



FAMILY REVIVAL

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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Family Revival

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 19:3-9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2477

We live in a fallen world of broken homes and throw-away marriages. Now more than ever, we must come back to the Word of God and seek family revival.

Matthew 19 explains what marriage is so we can build our marriages in the name and power of Jesus Christ.

“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:4-6).

First, we must remember that God has designed the family.

Marriage is a divine institution made by God to meet the deepest needs of humankind. When we commit to another in marriage, we leave our mother and father and unite with our spouse, becoming one flesh. We are called to join together physically and multiply; we become one flesh psychologically and in spiritual communion.

Because God designed the family, Satan wants to destroy the family.

Adrian Rogers says, “It is not love that holds your marriage together; it is marriage that sustains your love.”

God has said in His Word He hates divorce. We are commanded to love continually; a marriage rooted in conditional love produces fear, guilt, and anger. There is no fear in perfect, unconditional love; only peace, security, and joy.

It is our duty to dispel the lies from Hell, vow to attack the problems rather than one another, and change the direction of a broken marriage. God has joined us together, and where there is God, there is always hope.

Finally, we must defend the family.

We do this by making Jesus Christ the center of our homes. Second, we continue to feed our love day by day, nurturing and caring for it so it will grow.

And if we ever find ourselves in a broken home, we must remember God’s forgiveness is always available for those who seek to honor Him in their relationships, we need only ask for it.

Life Application

Are you thirsty for revival? Jesus said, “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; for they shall be filled*” (Matthew 5:6). Pray for a river of revival to flow through you today.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We want revival in our nation and in our churches.
 - i) Unless we have revival in the family, we will not have revival in the church or in the nation.
- b) Matthew 19:3-6
 - i) In this passage, “tempted Him” means that they were “testing Him.”
- c) We live in a day of broken homes and throw-away marriages.
 - i) People are treating adultery as a small thing.
 - ii) Pre-marital sex is treated as an incident.
 - iii) Divorce is treated as an unfortunate occurrence.
- d) We are desperately in need of a spiritual revival.
 - i) We can always be better and get closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) The intellectuals of our day have told us the following:
 - i) Sex outside of marriage is no big deal.
 - ii) Pornography is a victimless crime.
 - (1) That is a lie.
- f) The pornography business takes in billions of dollars each year.
 - i) We are being drowned in a mudslide of filth, yet we are told that it is freedom of expression.
- g) We have come to a time when unwed motherhood is looked upon as incidental, and it is alright to have a baby outside of wedlock.
 - i) Many children come into this world without father and mother being married.
- h) Today, there is homosexual marriage.
 - i) This goes against the norms of history and the teaching of the Word of God.
 - ii) There are those who say that they don't want anyone telling them whom they can marry, for they are free individuals.
 - (1) But we have already been told whom we can marry before this issue came up.
 - (a) You cannot marry a child.
 - (i) That is against the law.
 - (b) You cannot marry a blood relative.
 - (i) That is against the law.
 - (c) You cannot marry someone who is already married.
 - (i) That is against the law.
 - (d) You cannot marry more than one person.
 - (i) That is against the law.
 - (e) You cannot marry an animal.
 - (i) That is against the law.
 - (f) You cannot marry someone of the same sex.
 - (i) That is against the law.
- i) We have to go back to the Word of God.
 - i) In today's message, we will look at what God's Word says about revival in the family.



- (1) We have to know what a marriage is before we can build a marriage in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2) GOD HAS DESIGNED THE FAMILY (MATTHEW 19:4-5)

- a) The family was not designed by some social engineer, nor did it rise from the swamps of immorality and evolution.
 - i) God designed the family.
- b) God established monogamous marriage to meet the deepest needs of humankind:
 - i) Emotional
 - ii) Physical
 - iii) Psychological
 - iv) Spiritual
- c) God had something in mind when He planned the family.
- d) There are three key verbs in Matthew 19:4-5:
 - i) Leave
 - ii) Cleave
 - iii) Be one flesh
 - (1) This is God's plan for marriage.
 - (2) This is what God designed for our homes.
- e) We are to leave father and mother.
 - i) Matthew 19:5
 - ii) Marriage is the supreme commitment.
 - (1) Marriage is a greater commitment than the commitment we have to our parents.
 - (a) We have a commitment to our parents.
 - (i) Exodus 20:12
 - (ii) But the marriage commitment rises to a higher priority than our relationship to our parents.
 - (b) We are to leave father and mother and be joined to our husband or wife.
 - (2) Marriage is greater than the child and parent relationship.
 - iii) We are to choose our mate and give higher priority to our mate than any other thing in this world.
 - iv) The purse strings and the apron strings need to be cut.
 - f) We are to cleave to our spouse.
 - i) Matthew 19:5
 - (1) In this verse, the word "cleave" means "to weld together" or "to glue together."
 - ii) Marriage is a permanent relationship.
 - (1) Divorce is not an option in the Word of God, except for marital infidelity.
 - (2) You are to cleave to your spouse till death do you part.
 - iii) Marriage is not incidental.
 - (1) People get married for an ideal, then the ideal turns into an ordeal, and then they want a new deal.
 - (2) Marriage is a lifetime commitment.
 - g) We are to be one flesh.
 - i) Matthew 19:5
 - ii) God's arithmetic is one plus one equals one.



