

MIXED UP MARRIAGES

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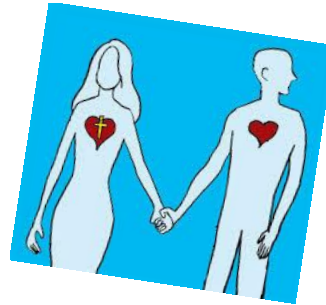
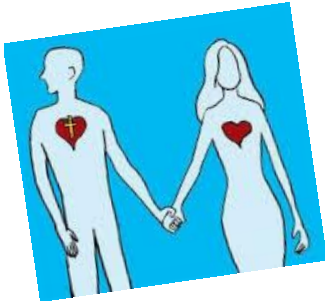
**2 Corinthians 6:14: Be ye not
unequally yoked together with**

unbelievers:

for what

fellowship hath

**righteousness with unrighteousness? and what
communion hath light with darkness?**



There would be surely thousands of couples in our land still married, still in the bonds of holy matrimony today...if **God's Laws, Rules and Regulations** had been obeyed.

Many of you would be happier today and not suffered the tortures of a guilty conscience whenever the Bible is preached, if you had not acted hastily. Those heart breaking and mind shaking experiences of going through the Divorce Courts, with sleepless nights and the memory of high lawyer fees could have been eliminated.

- ✦ **If you had obeyed God's Word which forbids you to marry a sinner**
- ✦ **If you had only listened to the Bible on the rules regulating divorce**
- ✦ **If you would have not ignored the regulations concerning re-marriage**

Many are attempting to sue for divorce on these grounds of religious incompatibility. There is no Bible verse for this anywhere. Recent surveys indicate that mixed marriage, which means husband and wife do not share the same religious beliefs or faith, has become one of the most serious problems that hardly anyone had suspected. The tragic mistake of mixed marriage is more saddened because:

The FACT that MOST PEOPLE were NEVER WARNED in ADVANCE.

Many Christians really did not know that they were getting into hot water when they married an unbeliever. I have been shocked into a greater sense of my moral obligation to:

WARN YOU of the DANGERS

of TRANSGRESSING GOD'S WORD

in this MATTER of MIXED MARRIAGE,

and on the SUBJECT of DIVORCE.

You know where my shock treatment came from? It came from you, many of you who have become married to someone of another religious persuasion, or to a sinner. You told me no minister of the Gospel ever told you it was wrong. It is evident that we ministers have a greater responsibility before God and to you, than we are discharging. We owe it to you, to tell you what the Bible teaches on this very most important matter of your whole life.



Marriage is for keeps and God made the rules for marriage to cause you to have a happy and successful life together *until death do us part.*

God put the marriage fence up so high that none can lightly climb over and steal another woman's husband, or another man's wife away from them without sinning against God.

God made the marriage union so strong and binding and the walls so high that you cannot climb overboard very easily and chase after someone else. Marriage is for keeps and the Bible says: The wife is bound by the law to her husband as long as he liveth. But if he dies, she is loosed from that law, so that she can be married to another man.

The Phrase "ONLY IN THE LORD"

means only to someone who is a Christian.

The Lord tells us in:

Numbers 18:11: And this is thine; the Heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the Children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

Meaning that any of the priests of the Lord, who has a daughter, she cannot marry a sinner. If she should rebel against the Word of the Lord, then she will be counted unclean and forfeit the privilege of partaking of the food of the Tabernacle. She is also forbidden to eat of the Holy Bread in:



Leviticus 22:12: If the priest's daughter also be married unto a stranger, she may not eat of an offering of the holy things.

Mixed marriages are strictly forbidden by God and we shall see from these scriptures some of the people who were confronted with this problem.

- 1. Genesis 24:37: And my master made me swear, saying, "Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:"***

Abraham made his servant Eliezer promise; and this is what the servant said to Rebekah's brother Laban

Genesis 24:37-38:

³⁷ And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:

³⁸ But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.

