not make him a child of God or part of the nation of Israel. See, that is what he is saying. He is saying what I have already said. That is not what made God's people God's people. What made God's people was not circumcision, but rather the keeping of the commandments of God. See that thing? It is exactly what I told you. He is saying it is not the fact that you are circumcised or you are not circumcised that makes you God's child in the Old Testament. It is, "Do you follow what the Bible says?" It is not about what you say to me, how much you love God, you believe in God, or how long you have been saved, or how many churches you have been in. The bottom line is, "Do you do with the Word of God what it tells you to do?" That is a great principle.

Now, there is a great example of that in the Bible, and that example is found in 1 Samuel chapter 13 and chapter 15. It is the story of Saul, and Saul is one of the seven suicides in the Bible. I have told you before that when you want to understand why people commit suicide, the reason behind it, you study the seven suicides in the Bible, and it gives you everything you need to know about why people lead them to want to take their own life. But not all suicides in the Bible are somebody physically killing themselves. There is a spiritual suicide. You know what Saul does? He commits spiritual suicide. You know what a lot of God's people do? They commit

spiritual suicide. Some of God's people run around, live to be ninety, one hundred years old, and they commit spiritual suicide when they were thirty.

Saul is one of those kinds of people that picture a child of God who is always living his Christian life without biblical principles. He is always doing whatever he wants to do outside what the Word of God says, and of course, you know, he carries himself on his personality traits. Saul was very tall, had a powerful countenance. He had very charismatic ways, and all those things look good on the outside. But when you read Samuel's definition of him in 1 Samuel 8:10-22, when Samuel told Israel what kind of leader he would be if they picked him over God, you know what Saul is? He is a bully. He is a big bully. He is somebody that stands up taller than everybody else, is bigger than everybody else. He is not a lack of spirituality in him at all, and all he does is bully people. In truth of the matter, he is a coward because when David went out to fight Goliath, that should have been Saul. He was higher than all the people that went. He let a little fourteen-year-old kid go out. You know why? Because most bullies are cowards when it comes to doing what is right. I do not know what to tell you. I do not know how to tell it. It is just the principle of this story.

So, we finally come down through this thing, and we see where Saul was a king, and Saul was a prophet. But Saul did not hold the office of being a priest, and I do not know if you know this or not, but in the Old Testament, a priest is the only one who could offer the sacrifice. It is coming to the point on the day when the sacrifice needs to be made, and Samuel, who is the priest, has not arrived yet. It is getting late in the day; it has to be done before six o'clock. So, it is probably about five-thirty, and Saul comes to the point where, as always, Saul looks around and he says, "Well, it looks like it is up to me. God is not going to come through." So, he offers the sacrifice. At just about the time he offers that sacrifice, guess who shows up with fifteen minutes to go who could have made the sacrifice? Samuel.

Now, that is a great principle because it shows you that no matter how late it gets in the day, let God—you never take charge of your life. Let God take care of it. Even if it is down to the last second, God will come through. He always does. You see, Saul was the people's choice, was he not? God's choice was David. There is a little thing in here when you look at this thing back here. Saul was the people's choice after Samuel told them what kind of king he would be. You have got to read that back there in 1 Samuel 8. He says he is going to beat your children. He is going to whip you with scorpions. He is going to be the worst guy in the world, and they would rather take him over the man God had for them. You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of you and me continuing to make bad choices when we know what the end result is going to be. But we just do not want God getting into our closet. That is what that is a picture of.

So, what happens? He comes down here in 1 Samuel 15:22.

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

It says Samuel shows up, and Saul does the same thing we all do: he rationalizes it. "Well, you know what? You were not here, and God sacrificed. We have got to do what is right with God, and you were not here. And so I forced myself." Samuel said, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifice as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" He says a great principle: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." It is not about what you do, it is not about what you give, what you give up. It is about, "Do you obey what the Word of God says?" And in this scenario with 1 Corinthians chapter 7 in marriage, given this situation that we are talking about, it simply comes down with the Solomon Principle. Ladies and gentlemen, when you are faced with it, do you do what the Bible says? Do you put yourself under the structure of the church? Do you really want to work it out with your husband or your wife? Do you really want to make the thing work? Well, I have a headliner for you: there is only one way it is going to work. That is God's way. That is God's way.

Now, I will leave you with this, and then we are done.

1 Corinthians 7:20-24

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

14. Rule number eleven (implied from verses 17-19): It is not about external circumstances or rituals (like circumcision) that make you God's child, but rather the keeping of the commandments of God.

15. Rule number twelve: This is a great comfort rule. Be satisfied with these. Be patient and satisfied with the situation you are in. You may have gotten in here because you caused the problem or part of it, or you may be a victim. But that is okay. Allow God to work it out for your good and growth and for His honor and glory.