- iii) We are to be one flesh physically for multiplication.
 - (1) God wants us to have children.
 - (a) Children are a blessing from the Lord.
 - (2) Malachi 2:15
 - (a) God made husband and wife one that they might reproduce and have a godly seed.
 - (3) A sad thing in the world today is that many who should have children are not having children.
 - (a) There are many who no longer consider children a blessing but a curse.
 - (b) Many children are killed in the womb because they would be an impediment to the plans of father and mother.
 - (c) Today, there is a new category of people:
 - (i) D.I.N.K.'s - Double Income No Kids.
 - (ii) They figure if father and mother work and they don't have any kids, then they will have enough to satisfy their material desires.
 - 1. But children don't make a rich man poor; they make a poor man rich.
- iv) We are to be one flesh psychologically for communication.
 - (1) We need someone by our side.
 - (2) Marriage is the deepest emotional intimacy that a person can have.
 - (3) Not only should you be lovers, but you also ought to be friends.
 - (4) Your spouse is your completer, not your competitor.
 - (5) Marriage is like a violin and a bow.
 - (a) They are separate; but when they get together, that is when the music comes.
- v) We are to be one flesh for communion.
 - (1) We open our hearts to God and to one another.
 - (2) There are few things that will draw a husband and wife closer together than prayer.
 - (a) If you are one flesh, then you should pray together.
 - (3) If you are not having a family time of devotion and the husband is not praying with his wife, then there is something desperately wrong.
 - (a) There is nothing that the wife needs more than to hear her husband pray and to hear his heart.

3) SATAN WANTS TO DESTROY THE FAMILY (MATTHEW 19:7-9)

- a) Marriage is to be a permanent union, but the devil has leveled all of the artillery of Hell against the home.
 - i) He wants to break up the home.
- b) Some get divorced because they say that the love has gone out of their marriage.
 - i) That will not pass by the judgment of God.
 - ii) It is not love that holds your marriage together.
 - (1) It is marriage that sustains your love.
 - iii) Love is not an emotion that we feel; love is a choice of the will.
 - (1) The Bible tells husbands to love their wives.
 - (a) Ephesians 5:25
 - (b) This is not a suggestion but a command.
 - (c) God would not command us to do something unless He enables us to do it.
 - (i) Behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God to carry out that command.



- (2) Titus 2:4
 - (a) The older women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands.
 - (i) This is something that can be learned.
- (3) God has commanded us to love.
- iv) We have a generation today that doesn't understand love.
 - (1) Instead of "I love you," it is "I want you because you meet a particular need in my life."
 - (a) This kind of love is not the love that binds husbands and wives together.
 - (b) This kind of love is conditional.
- v) If you got married because of someone's charm, beauty, or wit, then your marriage is in danger.
 - (1) These things fade and go away after a while.
 - (2) This kind of conditional love is dangerous to a marriage.
 - (a) It is basically selfish.
 - (b) It will cause three attitudes in your partner:
 - (i) Fear
 - 1. They will be afraid that they cannot keep up the conditions of marriage.
 - 2. They will be afraid that someone else will come along who will meet the conditions better.
 - (ii) Guilt
 - 1. They will feel like something is wrong with them and that they don't measure up.
 - (iii) Anger
 - 1. They will feel like they have been used.
- vi) God's love for us is an unconditional love.
 - (1) When the Bible says that a husband is to love his wife, God uses the word "agape love," which is unconditional love.
 - (a) It does not depend upon us meeting conditions.
 - (2) Romans 5:8
- vii) When the husband and wife love each other with an unconditional love:
 - (1) Security replaces fear.
 - (2) Peace replaces guilt.
 - (3) Joy replaces anger.
- c) Another excuse that is used for divorce is that it would be better for the children than to live in constant quarreling.
 - i) Sociologists have told us that divorce is seldom, if ever, a positive factor in the life of a child.
 - ii) This is selfishness on the parents' part.
 - (1) They want to do what they want and have what they want, yet they pawn it off as better for the children.
 - iii) People think that the only two alternatives are divorce or constant quarreling.
 - (1) But there is a third alternative; get your heart right with God.
 - (2) Stop the quarreling, and don't excuse it.
 - (3) The Bible says that we are to live peaceably with all men.
 - (a) Romans 12:18
- d) Another excuse for divorce is we owe it to ourselves to be happy.
 - i) We owe it to ourselves to keep our word when we made a marriage vow before Almighty God.
 - ii) We don't live in isolation.