- 2. Genesis 28:1: And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.***

- 3. Genesis 26:34-35:***

³⁴ And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:

³⁵ *Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.*

4. Genesis 34:1-14:

¹ *And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.*

² *And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.*

³ *And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.*

⁴ *And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this damsel to wife."*

⁵ *And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come.*

⁶ *And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him.*

⁷ *And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter: which thing ought not to be done.*

⁸ *And Hamor communed with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to wife.*

⁹ *And make ye marriages with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you.*

¹⁰ *And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein."*

¹¹ *And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, "Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give.*

¹² *Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife."*

¹³ *And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:*

¹⁴ *And they said unto them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us:"*

5. Exodus 34:12-16:

¹² *Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:*

13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, Whose Name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

6. Deuteronomy 7:3-4:

3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

4 For they will turn away thy son from following Me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

We see this fulfilled in:

Judges 3:5-10:

5 And the Children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:

6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.



7 And the Children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and

the Children of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years.

9 And when the Children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the Children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

Numbers 25:1: And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

Ruth 1:1-5:

1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons,



2 And the name of the man was

Elimelech, and the name of his wife

Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

7. Joshua 23:12-13:

12 Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:

13 Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

8. Judges 14:2-3:

² And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, "I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife."

³ Then his father and his mother said unto him, "Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said unto his father, "Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well."

Numbers 11:4: And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the Children of Israel also wept again, and said, "Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

Ezra 9:2: For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

Nehemiah 13:3: Now it came to pass, when they had heard the Law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

Exodus 33:16: For wherein shall it be known here that I and Thy people have found grace in Thy sight? is it not in that Thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and Thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

2 Corinthians 6:17: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate," saith the Lord, "and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

Revelation 18:4: And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

I know that religious unity is not the only thing necessary to make a happy marriage. It is not the only ingredient to make or cause your marriage to click. But it will surely help make it stick, and that is what is most important.

There must also be a real God-given love and affection for each other, love well fed on admiration and mutual respect for one another. Without these two what love

there is, is more of physical attraction than spiritual. There needs to be a common interest, and unity in desires with unselfishness of heart. These cannot be found in the home where one is a sinner and the other is a saint of God.

God's Word brings up this big thoughtful question:

HOW CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER EXCEPT THEY ARE AGREED?

Amos 3:3: Can two walk together, except they be agreed?



This very first thing necessary to make your marriage work is:

Start out united in Christ (evenly yoked), pulling together and praying together.

Some of you knew there were differences, religiously, before you were married but your love squashed the differences in faith, hoping they would evaporate. It just doesn't work that way. God said:

Deuteronomy 7:3a - 4:

^{3a} Neither shalt thou make marriages with them;

⁴ For they will turn away thy son from following Me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

It is certainly clear that God strictly forbids mixed marriages.

REASONS why GOD

is UNCOMPROMISING

in HIS CONDEMNATION

of MIXED MARRIAGES . . .



1. You ought not to marry a sinner because you love the Lord and want to please Him.

No marriage can have the Blessing of God upon it if it is not built on the solid foundation of His Word. God knows better than we do. The fact is, a sinner is a child of the devil and cannot possibly have peace and harmony with a Christian.

1 John 3:9-10:

⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

¹⁰ In this - the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,



The two are opposites and going in the opposite direction.

One who is a sinner is on the broad road which leads to Hell and destruction.

The other one, who is a child of God, is on the straight and narrow road which leads to Heaven.

One is a child of light and the other a child of darkness.

2. You ought not to do this because it will bring conflict and disagreements between you and your lost companion.

Do you realize that as a child of God, you cannot give to an unbelieving partner in marriage what you promised to give in the holy marriage vows?

You are making promises which you cannot keep; and that is not fair; it is not right!

3. Mixed Marriages are an Impossibility.

You are seeking to join together two people who can never really belong to each other, unless there is a change of heart.

The one loves the Lord Jesus and the other loves the devil.

So how can they truly love each other deep down inside, where all true love comes from?

**You may be legally married,
morally too,
but not in heart and soul.**

There will always be a high wall that separates you two. You are living in two different worlds, as far apart as Heaven is from Hell.

IMAGINE THIS – It's Vacation Time and . . .

Let me suppose that you two decided to take a trip together. Your partner wants to go to Las Vegas or Reno, Nevada and you desired to go to Mackinac Island to the *Vacation with Inspiration*. Both of you go to the airport, purchase your tickets. The ticket agent will doubt your sanity if you tell that you wish to travel together and yet you are going in different directions.

You will have to agree to compromise and go with each other to the one place and then to the other place or else each of you go it alone. How do you, as a child of God, think you will feel hanging around those gambling dens of vice and sin? How do you think that sinner will feel in a Gospel meeting where the saints are rejoicing and worshipping the Lord?

