

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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Rogers, AR 72757
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www.downtowncoc.net



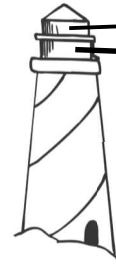
Make time to pray, for
God has time to listen.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

August 15, 2021

Why Marriages Fail

by David King

Why do marriages fail? Pundits offer a number of reasons, but these explanations don't tell the whole story.

For example, marriages do not fail due to incompatibility. Every marriage is comprised of two people who are incompatible in some respects. In successful marriages, partners learn how to adapt to each other's interests. Their differences become a source of strength, rather than a source of conflict.

Marriages do not fail because of money. Our grandparents were far

poorer than we are, yet there were far fewer divorces in their day. Somehow, they figured out that money – or the lack thereof – was simply something a couple dealt with. When they said, “for richer or for poorer,” they meant it. Poverty was a shared experience that brought them closer together, rather than driving them apart.

Marriages do not fail because of in-laws. God decreed that a man should “leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife” (Ge 2:24). A failure to cut the apron strings

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Gary Fletcher, James Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, and Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WE REJOICE at the recent baptism of Max Hill! Let's do all we can to be an encouragement to him — and to all our young people!

SENTENCE SERMON – If you are not ready to forgive, then you are not ready.



(continued from page one)

when entering a new relationship with a spouse can generate a lot of problems. But the in-laws generally can't be blamed for the problems. They can't intrude into the marriage unless the couple allows them to do so.

Marriages do not fail because of sex. Of all the incompatibilities that a couple must struggle with, this is probably the biggest. Men and women have different libidos, and it takes some couples a long time to understand each other's needs in this area. Some couples never do reach that understanding. But that doesn't mean a marriage is doomed. Successful marriages have this problem, too. They just learn to adapt.

Marriages do not fail because of the kids. Of all the reasons offered for a failed marriage, this is the most inexcusable. Raising children to be happy, well-adjusted, productive citizens is a primary reason for marriage in the first place. This job can be exhausting, exasperating and expensive. But if a couple remains patient and committed, it

will be the most rewarding achievement of their life. If children become the source of marital discord, there's something else going on behind the curtains.

All these issues may contribute to a failed marriage, but they are not the underlying cause. The main reason that marriages fail is simply selfishness. One or both parties in the relationship consider 'self' to be more important than 'spouse.' Armed with that attitude, every difference, however trivial, becomes a potential battleground that can destroy a marriage.

Self-help books on sex, children, money, etc., can be good resources for helping a young couple cope with marriage. But the best resource is a thorough indoctrination in the Biblical meaning of 'love' – treating others as more important than self.

*- from The Gospel Teacher,
Northside church of Christ, Alma AR*

"...they are heirs with you of the grace of life."

- 1 Pe 3:7

Another Perspective

Forgiveness Is Unfair

Before I can take forgiveness seriously, I must grasp what forgiveness means. Forgiveness is the decision to release a person from the obligation that resulted when he or she injured me. When I injure others, knowingly or unknowingly, I create an obligation. I take something from them: their time, money, pride, or dignity. And if I take something from my brother, then I owe him. Forgiveness doesn't mean that nobody pays that price. It means that the one granting forgiveness pays. He covers the debt. He's the one who takes care of it.

If I choose to release someone through forgiveness, I pay the debt. I absorb it. I cover it. I forego what is rightfully due to me. I release the person from what he owes. I pay. Not unlike how, when God forgives, God pays. That's the story of the gospel. I have a sin debt I can never pay, and Jesus pays it for me.

This extravagant, divine forgiveness sets the stage for human forgiveness, but that doesn't make it easy. Since the debt was unfair in the first place, we instinctively hesitate to pay it ourselves. But our reasons for not forgiving all turn out to be rationalizations. If we hold out for an apology, we are missing the point. An apology doesn't pay the debt; only forgiveness can. In the same way, if I am six months behind on my mortgage, a sincere 'sorry' to my bank won't cancel the debt or the added interest. The apology is irrelevant to the crisis of forgiveness. Forgiveness necessitates a decision point, a true crisis: will I choose to release the person from the obligation?

For fallen creatures like us, **un**forgiveness feels like power. Forgiveness surrenders the power to send any more 'bills' to that person. Forgiveness foregoes the power to hold the debt over him. The crisis to choose to forgive feels ugly and messy, but it's worth it. By releasing someone else, I release myself from the chains of self-destructive unforgiveness.

- Ken Green