- (1) Your happiness is not the only thing that matters.
- iii) When someone breaks their marriage vows, they are doing the following:
 - (1) They are telling God that they don't care about His commandments.
 - (2) They have defrauded their partner to whom they have made a holy vow.
 - (3) They have dishonored themselves because they have broken that vow and have wounded their children.
 - (a) It has been said that a man who breaks up his home by adultery is telling his child:
 - (i) Your mother is not worth much.
 - (ii) Your father is a liar and a cheat.
 - (iii) Honor is not as important as pleasure.
 - (iv) My own satisfaction is more important than you.
- e) Some say that God told them to get a divorce.
 - i) God has not changed His laws just for you.
- f) People who get divorces and people who do not get divorces normally have the same kinds of problems.
 - i) The difference is how people react to those problems.
 - ii) There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
 - iii) We can solve a problem if we will attack the problem rather than one another.
- g) A bad marriage cannot be healed by one sermon and cannot be healed overnight.
 - i) But you can change the direction of your marriage.
 - (1) You can begin to grow a marriage as God wants it to be.
 - ii) It is a tragedy when 10% of the marriage is in trouble, and the other 90% goes down the drain because people are not mature enough to do what God wants them to do.

4) YOU MUST DEFEND YOUR FAMILY (MATTHEW 19:6)

- a) There is a war on the family.
 - i) It is more insidious than the terrorism and other things that we face.
- b) The church and the nation are no stronger than its families.
- c) God has joined husband and wife together; where there is God, there is hope.
- d) Perhaps you have failed and your home is broken beyond repair; you have gotten divorced and remarried.
 - i) What should you do?
 - (1) Make the best of that marriage.
 - (a) Though it is not God's original will, God is a God of mercy.
- e) Some people want to make divorce an unpardonable sin.
 - i) They want to make divorce a dead-end road.
 - ii) God's Word teaches that if we have failed, we can be forgiven.
 - (1) Forgiveness is always available.
- f) If your home has been broken, whether it's your fault or someone else's fault, it is not the end for you.
 - i) God has a way for you.
 - (1) Romans 8:1
 - ii) Do not let the devil condemn you over this.
 - (1) 1 John 1:9
 - (2) Isaiah 1:18



- g) People who look down upon others who have failed need to understand that they have failed, also.
 - i) Who are we to judge someone else?
 - ii) The church is not supposed to be so much a showcase for saints as it is a hospital for sinners.
- h) In the Bible, there were people who wanted to stone a woman because she was taken in adultery.
 - i) John 8:7
 - ii) No one is sinless; therefore, don't look down on someone who has suffered a broken home.
 - (1) They need our love and compassion, not our condemnation.
 - iii) John 8:10-11
 - (1) What would God do with a repentant sinner who has a broken home?
 - (a) He would treat them exactly the same way because the Lord changes not.
 - (i) Hebrews 13:8
- i) Divorce is wrong.
 - i) God's Word teaches that marriage is a union where two people leave, cleave, and become one flesh.
 - (1) That is God's plan.
 - ii) We need to teach young people what the Bible says about marriage.
 - iii) We need to minister to those who have failed in some way.
 - iv) We are to defend our homes.
 - (1) God has designed it, the devil wants to destroy it, and it is up to us to defend the home.
- j) How can you defend your home?
 - i) Make Jesus Christ the head, the center, of your home.
 - (1) Your home is like a wheel, and Jesus is the hub.
 - (a) The closer the spokes (the members) in that wheel come to the hub, the closer they are to one another.
 - (2) If Christ is in the center of your home, then that will be the greatest testimony you can give.
 - ii) Continue to feed your love.
 - (1) Some people have the idea that true love is like a diamond, something that we purchase, keep, or enjoy.
 - (a) That is not what love is.
 - (2) Love is like a flower.
 - (a) It must be nurtured, cultivated, and cared for day by day.
 - (3) If you don't love your spouse more today than you did years ago, then you probably love him or her less.
 - (4) Love is a continuing and growing thing.
 - (5) Husbands should never flirt with other women, even in jest.
 - (a) But they should never cease to flirt with their own wife.
 - (6) Remember how you used to treat each other when you first got married.
 - (a) Husbands, open the car door for your wife.
 - (7) If you are married and have a Christian home, then make it a testimony to the world.
 - iii) If your home is broken, ask God for forgiveness.
 - (1) If it was not your fault, deal with the bitterness and get rid of it.
 - (a) You are not going to make it any better with bitterness.
 - iv) Marry only in the Lord.
 - (1) Never marry an unsaved person with the idea that you can lead that person to Christ.



