



# *One Step Further*

## **Class 4 – One Step Further at Home**

- Christ freed us from the Law
- By fulfilling the Law and explaining the doctrine of Salvation by Grace, Christ frees us from the responsibility of having to follow a strict master of conducts and behaviors
- We are no longer bound by a system of rules and regulations
- And he calls us to an even stricter master!
- By moving the battleground from **ACTIONS** to **THOUGHTS**, Jesus harnesses the power of our Conscience, and calls us go **ONE STEP FURTHER**
- Christ's calling guides our lives at Work and in the Ecclesia as we've talked about the past few classes

### **SLIDE**

- But, that is nothing compared to how Christ's teachings affect how we act at Home
- I'm not really looking forward to getting so "Personal" with you, but the Word of God is **VERY** Personal
- God's Message is **INTENDED** to hit us "Close to Home"
- God's Message is **INTENDED** to apply right there in the middle of our home...

### **SLIDE**

- Christ talks extensively about **MARRIAGE** in the first sermon
- Let's begin our discussion on **ONE STEP FURTHER @ Home** by tackling the topic of Adultery...

- Let's look at some familiar words in Matthew 5:

## SLIDE

- Matthew 5:27-30

- 27) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'
- 28) But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- 29) If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
- 30) And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

- This is the actually perfect arena for Jesus to introduce the ideal of taking things **ONE STEP FURTHER**
- Moses' Law was based on **ACTIONS**...
- Outward, Visible, External Actions...
- Christ's Law is based on **THOUGHTS**...
- Inward, Invisible, Internal Thoughts...
- In what other area are the two so apparent, and so common?
- We all intimately understand Sexual Sins...
- Ecclesially we often deal with the Physical Out-workings of Sexual Sins...
- The Adultery, The Pre-Marital Sex, sometimes even Molestation and Abuse
- But, in any stretch of the imagination, do **ANY** of us really believe that **THOSE** are **REALLY** the problem?
- Sexual Sins are like Icebergs, and the horrendous, horrific, family shattering events that rise to the surface are really only the tip of a much large problem
- Christ focuses us on the **REAL** Issue

- Christ takes our attention away from the outward displays of emotion, and encourages us to attack the problem at it's root
- Consider what Paul told the Colossians:

### SLIDE

- Colossians 2:20-23

- 20) If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations -
- 21) "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch"
- 22) (referring to things that all perish as they are used) - according to human precepts and teachings?
- 23) These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting **self-made religion** and **asceticism** and **severity to the body**, but they are of **no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.**

- Jesus understood that making rules won't rein in a man's sexual appetite...
- You can fill your life with as many "Do Nots" as you'd like
- It will look like your being harsh on your body
- But, it won't have any effect in restraining your mind!
- What was Jesus trying to tell us then?
- Everyone knows that Adultery is wrong...
- But in this area of human sinfulness especially, the desire and intention are themselves guilt
- Jesus acknowledged this and calls us to go **One Step Further**

### SLIDE

- Jesus says, ***"We all agree the ACT of Adultery is bad..."***

### SLIDE

- ***"I'm telling you not to even THINK about it."***

- In simple terms, what Jesus is trying to say is...

### SLIDE

- **NOT** Committing Adultery is **NOT** the Opposite of Adultery

### SLIDE

- **NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT**, is the Opposite of Adultery
- Jesus isn't just telling us not to Sin
- He has our interest so keenly in mind that he wants more than that from us
- He doesn't want us to even **THINK** about sinning

### SLIDE

- Brother L.G. Sargent writes in, *"The Teaching of the Master"*:

“Jesus is far too much of a realist not to know that there is a vital difference between the act contemplated and the act completed – just as there is a wide difference between hard words and murder. But that difference is in the injury suffered by the other person; and **Jesus has in view the effect upon the sinner** rather than on the one sinned against. ***It is not a man's actions but his state of mind that erects a barrier between himself and God.***”

- Jesus has in view the effect upon the sinner!
- Jesus knows truly what is at the root of sin, and how to kill it at the roots!
- You will never be effective by trying not to sin
- You will only ever begin to advance in the battle if you remove the **CAUSE** of the actions
- Take captive every **THOUGHT** to make it obedient to Christ!

