

vows "for better or for worse . . . till death us do part" sound too risky. One liberal pastor said that marriage as we've known it is obsolete. Yet studies show that married people tend to be happier and healthier. One Poll revealed that 95 percent consider marriage and family life to be very important to them.

God put a padlock on wedlock because man needed the support and fulfilment that is inherent to a lifelong commitment. In Genesis 2:18, the Lord said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

We must recognise that God is not only the architect of marriage but also the One who holds it together. A marriage should be made up of three people: a wife, a husband, and Jesus Christ. The foundation of a Christian marriage needs to be a commitment to love and honour the Lord.

Is Jesus the third person in your marriage? He can bring lasting stability to a new relationship, and He can revive the love in a faltering one. But you must surrender to Him, letting Him show you in His Word how He can be your foundation. He's the padlock for wedlock. --DJD

*The marriage bond that joins two hearts
No power on earth can break
If these two hearts will yield to God
And of His love partake. --DJD*

Put Christ first if you want your marriage to last.



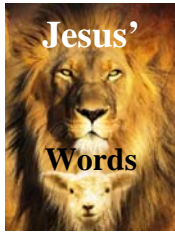
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The Padlock on Wedlock

They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. --Matthew 19:6

Some people would like to leave open the "padlock" on wedlock. The





Family Matters I

There are four issues regarding families that come up as Jesus begins His trek to Jerusalem:

1. _____ relatives, John 7:1-10

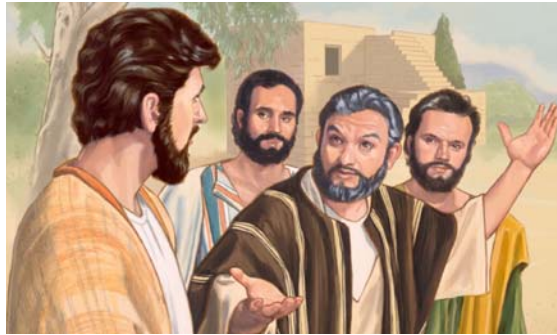
(Deuteronomy 16:16) *""Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD ...: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; ..."*

(Leviticus 23:42) *""You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,"*

(Matthew 13:55) *"".. His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?"*



Paul Tripp



Jesus advised by his brothers

(Acts 1:14) *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."*

(Matthew 13:58) *"Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."*

(1 Peter 3:1-2) *"Wives, likewise,*

be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, {2} when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear."

(Matthew 5:16) *""Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

(1 Peter 3:15) *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"*

2. _____, Matthew 19:1-9

(Mark 10:1) *".. and as He was accustomed, He taught them again."*

(Deuteronomy 24:1-4) *""When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, {2} "when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife, {3} "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, {4} "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land*



which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance."

#1. What is _____, verses 4-9

#2. What is _____, verse 8

(Ephesians 4:32) *"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."*

(Proverbs 28:13) *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."*

#3. R _____, verse 9

(1 Corinthians 7:10-15) *".. A wife is not to depart from her husband. {11} But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. {12} .. If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. {13} And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. {14} For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; ... {15} But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace."*