- (2) 2 Corinthians 6:14
- (3) An unbeliever is a child of the devil.
 - (a) If you marry a child of the devil, then you get the devil for a father-in-law.
- (4) Don't marry a person in order to change them.
- (5) How are you going to find the right person?
 - (a) To find the right person is to be the right person.
 - (b) There is someone out there looking for you just like you are looking for them.
 - (c) Trust the Lord in this, and be patient.
- k) If you want your marriage to last, the Bible says that a three-fold cord is not easily broken.
 - i) Ecclesiastes 4:12
 - ii) One strand can be broken.
 - iii) Two strands can be broken.
 - iv) But three strands together give strength.
 - (1) A three-fold cord is: a man, a woman, and Jesus Christ.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There cannot be a revival in your home unless there is revival in you.
- b) There cannot be a revival in the church unless there is revival in the home.
- c) There cannot be a revival in the nation unless there is revival in our families.
 - i) Pray that God will bring a revival, and let it begin with me.
- d) There are three homes that God wants you to have:
 - i) God wants you to have a Heavenly home.
 - (1) Are you saved and bound for Glory?
 - (2) Do you know that you are saved?
 - ii) God wants you to have a family home.
 - iii) God wants you to have a church home.
 - (1) Jesus is the key to all three.
- e) Remember that divorce is not an unpardonable sin.
 - i) God has a future for you.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - ii) This is not to minimize divorce.
 - (1) It is to maximize grace.
- f) Let your home be a cameo of God's love and faithfulness.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Take your Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 19. And while you're turning to that, let me tell you that we're seeking and asking God for a revival. And, of course, we want revival in our nation, and we want revival in this, our church, but, friend, unless we have revival in the family, we're not going to have revival in the church nor the nation. So we're talking today about Family Revival. And I want us to read from Matthew chapter 19. Let's begin in verse 3 and read through verse 6, "And the Pharisees also came unto Him," that is, to Jesus, "tempting Him," that means they were testing Him, "and saying unto Him, 'Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?' And He answered and said unto them, 'Have ye not read that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female;' And said, 'For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore, they are no more twain, but one flesh. What, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.'"

We live in a sad day today of broken homes and throw-away marriages, and people are treating adultery as a small thing, pre-marital sex as an incident, and divorce as an unfortunate occurrence. And we are today, desperately, desperately in need of a spiritual revival. And your family needs revival. I don't care who you are or where you are, you can always be better, get closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. And so we're going to look at what the Bible says, not what others say. The intellectuals of our day have told us that sex outside of marriage is no big deal. They've told us that pornography is a victimless crime. That's a lie, but they tell us that. Did you know that in the United States of America that the pornography business every year takes in 12 billion dollars? I didn't say million, 12 billion. We are being drowned in a mudslide of filth, and yet, they tell us that's only freedom of expression. We've come to a time where unwed motherhood is looked upon as incidental and it is quite all right to have a baby outside of wedlock. And many blessed little children are coming into this world without father and mother being married.

And then we have reached the very bottom, have we not, when now the homosexuals are asking for homosexual marriage. And four judges in Massachusetts decided they would go against the norms of history and the teaching of the Word of God, and thousands of years of tradition, and throw over those laws and institute something called "same-sex marriage." Now there are those who will tell you, "I don't want anybody telling me who I can marry. I'm a free individual." Well, you've already been told who can marry before this issue came up. You can't marry a child. That's against the law. You can't marry a blood relative. That is against the law. You cannot marry someone already married. That's against the law. You can not marry more than one person. It is against the law. You can't marry an animal. You cannot marry someone of the same sex.

And by the way, some have said, "Pastor Rogers, you're judgmental." Did you know that the one absolute moral today in society is, "Thou shalt not be judgmental?" But of course, we have to come back to the Word of God, so I want us to see what God's Word says about the family: about my family, your family, our families, and we need to go back to the beginning.

If you were to ask a carpenter to build a house, he perhaps could do it, but he would have no idea unless he first knew what a house was. And so he has to know what a house is before he can build it. You have to know what a marriage is before you can build your marriage in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Now there are three basic things I want to lay on your heart this morning. Number one: God has designed the family. Not some social engineer; it did not rise from the swamps of immorality and evolution. **God has designed the family.** Look in Matthew 19 verses 4 and 5, “And He answered and said unto them, ‘Have ye not read that He which made them at the beginning, made them male and female; and said, ‘For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh?’” God established monogamous marriage to meet the deepest needs of humankind: emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual. And God had something in mind when He planned the family. Now there are three key verbs in the Scripture that I’ve just read to you. One is “leave,” the other is “cleave,” and the third is “be one flesh.” Now this is God’s plan for marriage. This is what God designed. This is what God designed for my home and your home, so I want you to listen very carefully.

First of all, God says that a person is to **leave father and mother.** Now what does that tell us? It tells us that marriage is the supreme commitment. Marriage is a greater commitment than the commitment you have to your parents. Now you have a commitment to your parents. The Bible says in Exodus 20:12 you’re to “honor your father and your mother,” and may you never, ever forget that. But your marriage commitment rises even to a higher priority than your relationship to your parents. You’re to leave father and mother and be joined to your wife. And it follows if the marriage relationship is greater than the relationship of parent and child, then the marriage relationship is also greater than child and parent. We are to choose our mate and give higher priority to our mate than any other thing in this world. The first thing is to leave. That means that the purse strings and the apron strings need to be cut.

Now, secondly, not only does He say that we are to leave, but He says that **we are to cleave.** That word “cleave” means “to weld together” or “to glue together.” Marriage is to be a permanent relationship. Now listen very carefully, because there are some of you here today who may be considering divorce, or some of you who are listening through television or later on will get this tape. Divorce is not an option in the Word of God, except for marital infidelity. You are to cleave to your wife till death do you part. It is not something that is incidental. People get married for an ideal, and the ideal turns to an ordeal, and then they want a new deal! Marriage is a “for-lifetime” commitment.

And then He says not only are we to leave and to cleave, but He says **we are to be one flesh.** God’s arithmetic is one plus one equals one. Now why one flesh? Well, we’re to be one flesh **physically for multiplication.** God wants you to have children. Children are a blessing from the Lord. Put this verse down, Malachi chapter 2 and verse 15, “Did He not make one?” that is, husband and wife. “Did He not make one? Yet had He the residue of the spirit. And therefore one, that He might seek,” listen, “a godly seed. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of this youth.” What does that say in plain English? God made husband and wife one that they might reproduce and have a godly seed. Sad thing in the world today is that many who ought to be having children are not having children. My heart goes out to those of you who want children and cannot have them, and they would give anything if they could conceive and have a child. But there are many in the world today who no longer consider children a blessing, but rather a curse. Many children are killed in the womb because they would be an impediment to the plans of father and mother. Today, there is a new category of persons. They’re called Dinks, Capital D-I-N-K; double income, no kids. They figure if father and mother work, they don’t have any kids, then they will have enough to satisfy their material desires. I’ve told you before, however, that children don’t make a rich man poor; they make a poor man rich. We are to be one physically for multiplication.

Listen, we’re to be one flesh **psychologically for communication.** You need somebody by your side. Marriage is the deepest emotional intimacy that you can have. Not only should you be lovers, you ought to be friends. Your wife is your completer, not your competer. And we are to be one psychologically. Marriage



is like a violin and a bow. The bow may be something over here and the violin something else, but when they get together, then the music comes.

And then we're to be one flesh **for communion**. And there are few things, if any, that will draw husband and wife closer together than prayer. And if you are one flesh, then it follows as night follows day, you ought to pray together. And I'm going to ask you, those of you who are members of our church. If you're not having a family time of devotion, and man, mister, if you are not praying with your wife, there's something desperately wrong. Now men don't like to pray with women, because men are self-sufficient. Men don't mind getting the roof off; they don't just don't like to get the walls down. But there's nothing that your wife needs more than to hear you pray and to hear your heart. And God has made us one flesh.