## SLIDE

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5

5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**

- The Temptations aren't the problem!
- Your response is the problem!
- Never forget that every temptation is also an opportunity to do good!
- God doesn't allow Temptation to come into our life simply to torment and torture us
- God wants **GOOD** to come of it!
- God wants us to tackle it head on, and learn from it
- God wants us to grow, to change, and to be transformed by our Temptations!

## SLIDE

- To do so, I think the first thing is to fully come to understand where our Temptations come from
- Although God allows them into our life...
- He does not Tempt us...
- James is quite clear about that...

## SLIDE

- James 1:13

13) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

- So, where do these rumblings deep in our heart originate?
- Keep reading...

## SLIDE

- James 1:14-15

14) But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- I love James' description of the process, because it's almost a mathematical equation for him...
- Each things adds onto the prior, building up to the climax
- And the process is always the same...

## SLIDE

1) First, you are drawn away by your own evil desires

- You begin to doubt what God has said about sin. Maybe it's not wrong.
- ***Maybe we won't die if we eat of the tree...***

## SLIDE

2) Then you have to **ADD** something to the temptation in order for it to conceive

- My Grandpa always said, ***"It takes two to Tango"***
- You can't get pregnant all by yourself
- On their own, your temptations are not a sin...
- The evil desires that drag you away and entices you are not the problem
- Without conception, they are lifeless, stillborn, dead...
- You are the one that brings them to life by feeding them
- **THIS** is where the battle is fought!
- **RIGHT HERE** is where you take control of your life!

## SLIDE

3) Because after conception, it gives birth to sin

- Every time
- Not sometimes...
- Every time.

## SLIDE

4) And Sin gives birth to death

- Unchecked, unstopped, uncontrolled, your sin will kill you
- It's clear, a simple mathematical progression...
- But, how then do we control this process?
- How do we stop it from killing us?
- **RIGHT THERE AT STEP 2!**
- That is where the battle is fought!
- That is where you can take control of your life!
- **Stop feeding it!**

## SLIDE

• Galatians 6:7-8

- 7) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for **whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**
- 8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- It's no secret
- It's no great mystery

- Garbage In
- Garbage Out
- Give conception to your desires, and you will sin
- You will sin, and you will die
- But, don't forget!
- You **CAN** do good!

### SLIDE

- Galatians 6:9-10

- 9) **And let us not grow weary of doing good**, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- 10) So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

### • **THEREFORE...**

### • **LET US DO GOOD!**

- Don't concentrate on **NOT SINNING**, simply concentrate on doing Good...
- Don't be like the man who finally gets rid of his Evil Spirit...
- And he sweeps his house and puts it in order
- ***But, he leaves it unoccupied***
- When the Evil Spirit returns to see what's happening, he realizes it's "Open House"
- He brings back seven other Evil Spirits with him, and the final condition of that man is worse than the first.
- *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*
- We are motivated to good works, by the Grace that God has blessed us with...



- Understanding the depth of God grace is key to turning this around...
- When we come to realize that we are not obligated to be perfect...
- When we come to believe deep in our hearts that it's not a matter of how good you've been, but how much faith you have that God is merciful and has forgiven you...
- The knowledge of the Grace of God is a tremendous relief!
- A joyous release of guilt and shame
- And an incredibly motivating power to push us to live lives of holiness and good works!
- No longer are you bound to fight this battle raging in your heart...
- You can ignore those thoughts and move on to better things
- Look at how Paul describes it in Romans 6...

### SLIDE

- Romans 6:11-14

- 11) So you also must **consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- 12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.
- 13) Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
- 14) For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- Sin shall not be your master!
- You are under Grace!
- Understanding that Amazing Grace is the solution!
- When you understand that, you are ready to move on, ignoring the lusts and desires, and concentrating your energy on doing good

- Jesus is telling us to not let our lusts get control of our minds
- To not fill your thoughts with impurity
- If the sin is in your mind...
- How is guilt to be avoided then?
- We are barraged every day with sex-ridden images
- There is a **HUGE** difference between being tempted and conceiving a sin
- Remember that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, yet was without sin
- It is the thought that is welcomed and *even encouraged* that is sin, whether or not it matures into action
- Jesus gives some “advice” on how to deal with these thoughts:

### SLIDE

- Matthew 5:29-30 (NIV)

- 29) If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
- 30) And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. **For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.**

- Is he really advising us to dismember ourselves?
- Clearly the meaning is that we can't hold back at all in exacting the severest self-discipline in order to avoid the overpowering temptations of lust
- This thought is also expressed in the Proverbs...

### SLIDE

- Proverbs 6:23-25

- 23) For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

- 24) to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.
- 25) Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

### SLIDE

- Proverbs 6:26-29

- 26) for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.
- 27) Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?
- 28) Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?
- 29) So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

- Don't Commit Adultery...
- That's easy...
- That's the visible, outward, external commandment that the law required
- Jesus calls us to go **ONE STEP FURTHER...**
- Jesus wants us to address the inward, invisible matters of the heart
- The matters that have to do with our attitude, motives and intentions

### SLIDE

- Jesus wants us to be a **ONE WOMAN MAN** or a **ONE MAN WOMAN**
- A Man who only has eyes for his wife
- A Man who only thinks of his wife
- A Man who only fantasizes about his wife
- Jesus points out that it's not only unhealthy,
- It's not just dangerous to the your Marriage
- It's not just that it can tend to depress you, and make you less satisfied with your wife

## SLIDE

- it **IS** actually a **SIN** to *“just look”*
- Job has great advice:

## SLIDE

- Job 31:1

1) *“I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?”*

- Whether you are married or single, this is great advice

## SLIDE

- One of the most helpful books that I ever read on this subject is called, *“Every Man’s Battle”*, by Stephen Afterburn, and there is a corresponding volume called *“Every Woman’s Battle”* for you Sisters
- He makes a great suggestion to simply *“Bounce Your Eyes”* when you see something tempting...
- I find that this works great to keep your thoughts away from where they shouldn’t be
- Whatever strategy you develop is fine, as long as you commit yourself to purity
- Pornography used to be such a terrible and dirty thing in America
- Thanks to the Internet, it’s now almost commonplace
- What once were vices, are now merely habits
- What once was salacious, is now simply a pop-up on your computer screen
- The statistics are staggering!
- 98% of all Adults have seen Pornography
- 38% view it regularly
- Unless you are going to sit there and tell me that this room is full of the **2%**, then I believe that we have a very real problem within our Brotherhood as well

- Take captive every **THOUGHT** to make it obedient to Christ!
- Don't allow this evil into your life, don't allow it into your house
- **Actions** are visible and automatically you are held accountable
- But, our **Thoughts** are the real problem, and a partner in this battle is helpful

### SLIDE

- When a marriage breaks down, it's a terrible thing...
- With every couple that divorces, a little bit of society dies...
- Jesus doesn't leave this topic out of his Sermon, either

### SLIDE

#### • Matthew 5:31-32

- 31) "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'
- 32) But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- The Law was established to regulate an activity that was being abused
- In Israel, as in the nations around them, if a man lost interest in his wife he simply kicked her out of his house
- In these cultures a woman couldn't own property, run a business, or trade on her own
- Effectively, by kicking her out onto the street, you were condemning her to homelessness, poverty and starvation... Or worse... Prostitution.
- A woman needed to be joined to man to find someone who would care for her, provide for her, and protect her
- That was why God had established Divorce...
- To stop the abuse

- Listen to the words God uses in Deuteronomy 24

### SLIDE

- Deuteronomy 24:1

1) “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house...

- God established a precedent whereby a man would write his wife a bill of divorce-ment, thereby allowing her to remarry and provide for herself that way...
- If men were so cruel and unforgiving as to no longer allow their wives to live with them, then the God of the Unprotected would watch out for them
- But, Jesus called us to go **ONE STEP FURTHER** in our dealings with each other

### SLIDE

- Matthew 5:31-32

31) “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

32) But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- Unless it be for the extreme cause of your wife being unfaithful to you, then you can’t just go divorcing her just because she doesn’t **“find favor in your eyes”**
- Jesus explained that Moses allowed for Divorce because of the people’s unrighteousness, but that was not the plan from the beginning...

