



HOPE FOR MESSED UP FAMILIES
COLOSSIANS 3:12-13, 17-19



- **Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
(Gen. 2:18 ESV)**
- **"... Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles," (1 Cor. 7:28 ESV)**

FAMILY'S POOR RECORD IN SCRIPTURE.

1. Adam does not "own" his sin, blaming Eve (and God).
2. Abraham's passing off his wife, Sarah, as his sister to save himself. 2x
3. Sarah "sending" Abraham in to Hagar; then throwing her out after she is pregnant.
4. David's adultery with Bathsheba. Murder - Uriah.



The problem for families in the OT is the same as the present day:

- **Husband and wife are two sinners who are married!**

5. Leah “hires” Jacob, sexually, in exchange for Rachel’s mandrakes.
6. Leah/Rachel plus handmaids.
7. Cain/Able. Joseph/brothers
8. Isaac/Rebekah.
9. Amnon, rapes his half-sister, Tamar, to the silence of King David, his father. Absalom kills him.
10. Solomon’s 700 wives, 300 concubines.



1. GOD IS COMMITTED TO MARRIAGE, IN SPITE OF OUR DISMAL RECORD.

Mal. 2:14, 16 ... Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ...16 "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, ..."

- Prov. 5:18



“An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,” (1 Tim. 3:2 NAU)

THE NT INCLUDES DIVINE PROTECTIONS FOR MARRIAGE.

1. Took away the man’s legal right to end marriage for any reason (Hillel); Deut 24:1, Matt 5:31-32
2. Divorce as a protection for the wounded party – allowed for sexual immorality of any kind. Matt 5:31-32; 19:6, 9
3. Eliminated polygamy (church leaders). 1 Tim 3:2



2. GOD TASKS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO INSPIRE THE DIVINE PERSPECTIVE IN MARRIAGE.

Eph. 5:18-21 ... but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ...; 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.... 25 Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. ... 33 and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. (NAU)



2. GOD TASKS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO INSPIRE THE DIVINE PERSPECTIVE IN MARRIAGE.

- Col. 3:16-19 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, 18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. (NAU)



3. GOD INSTRUCTS HOW RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS CAN RETURN IN A MESSED UP FAMILY.

Instruction give on how to to reconcile.

- 1. Repentance of the offender. Col 3:5f**
- 2. Forgiveness by the wounded. Col 3:13**
- 3. Reconciliation after genuine repentance. Col 3:14-15**



And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (Jn. 16:8 ESV)

WHAT DOES REPENTANCE LOOK LIKE?.

1. Convicting power of Christ:
 - A. that I have sinned. 3:16; John 16:8
 - B. that I have been forgiven by His grace. Col 3:13b
2. Act of the will to “put to death” my sin behaviors. 3:5f
3. Complete truthfulness, transparency, accountability. John 8:31-32



Unless the sin is “put to death” by the offender, forgiveness is possible, but not restoration.

FOR THE OFFENDED?

1. Forgiveness is a voluntary act of the will:
 - to give up my right to get even; to let my anger go
2. Grieve my dreams of what life was supposed to be.
3. Choose to live “through the pain,” bearing up, enduring.
4. So I can take a fresh start at my marriage.



4. THE PROCESS TOWARDS RESTORATION BECOMES AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE, NOT TO MY MATE, BUT TO GOD.

- **Col. 3:17-19** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
- **Eph 5:22**, Wives be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord.



Marriage intensive:
[https://hoperestored
.focusonthefamily.c
om/intensives/what-
is-an-intensive.](https://hoperestored.focusonthefamily.com/intensives/what-is-an-intensive)

- **NEXT STEPS.**

1. Begin at the cross. Is your marriage where God wants it? What does God want you to do about improving it?
2. Have a conversation with your spouse about your marriage. Ask your spouse how you can love them better? Are there sins you need to confess and ask for forgiveness from them?



THE FOUR “A’S” OF DIVORCE.

- Adultery – interpreted broadly to include voluntary sexual immorality, Matt 5:32; 19:19
- Abandonment. 1 Cor 7:15
- Abuse – physical; vicious behaviors, verbal, emotional abuse of spouse or minor child. Matt 5:32
- Addiction. Matt 5:32