Now God has designed the family, so it follows as night follows day that **Satan wants to destroy your family**. Look if you will in Matthew chapter 19 and verse 7 through 9, "And they said unto Him, 'Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement and put her away?' He saith unto them, 'Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you that whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication,'" that word means sexual uncleanness, "and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.'" Now listen to me, folks, God says that marriage is to be a permanent union, but the devil has leveled all of the artillery of Hell against the home, and he wants to break up your home.

Now there are some today who say, "Well, I'm going to get a divorce. I've got a good reason for getting a divorce." They say, "You know," and I've heard this too many times, "the love has gone out of our marriage." Friend, that will not pass by the judgment of God; that the love has gone out of your marriage. You see, it is not love that holds your marriage together; it is marriage that sustains your love. And love is not some emotion that you feel. It is a choice of the will. As a matter of fact, the Bible says in Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 25, "Husbands, love your wives." That's not a suggestion. That is a command. What kind of a God would command me to do something I cannot do? Suppose God tells me, "Adrian, jump over this church building." I can't jump over this church building. Therefore, God would not command me to do it unless somehow He enabled me to do it. And when the Bible says that husbands are to love their wives, that is a command from God. And behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God to carry out that command.

Over in the book of Titus, Titus chapter 2 verse 4, God teaches what the older ladies are to do. "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands." That doesn't say to feel like a grasshopper on roller skates. He's not talking about that kind of love. He says, "Teach them to love their husbands." That is, that's something that you can learn, it's something you can do. Now God, He has commanded us to love. Now we have a generation today that doesn't understand love. Therefore, they say, "The love has gone out of our marriage."

What happened when you were dating? You had your little shopping list. You were looking around. You said, "I want somebody good-looking or beautiful. I want somebody who thinks I'm funny. I want somebody with a good personality. I want somebody that has certain physical attributes and maybe perhaps certain intellectual gifts, somebody who can make me feel good." And so the time comes when you finally say to that young lady or that young man, "I love you." That may be true, but more likely in today's society it is, "I want you. I want you because you meet a particular need in my life." And that kind of love is not the love that God is talking about that binds husbands and wives together. As a matter of fact, that kind of love is a very conditional love. And if those are the reasons that you got married, because of somebody's charm or somebody's beauty or somebody's wit, then your marriage is in danger.



Now I'm not saying that charm and wit and beauty are not important. Sure they're important. But let me tell you something, folks. Those things fade; they go away after a while. I mean, you may have married a man who was an Adonis, but now he's bald and bulging. You may have married a woman who was beautiful, but now she's fat and forty. She has a Supreme Court figure: no appeal. Can you see how dangerous that kind of conditional love is to a marriage? It is basically selfish. And it's going to bring three attitudes in your partner if you married for that kind of a reason. First of all, fear. They're going to be afraid that they cannot keep up the conditions of marriage. They're going to be afraid that somebody else is going to come along that meets those conditions better. Number two, you're going to feel guilt. "There's something wrong with me. I did not measure up." And number three, you'll feel, finally, anger. You'll feel like you have been used. That is conditional love.

God's love for us is an unconditional love. And when the Bible says that a husband is to love his wife, God uses the word "agape love," which is unconditional love. And it does not depend upon our meeting those conditions. The Bible says in Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." When we know that the husband, the wife loves the other with an unconditional love, think what that does. You have security in the place of fear. You have peace, which replaces guilt. You have joy, which is going to replace that anger. And so don't say that, "The love has gone out of our marriage and therefore we need to separate." It's a lie from Hell.

Number two, somebody comes up with this excuse, "It would be far better for our children if we got a divorce than for our children to live in this constant wrangling." Well, sociologists have told us that divorce is seldom if ever a positive factor in the life of a child, if you're talking about what is better for the child. I suggest you go ask the children and see what they think about it. Actually, you get the idea that it's better for the children. Really, basically, that is selfishness on your part. You want to do what you want and have what you want to have, and yet you pawn it off as better for the children. And you say, "Well, the only two alternatives we have is divorce or over here with constant wrangling." Listen to me, there's a third alternative: you get your heart right with God and stop this wrangling, and don't use some silly excuse for it. The Bible says in Romans 12:18 that we're to live peaceably with all men.

Well, a third person will say, "Well, I owe it to myself to be happy." Oh, you hear this over and over again. Friend, you owe it to yourself to keep your word when you made a marriage vow before Almighty God. And by the way, you don't live in isolation. Your happiness is not the only thing that matters. Listen, when you say, "I want someone else so I'm going to be happy," do you know what you have said? "God, I don't care about Your commandments." Number two: you have defrauded your partner that you've made a holy vow to. Number three: you have dishonored yourself, because you now have broken that vow and you have wounded your children.

Another wrote this word. I want you to listen, "A man who breaks up his home by adultery is telling his child, "Your mother is not worth much, and your father is a liar and a cheat. Furthermore, honor is not nearly as important as pleasure. In fact, my child, my own satisfaction is more important than you." Don't tell me that you're going to get a divorce because it would be better for the children.

Now there are others who say, "Well, I've prayed about it, and God has told me to get a divorce." Oh, yes? You think that God has changed His laws just for you, that you are a special exception? No, listen, people who get divorces and people who don't get divorces normally have about the same kind of problems. It's how people react to those problems. There are no problems too big to solve; just people too small to solve them. We can solve a problem if we will attack the problem rather than one another.

Now if you've got a bad marriage, one sermon is not going to change your marriage. And your marriage will not be healed overnight. But I tell you what you can do in this one service: you can change



the direction of your marriage. Change the direction and you can begin to grow a marriage as God wants it to be. You can make that decision. What a tragedy it is when 10% of the marriage is in trouble and the other 90% goes down the drain because people are not mature enough to do what God wants them to do.

Now, listen, God has designed the family. Satan wants to destroy the family. Thirdly, **you must defend your family.** Again, I'm telling you we are at war. There is a war on the family, perhaps more than any other war, more insidious than the terrorism and other things that we face. I want to say again, the church is no stronger than its families. This nation is no stronger than its families. Matthew 19 verse 6, God says, "Wherefore, they are no more twain, but one flesh. What, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Now, folks, God has joined us together, and where there is God, there is hope.

Now perhaps you've failed. You say, "Pastor Rogers, the message today is making me feel guilty. Our home is broken, broken beyond repair. We've divorced and gotten remarried. What should we do?" Make the best of that marriage. Though it was not God's original will, you cannot unscramble eggs. And I want you to understand that God is a God of mercy. There are those who are self-righteous people who want to make divorce an unpardonable sin. They want to make divorce a dead-end road. And yet, God's Word teaches that if we have failed, we can be forgiven. And forgiveness is always available. And listen, if your home has been broken, whether it's your fault or somebody else's fault, I'm telling you that is not the end for you. God has a way for you. Romans chapter 8 verse 1 says, "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." None! And don't you let the devil condemn you over this. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And Isaiah chapter 1 verse 18 says, "'Come now, let us reason together,' saith the Lord. 'If your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'" And people who are self-righteous, looking down upon others who've failed, you need to understand that you've failed also. Who are you to judge someone else? And the church is not supposed to be so much a showcase for saints as it is a hospital for sinners. And if you have a need, we ought to be here.

There were people who wanted to stone a woman because she was taken in adultery. And you remember the story. John chapter 8 verse 7, "So when they continued asking Him, He lifted up Himself and said unto her unto them, 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.'" Now anybody in this congregation sinless? Of course not! Therefore, don't you look down your long nose at somebody who has suffered a broken home. They need your love. They need your compassion. They don't need your condemnation.

Now Jesus, in this same chapter in John 8 verses 10 and 11 said, "And when Jesus had lifted up Himself and saw none but the woman, He said unto her, 'Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?' And she said, 'No man, Lord.' And He said unto her," listen, "'Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more.'" Now I ask you a question: what would God do with a repentant sinner today who has a broken home? How would Jesus treat them? He would treat them exactly the same way because the Lord changes not. In Hebrews 13 verse 8, He says that, "Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Now, sure, divorce is wrong. If you think I'm minimizing divorce this morning or marital infidelity, you're dead wrong. We will never as a church lower the bar. We will teach what God's Word teaches, that marriage is a union where people leave, cleave, and become one flesh. That is God's plan. We will build at the top of a cliff a fence, a wall as high, as strong as we can do it. And we will teach our young people clearly and plainly with no equivocation, no stutter, no stammer, what the Bible says about marriage. We will build that wall there at the top of a cliff. But ladies and gentlemen, we also need an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We also need to minister to those who have failed in some way. And we are to defend



our homes. God has designed it, the devil wants to destroy it, then it's up to you, clearly and plainly, to defend the home.

