

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**

Clay Morris

**Song Leader**

Jack Calvert

**Lord's Supper**

Joseph Barry     Rodney Ellis  
Cole Meador

**Prayers**

Willie Standokes     Daniel Allgor

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

Jack Calvert

**Song Leader**

Bryan Garlock

**Prayers**

Rodney Ellis     Jon Barry

**Invitation**

Jon Barry

Ashamed To Be Called Our God: I can scarcely read Hebrews 11:16 without tears coming to my eyes. Speaking of the faithful of old, it is written, "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Heb. 11:16). It is an amazing thought that if we, like they, desire heaven and live in obedient faith, the great God of heaven and earth is also not ashamed to be called our God. Have you been living your life this way? If not, you need to begin today! God is not ashamed to be called our God!

**ABOUT US**

**Elders**

Jack Calvert     Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry     Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis     Clay Morris

**Evangelist**

Bryan Garlock

**SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship .....10:15 A.M.

**Monday (Zoom)**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M

**Wednesday**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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**GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION**

- Hear** the word of truth ..... Romans 10:13-17
- Believe** the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24
- Repent** from all sins .... Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38
- Confess** the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10
- Be Baptized** in His name ..... Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12
- Walk** in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death ..... Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



**Volume XXVI**

**September 19, 2021**

**Issue 37**

**SELFISHNESS AND MARRIAGE**

J.R. Bronger

Divorce! This word used to call to mind "breaking up a home," and with it trauma, unhappiness and all manner of problems. Today, however, it is so commonplace that it rarely raises and eyebrow. There is no need to overwhelm you with statistics in order to prove that nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Personal evidence may be sufficient. It is probably safe to assume that you have in some manner been touched by divorce, whether friends, family or perhaps yourself.

Despite the Lord's teaching that marriage is permanent and man is NOT to separate what God has joined together (Matt.19:6) divorce continues unabated. The only exception to the Lord's no divorce policy is sexual immorality (fornication) according to Matt.19:9. But, did you know that adultery is NOT the reason most couples divorce? Surveys indicate that incompatibility, financial problems, sexual inadequacy, mental

and/or physical abuse, no longer in-love, or loving someone else are the leading factors resulting in divorce. Regardless of the name put on the reason for seeking a divorce, the real incentive is selfishness. People divorce for selfish reasons.

A 40-year-old school administrator walked out of her 19-year marriage because she felt her husband was "boring, uneducated, and unmotivated." Now she wanted someone who was "an intellectual dynamo, and successful in his career." Her divorce was about her, not her husband. She acted out of selfishness!

Even incompatibility and sexual inadequacy are code words for selfishness. Incompatibility says, "YOU are not like ME." Or, "Our love life is the pits because YOU don't know how to please ME." How we see our partners often depends more on how WE are than how THEY are. For example, before they married, she thought he was unselfish, considerate and smelled of cologne. But

## FAMILY TALK

*Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins/sometimes shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Maxine Burnham, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Pete & Beth Rowland, and Francine Davis.***

after marriage all he wants to do is watch TV and he smells like Doritos. In her view, he has gone from Stud to Dud. Before they married, he thought she was a knockout, now to him she looks like she has been knocked-out. Self-centeredness is slowing suffocating this marriage. Selfishness is about commitment to ME, love of ME, serving ME and it will destroy any marriage despite God's prohibitions against divorce.

For years, members of churches of Christ lagged far behind the general population in the number of divorces sought. Still behind, the gap is shrinking. Preachers, elders, deacons and bible class teachers are joining the ranks of the divorced. Men and women are walking away from the vows they exchanged even though they know full well the Bible forbids divorce. Selfishness is driving men and women to solve their perceived problems by divorcing. Change partners, like changing a shirt one no longer likes.

When a man ceases making marriage about him, and begins to make it about his wife – his marriage will less likely end in divorce. When a woman stops demanding her marriage center on her and begins to focus on her husband, her marriage will less likely be ended by divorce. Paul said, "Let each of you look out not only for his

own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Phil.2:4). This is excellent medicine for any marriage, including yours.

Love is doing just that. "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up . . ." (1Cor.13:4). Love is not something that you find, fall in or fall out of. Love is in you, and you can learn to love another human being, if you take the time to do it, and if you have the desire to do it. If people would stop dwelling on themselves and begin to dwell on the spouse, soon they could rekindle the love that was once there, or always wish had been there.

Do everything possible to keep your marriage together and keep it happy. Always have the intention of being together for life. Do not let anything or anyone change that determination. Also, give yourself completely to your partner, body, mind and being. If your marriage bed is unfulfilling, this is something that can and must be corrected (the Bible calls this sin in 1Cor.7:1-5). Talk about it with your husband/wife. Solve it the way God says solve it.

Love your mate unconditionally and with an unselfish heart. Look out for the well-being of your partner and not yourself. Take time to enjoy every minute together, you may not have tomorrow. You are one flesh, so become one every day.

I've witnessed men and women pour themselves into caring for a disabled or dying partner. No task is too great, no chore too disgusting. No complaining, no moaning and no regrets – just complete serving. This doesn't just happen. Those who care for a dying spouse with patience, love and tenderness do so with the same devotion they had before the illness invaded. This fidelity comes from selflessness and not selfishness.

## "GOD IS NOT"

David Eldridge

Man has a number of ideas about who God is. Yet, the truth is that God is not what many think Him to be. Consider some things the Bible teaches that God is not. God is not...

**A Respector Of Persons:** Peter declared, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons" (Ac. 10:34 KJV). That God is not a respecter of persons means that He does not show partiality. Many other passages bear out this idea. Paul taught, "For there is no partiality with God" (Rom. 2:11). Because God shows no partiality, He offers salvation to all regardless of their skin color, education, social standing, financial state, geographical area, or the family into which they were born. Furthermore, He demands the same thing from all men no matter who they are. As Peter said, "In every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (Ac. 10:35). God is not a respecter of persons!

**A Man:** God is not human like you and me. Numbers 23:19 declares, "God is not a man..." Instead of being a man like you and me, "God is Spirit" (Jn. 4:24). Because God is not a man, he does not lie or go back on His word. "And also, the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent" (1 Sam. 15:29; cf. Num. 23:19). Additionally, God does not think like you and me – "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9). God is not a man!

**Mocked:** Rhetorically, Job asked, "Can you mock Him as one mocks a man?" (Job 13:9). To mock is to sneer at, deride, or turn up your nose at. You may mock man, but you will not mock God. Why? Because God has assured that before Him you will reap what you sow. Thus, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked" (Gal. 6:7-9). God is not mocked!

**Tempted With Evil:** "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone" (Jas. 1:13). Moses declared that God "is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (Deut. 32:4). God's nature is such that temptation does not affect Him – He is incapable of being tempted to do wrong. As such, He does no wrong, nor does He encourage wrongdoing in others. God is not tempted with evil!

**One To Forget:** Man may see or say something today and forget it tomorrow. But, "God is not unjust to forget..." (Heb. 6:10). When folks begin to think that perhaps God will forget, it causes them to do one of two things. They may think they can act against His will and God will forget their sin. He will not – "...all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4:13). Others may think God will forget the good they do in service to Him. He will not, not even down to the simple good deed of giving of "only a cup of cold water" (Matt. 10:42). "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name..." (Heb. 6:10). God is not one to forget!