Verse 21 illustrates the illustration of a slave, and he simply says that a slave should not be upset because he is a slave, because this is the book of Philemon, is it not? Because when a slave is a saved slave, he realizes that he is free in Christ, and nothing, no situation on this planet, really matters. That is why you find coming down through church history one of the great testimonies of that concept with the Moravian missionaries. Moravian missionaries were Germanic, out of Austria, counts in the North, greatest missionaries of their time period. They actually were accounts of the Moravian missionaries back then. Slavery of the black man was rampant in this country and had went on until the Civil War put an end to it. There were Moravian missionaries who were white people who sold themselves into slavery for the rest of their lives, never to be free again, to be a missionary to the black slave, to win them to Christ because they knew that

was the only way that they could reach them was to become one of them. They understood the concept of the book of Philemon and the concept right here.

So, he says in rule number twelve, be satisfied, be patient with where you are at. Accept the situation you are in, and let God, through the New Testament Church and the biblical principles, work it out because He will. Once the Solomon Principle is enacted, it will not take long for the light, when the lights come on, for the cockroaches to run for the dark. He says in verse 22, because if you are a saved man, then you understand that you are already a bondsman to Christ, and He is a good master, and no matter what your circumstances are on this planet, focus on the fact that you are free in Christ, and that is all that matters, and He is going to make a way for you in everything that you do. Great concept, great concept in any situation. But here he is talking about marriage, and if you find yourself in a situation, you are God's; you are not man's. Verse 23, you do God's work, not man's work. You will be a servant of God and not a servant of man. That is what he is saying.

Then verse 24, he says, "Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."

IV. Abiding with God

Now, I want to talk to you and leave you with this as we close today about abiding with God because that is where he closes it out in this particular section, and this is where we are going to close it out today. You see, the physical circumstances you find yourself in, good or bad, whether it is by your bad choices or good choices, that situation becomes, once you get into the Word of God and become the Solomon Principle in your life, that situation now becomes the property of God. You now become God's workshop for you and everybody connected with it to grow. From this point on, it is on automatic pilot. If you continue to stay under the Solomon Principles and grow, then God is going to work it out because one of our rules was, "God always takes care of the person who does what is right." If you do not do what is right, God, through the Solomon Principle, will either get you right or get you out. But you do not have to make those choices anymore. You just follow the principle that God has called you to peace, and you abide with God.

Now, let us talk about the concept of "brethren, let every man wherein he is called therein abide with God." How do you abide with God? What does that mean? I gave you a verse a little while ago in John 14:23 that said:

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

The word "abode" is the other word for "abide." When He abides with you, He abodes in you. In other words, you abide with God in the Word of God through biblical principles. I talk a lot about biblical principles. I am going to give you the greatest single verse in the Bible on what biblical principles should do in your life. I gave you faith, fact, feeling. I gave you sinner, son, and servant. Now, here is one for biblical principles: learn them, love them, and live them. It is

all the way back in 1 Samuel 30:6, and I want you to turn to that because I think you need to see this. This is what it takes when you are in a scenario, and you are going to have pressure from your spouse who maybe does not want to do what is right. They want to reconcile, but they do not want the Bible to change them. You have got to stay and follow what 1 Corinthians chapter 7 says, and you have got to abide in the circumstances that you are, and you have to abide with God. Here is how you do that.

1 Samuel 30:6

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

David was in great distress. You are in great distress at times in your life, in my life. David's great distress is because David has made some bad choices, and the people now want to stone him. Your circumstances may be different, but great distress is always great distress no matter how it starts. Now, watch this: "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." You know what that means? That means David took the principles of God in his distressful situation. He saw what the people wanted to do. He saw his distress, and then he saw what God was going to do with him, the principles. In any given distressful situation, you just encourage yourself with the principles that God has given you to do. You take the principles of the Word of God, and you encourage yourself through the situation with them.

You see now the value of learning, understanding, and cataloging biblical principles, getting them in your library spiritually, having them at your fingertips, that when you go through a great distress in your life, and everybody is pulling at you, and everybody is telling you to do this, you are going to be able to do it. All you have to do is get out those principles and see what God says about it versus what man says about it, your own feelings say about it, your other spouse is saying about it, somebody, your mother-in-law, saying about it, whoever is saying about it. You simply, in the time of great distress, encourage yourself in the principles that God has given you. You encourage yourself in the Lord your God. Because that is the only thing that will override the distress of what we go through because the world is going to pull on you. Your own circumstances are going to pull on you, and you just take the principles that God has given you, many of the things that we have talked about today. You stay with the Solomon Principle, and you just let God work out your situation and get that person in or get that person out. In any case, you do what is right because the rule says, "God always takes care of the person who wants to do what is right." "A brother and sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace."

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus.