

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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The Permanence of Marriage

By Derek Long

For many years in our society marriage is treated as a relationship which if you get tired of it, think you find someone better, etc. then you just leave the marriage behind. Divorce rates have been high in our country for several years and might would be higher except for the fact many people today decide to live together in fornication without even getting married. Marriage is a relationship created by God and needs to be viewed as something honorable (Hebrews 13:4). People who disregard the marriage relationship either through adultery or fornication will experience the judgment of God. Does God intend for marriage to be a temporary relationship where you can enter and leave whenever you want to or does God intend for marriage to be a relationship which lasts for life?

God intended for marriage to be a lifelong relationship. In Genesis 2:24 we read, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (NKJV). God joins together husbands and wives. Jesus will conclude from this statement, "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:4-6, NKJV). When God joins two people in marriage, it is His intention for

them to remain married and not to separate what He has joined together. Romans 7:2-4 uses the marriage relationship to demonstrate that a law has dominion over a man as long as he lives. A person is bound by God to their spouse as long as the spouse lives. When the spouse dies, then they are no longer bound by God to that particular spouse and are free to marry another. 1 Corinthians 7:39 makes a similar point when it says, “A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord” (NKJV). God intends for marriage to be a lifelong relationship.

The Bible plainly states God’s feelings toward the topic of divorce when Malachi 2:16 says, “‘For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘Therefore take heed to your spirit that you do not deal treacherously’” (NKJV). Divorce is not something God is pleased with. In fact, the text says it is something God hates. God plainly tells us what divorce is really like. Divorce is a violent act. Divorce is not something peaceful. Divorce is treating someone treacherously. The word “treacherously” speaks about being likely to betray trust. When two people get married, they are promising to spend the rest of their lives with one another. For a person to go back on such a promise and to betray that trust is certainly a treacherous action. Divorce is not something pretty as we read about it in God’s word and it is not pretty when we see its effects in the lives of people around us. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 teaches, “Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a hus-

band is not to divorce his wife” (NKJV). God prohibits the husband from divorcing his wife. God also prohibits the wife from departing from her husband. The departing being spoken of in the context must be divorce since after she departs she is unmarried. God does not allow husbands and wives to divorce except for one cause. Matthew 5:32; 19:9 teaches us it is permissible for a spouse to divorce their spouse if their spouse commits fornication. Whenever a divorce happens it means either one or both parties are committing a sin and God is not pleased.

Our society may think marriage with one person for a lifetime is bound to become old, stale, etc. Being married to someone for a lifetime is not something we must grow tired of and does not make a person stale. Ecclesiastes 9:9 points out it is possible to live joyfully with our wife all the days of our vain life under the sun. Such does not sound like marriage is some sort of dull relationship to be endured but rather a wonderful blessing from God to be enjoyed. Malachi 2:14-15 speaks about, “the wife of your youth,” (NKJV). A person does not need to leave the wife of his youth in order to find something better. A person needs to remain committed to their marriage and instead “rejoice with the wife of your youth” (Proverbs 5:18, NKJV). Let’s be people who are committed to follow through on our commitment toward our spouse and before God to be faithful spouses “till death do us part as long as we both shall live.”