Now **how can you defend your home?** I want to give you a few things, and we'll be finished with the message. Number one: if you are already married, **make Jesus Christ the head**, the center, the nucleus of your home. Now your home is like a wheel and Jesus is the hub. And the closer the members of that family, the spokes in that wheel, come to the hub, the closer they are to one another. And let me tell you this, if you will make your home, put Christ in the center of your home, that will be, in this day and in this age, perhaps the greatest testimony you can possibly give. I have many people tell me, "Pastor, thank you for modeling the home." I'm not even conscious of that. It's something right that we ought to do. But I have had perhaps more people say that than say, "I heard your sermon." I'm telling you, your greatest testimony, if you are saved with a Christian home, may be your home. Now, make sure that Christ is the head of your home.

Number two: **continue to feed that love** day by day. Now some people get the idea that love, true love is like a dazzling diamond, something that we find, something that we purchase, something that we keep, something that we enjoy, "a diamond is forever." But no, that's not what love is. Love is not like a diamond. Love is like a flower, a beautiful flower, and it must be nurtured, it must be cultivated, it must be cared for day by day, like a tender flower that gets more and more beautiful. And if you don't love your wife more today than you did some years ago, you probably love her less. And I can tell you without stutter, God knowing my heart, I love my wife more deeply than I ever did, because our love, I loved her when we got married, but love is a continuing, a growing thing.

Now I want to say a word to you men. Never flirt with another woman, even in jest. Never cease to flirt with your own wife. Remember how you used to treat her when you first got married? You go round and open the door of the car for her. Now if a man opens the car door, one of two things is true: either the car is new or the wife is new. Cultivate that love, and never flirt with another. And if you are married and have a Christian home, make it a testimony to the world.

Now, next, **if your home is broken, ask God for forgiveness.** If it was not your fault, deal with that bitterness and get rid of it. You're not going to make it any better with bitterness.

And if you are unmarried, you college students, listen to your pastor, marry only in the Lord. Never, never, no never, ever marry an unsaved person with the idea that you can lead that person to Christ. You're asking for trouble. The Bible says in Second Corinthians 6:14, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." An unbeliever is a child of the devil. If you marry a child of the devil, you get the Devil for a father-in-law. You marry only in the Lord. Do not marry a person in order to change them. By the way, you say, "How am I going to find the right person?" Well, to find the right person is to be the right person. And there's somebody else out there that's looking for you, just like you are looking for them. And trust the Lord in this. And be patient.

Now if you want your marriage to last, remember what the Bible says in the book of Ecclesiastes in chapter 4 and verse 12, "A three-fold cord is not easily broken." One strand can be broken, two strands can be broken, but three strands together give strength. What is a three-fold cord? It is a man, a woman, and Jesus Christ.

Question: those of you who are married and have good marriages, those of you who have marriages that are on the rocks, those of you who've had a broken home, are you willing to come to Jesus today, and say, "Lord God, I want revival in my home. There can't be revival in my home unless there's revival in me.



And there cannot be revival in the church unless there's revival in the home. And there cannot be revival in the nation unless there is revival in our families. O God, start a revival and let it begin with me."

God wants you. There are three homes that God wants you to have: God wants you to have a Heavenly home. Are you headed there? Are you saved, bound for glory, are you? Do you know that you're saved? God wants you to have a Heavenly home. God wants you to have a family home. And God wants you to have a church home. And Jesus is the key to all three.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Would you pray for your home, for your family? If you're single, for the home that you have, you hope to have. Did you know that you can pray for your partner, even when you don't even know their name, because God knows their name, if you've not yet been married? If you've failed, remember that failure's not final. That divorce is not an unpardonable sin. That God has a future for you. "If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature: old things are passed away." That's not to minimize divorce; it's to maximize grace, and we need to understand that. Friend, would you ask God to take your home and make it a testimony to your neighbors, to others round about you? Let your home be a cameo of God's love and God's faithfulness. Father God, O God, in the name of Jesus, I pray that You'll bless our homes, and may there be revival in the home.

Now while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, if you've never, ever, really received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, would you pray a prayer like this? "Dear God, I need You. I want You. I need to be saved. I need my sin forgiven. I need Your power in my life. I want a home in Heaven. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would only trust You. I do trust You, Jesus." Tell Him that right now privately, but fervently. "I do trust You, Jesus. Come into my life now, right now, this moment. Come in. Take control of my life. I trust You to do it.

Now, friend, you don't have to have an emotional feeling for that to happen. You don't have to have a vision for that to happen, a sign. Stand on His Word. "Lord, come into my life. I trust You to do it. Thank You for doing it. Thank You, Jesus. Now, dear Lord Jesus, help me not to be ashamed of You. Help me to make this public to show that I really mean business. In Your name I pray. Amen."



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