Neither one of you will fit into the other's company and enjoy it. Don't you see what I am trying to say? It is very unfair to marry a person who is headed in the opposite direction spiritually.

You are thinking that you can travel together, but your plight is that you are headed in opposite directions to opposing destinations. That is what life is like in a mixed marriage.

I know that many of you have wanted to make yourself believe that eventually you will persuade your companion to become a Christian, too. So you have said: "Let's just go ahead and get married; and we will take care of the religious problems later, as we go along."

Do you know of how many cases where this happened, and yet did not work out that way? Let me tell you that over 90% have taken this chance and lost.

I must tell you what usually takes place. The Christian, to keep peace and harmony in the home, backslides and becomes miserable by compromising with their unsaved companion. Or, they live at odds with each other and fight like cats and dogs.

All the facts of human experience are against your marrying a sinner. Although there are rare exceptions, I dare say that even those freely will tell you not to try it.

Marriage was never intended to be a missionary enterprise, to convert the lost heathen to Christ. That should have been settled before marriage. Usually the one you are seeking to convert becomes very antagonistic to the Gospel. They resent having the one they are married to, trying to convert them.

You should not want to be married to a sinner for what it will do to your children. They will become helpless victims of cross-fire between parents. You can only have, at best, a house divided against itself. Jesus said:

Mark 3:25: And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

There is nothing more painful to children than to listen to arguing and fussing parents. Much of today's juvenile delinquency is caused by religious differences in the home. Add to this, the fact that children are very sensitive to their parent's feelings. They sense when something is radically wrong between parents.

The rebellion amongst adults is soon sown in the children's hearts and they will help you reap what you have sown. They, in turn, will rebel against society as this is their way of passing it on. So, if you are a part of a mixed marriage, you will be held responsible for hurting them.

If you and your marriage partner have agreed that you will not force your religion upon your children, that you will let them make up their own minds, you are only talking sheer nonsense. There is no real neutrality in any home. Besides, if it were possible for you to be neutral, it would be a terrible injustice to your children, especially if you are a real born again Christian.

In Christ's perspective, you are either for Him or against Him, that if you did not gather with Him, you are scattering abroad. There is no place of neutrality in the Gospel of Christ.

Parents are expressly commanded to:

Proverbs 22:6: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.



Matthew 19:14: But Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

If you, as a Christian, disobey these commandments to keep peace in your home, you will lose the peace from Heaven and incur His disfavor.

Summing it up, we have to choose between obeying Christ or our unsaved partner.

Someday, God will call you to account for what you have done to His Son Jesus, the Lord of your children as well. Remember what Jesus said:

Mark 9:42: And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in Me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

Finally, you ought not to marry a lost soul because this will cause the Church of Jesus Christ to be hurt. Maybe you've never thought about that. The very work which you have been doing for the Lord, who saved you from your sins, is often curtailed or restricted and sometimes abandoned.

Maybe you think the church has no hold on you and has no right to expect your services any longer. Forget it not, the Lord loves you and you are a part of His Family.

Did you know that statistics indicate that about 25% of those who have mixed marriages leave the Church altogether? This is a very serious thing not only for those who leave the House of God but those who are hurt by your influence in the Church. Not mentioning what this will do to your children's eternal welfare.

Instead of your marriage helping to build the Church it is tearing it down. Do you want your marriage to do that?

What about those who stay in the church in mixed marriages. They are testifying to their fellow believers that this pattern is all right and acceptable by their example. This is like sabotaging the Church from within, whether they realize it or not.

The Prophet Balaam

Do you remember the old prophet Balaam? He fought Balak, a heathen king who wanted to destroy Israel and inter-marry into the children of God to destroy them. Although reluctant to go this far at first, Balaam could not resist the temptation of all the money that Balak offered to him, if the plan worked.

Here was his plan: If you get your boys to marry their girls, and their boys to marry your girls, that will do it. Then God will punish them for marrying outside their faith and bringing strangers into the camp with their strange gods and evil practices.

Mixed marriages destroyed many in Israel when nothing else could do it.

Mixed marriages can easily do the same thing to our churches today.

You had better take a good look at that young man or young lady whom you are dating and thinking of marrying. You must have all the other ingredients that are essential to a good marriage.

For the marriage to be holy and blessed of God, both must be born again believers who are living all out for Jesus. Are you?

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