### SLIDE

- Matthew 19:3-6

3) And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”

4) He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

- 5) and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?
- 6) So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

### SLIDE

- Matthew 19:7-9

- 7) They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"
  - 8) He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.
  - 9) And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."
- The sin of Divorce was so prevalent at the time, and this was such a radical thought that it's almost comical to see the disciples reaction

### SLIDE

- Matthew 19:10

- 10) The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, **it is better not to marry.**"
- This lets you know where Israel was on Divorce...
  - It was so common that the Disciples couldn't even envision a commitment without it...
  - Jesus called them (and calls us) to a higher plane...
  - To live up to the ideal that God set forth in the Garden of Eden...
  - Jesus doesn't deal with the "What-Ifs"
  - He simply calls us to be faithful to the person that we vowed ourselves to
  - It's interesting to note that he holds the "divorcing" partner responsible for the sins of the "divorced" partner

## SLIDE

- Matthew 5:32

32) But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- Where else do you see language like this?
- Where else are we called to such a high standard?
- Moses' Law was based on **ACTIONS**...
- Outward, Visible, External Actions...
- Christ's Law is based on **THOUGHTS**...
- Inward, Invisible, Internal Thoughts...
- Moses' Law made allowance for our unforgiving, sinful hearts
- Christ's Law calls us to perfection, and forgives us when we do not reach it
- There's something else that has always bothered me about Marriage in the Scriptures
- Let's take a little closer look at a few verses...
- One that's always puzzled me, is that verse that we looked at in Matthew 19...

## SLIDE

- Matthew 19:3-6

- 3) And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"
- 4) He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,
- 5) and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?
- 6) **So they are no longer two but one flesh.** What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."



- Jesus quotes from Genesis 1 and 2...
- He is saying that “from the beginning, it was so.”
- One Man – One Woman – Cleaving together and being One Flesh...
- Yet...
- Abraham, spoken of in James as the “friend of God”, and David, described in Acts as “a man after God’s own heart”, and Solomon, described as the wisest man ever to live...
- **ALL** had several wives and were not criticized for it...
- How are we to understand that?

### SLIDE

- Let’s look closely, and see if we can figure out what the Clearly Wrong Choice is, what the Clearly Right choice is, and what is in the middle...

### SLIDE

- It would have been Clearly Wrong to abandon their first wife for another, or to not provide for, or defraud any of their wives...

### SLIDE

- The ideal that Jesus clearly states seems to be the Clearly Right choice...
- One Man – One Woman – One Flesh

### SLIDE

- It seems like it was choosing less than the ideal for them to have more than one wife...
- Remember what we learned happens when you choose less than the Ideal
- Complications....
- It’s been almost 4,000 years since Abraham made his decision, and buses are still being blown up in the Middle East every day because of the decision he made...

- Every single year we read about David's greatest recorded sin and that is centered around his decision to take another wife...
- And in Solomon's case it's quite clear... ***“he had seven hundred wives, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart from the Lord.”***

### SLIDE

- I'm not going to say that having multiple wives was Wrong... **Otherwise, I have to rewrite Hebrews 11...**

### SLIDE

- It may not have been a sin itself, but for each one of them, it was a choice that clearly brought with it complications
- And complications bring opportunities to sin...
- A safer choice, would have been to go **ONE STEP FURTHER** and choose what Jesus says was the plan from the beginning, and stick with one wife...
- We can find ourselves accepting similar alternatives, and experiencing similar complication, and running into similar problems when we take a spouse...
- Even if we just take one...
- There are 1,001 different scenarios in marriage relationships, and I'm sure that we can find complications in them all...
- But, first I think it's important that we take a look at marriage itself...
- There's some evidence that marriage itself isn't even the best choice...

### SLIDE

#### • 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:6-9

- 6) Now as a concession, not a command, I say this.
- 7) I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.
- 8) To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.

9) But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

- It appears that Paul is setting it up this way...
- And he has a convincing argument...
- It's hard to hear sometimes, and easy to ignore, but listen to what he says...

### SLIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:27-30

- 27) Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife.
- 28) But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.
- 29) This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,
- 30) and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,

### SLIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:31-35

- 31) and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.
- 32) I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.
- 33) But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,
- 34) and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.
- 35) I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

- Let me repeat what Paul says in verse 28, so that no one misunderstands me...

## SLIDE

- **If you do marry, you have not sinned...**
- It's okay!
- It's a wonderful and amazing gift from God
- From the beginning of Creation he planned it and designed it that way
- It's very natural and right for a Man and Woman to marry...
- It's like Paul is using the exact same language that we've been speaking all weekend
- There are common things that we do that are NOT sinful
- But, there is a better way
- There is a way that serves God better
- It's a harder choice, but it may not have as many complications in it...
- I think if I'm honest with myself, even though I'm very happily married, I really have to agree with Paul's logic here

## SLIDE

- There is no doubt that you could have more time to dedicate to the service of the Lord if you were to stay single **AND** dedicate yourself to that
- And not simply dedicate yourself to pleasing your own desires
- Working at a happy marriage and working to raise healthy, God-fearing children are profitable and wonderful, but they are time-consuming professions
- If someone were to dedicate their life to serving the Ecclesia, we shouldn't treat them like they are weird, or some kind of Pariah
- We shouldn't continually make jokes about Wedding Bells and things like that
- They may very well have chosen the Higher Road...

- **AS AN ASIDE...**

**SLIDE**

- This **DOESN'T** mean you can commit yourself to marriage, and **THEN** decide that you want to spend all of your time serving the Ecclesia
- God expects us to be faithful to our commitments
- God expects us to be faithful to caring for the needs of our spouses
- I've seen too many Bible Class Widows, abandoned by their spouse to run the house by themselves, because their partner had to attend a meeting or teach a class
- This is also not what God wants from us...
- The Clearly Wrong Choice is easy to spot...
- Living a life of wanton lustfulness and abandon...
- What's in the Middle?
- We have to be honest...
- The middle area is choosing to marry...
- You have not sinned!
- But, you definitely have brought complications into your life, that the single person avoids...
- Many people find that their mate is a good source of help in working through the complications that arise... but, nonetheless, they are there...
- I like best how he phrases it at the end of the chapter...

**SLIDE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:36-38

- 36) If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry - it is no sin.

- 37) But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well.
- 38) So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

- If you marry, you are doing the right thing...
- If you don't marry, you're doing better...
- ***A little more positive spin on it...***
- So... What does this teach us?
- First of all...
- Before we start talking about some marriage situations that are "***less than ideal,***" let's remember that we chose less than the ideal, when we married...
- Let's be a little more understanding when we talk to people in tough situations

### SLIDE

- Probably the most popular marriage situation that falls into the "less than ideal" category is Divorce... (Extremely popular, nowadays...)
- I'd like to look how this principle of **One Step Further** applies here also...

### SLIDE

- What is the Clearly Right choice when faced with a Marriage Problem?
- Reconciliation...
- Obviously, it's best to resolve our problems and save the marriage...
- This is the hardest option...
- It requires the most faith...
- It requires trust that God will work in your life AND in the heart of your partner

- Recognizes that YOU can't resolve the problem, and it's only through prayer that it will be healed!...

### SLIDE

- What is the Clearly Wrong choice?
- Divorce
- Closing the door entirely to any hope of repairing the relationship
- Denying God's power to effect change in people's hearts

### SLIDE

- What about the choices in the middle?
- Temporary Separation
- Some time to work things out
- A cooling-off period
- A time to reassess what is valuable to you, and re-evaluate your relationship...
- This brings with it complications
- Loneliness and even Dating
- **“Out of sight, out of mind...”** I've seen people drift apart, and never return
- Again... The higher road, the Right Choice - **ALWAYS** requires the **HIGHEST** amount of Faith
- You have to remember that God does daily work miracles, and will perform wonders in your life...
- You can't rely on your own abilities...
- Or even your attempts to help Him out...
- Don't simply look at the decisions you have to make and try to determine which one is **NOT** sinful

- Christ wants us to do Good
- Christ wants us to make the faithful choice, the hard choice, the choice that brings good out of a bad situation
- And to go **ONE STEP FURTHER** in our Homes