

Life = together

Death = separation



**Instruction of God given
relationships**

Alive with God in garden

Adam and Eve given spiritual and physical life with God before Gen 3. It was wonderful! Ecc 12:7 body + spirit

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and they were not ashamed.

Like a child – really alive!

Spiritual and physical relationship

Mat 18:10 “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Rom 7:9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.

Separated from God by sin

Alive physically, still married, but spiritually dead.

**Unfaithfulness to God caused death. Gen 3:7
Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they knew that they were naked; and
they sewed fig leaves together and made
themselves coverings.**

**Paul said in Rom 7:9 Once I was alive apart
from the law; but when the commandment
came, sin sprang to life and I died.**

The third relationship – leave and cleave – takes 3 parties

Man, woman: Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

And God: Mat 19:6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Used as a type of our spiritual relationship in scripture.

**In the Old Testament, the 3rd
relationship was a type of
Israel's spiritual relation to God**

Idolatry in the OT typified their spiritual marriage to God

Israel and Judah were unfaithful in their marriage to God.

EZE 20:8 But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

Jer 3:8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.

In Deu 7:3, Eze 9:12 Israel not to intermarry with pagans

After returning from Babylon, many of Israel married foreign wives in disobedience to God. They were told to put away their foreign wives in Eze 10:11. It took 3 or 4 months for Israelites to separate their marriages, some with children.

In the New Testament, the 3rd relationship is a type of our spiritual relation to Christ

A type of our spiritual relationship to Christ. Eph 5:31,32 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Leaving (die) and cleaving (live) changes our relation to Christ

Rom 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

Relationship blessings

Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Pro 18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

Not just any woman. Pro 31:10 An excellent wife, who can find her? For her worth is far above jewels.

2Tim 1:5 Lois', Eunice's, Timothy's faith

Obligations of the 3rd relationship

No difference in male and female. Mark 10:11,12 “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

1Co 6:9 ... adulterers and others excluded from kingdom of heaven

Damage to the members of the relationship

Mat 5:32

But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Mutual obligations to sacrifice, as Christ did for church

**Luk 17:1 Now He said to His disciples,
“It is inevitable that stumbling blocks
come, but woe to one through whom
they come!**

**1Cor 8:9 But beware lest somehow this
liberty of yours become a stumbling
block to those who are weak.**

The danger of adultery to a member of the body of Christ

The individual member, the whole local body and the head of Christ are harmed. 1Cor 5, Heb 6

1Cor 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

The dangers to yourself

There is the danger of one's own adultery in divorce and remarriage.

Mat 19:9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

If we want to have a spiritual relationship, we must not violate God's marriage law.

Marriage is both a blessing and a danger. It is easy to ignore God's marriage law, but not so easy to live with the consequences. When a person wants to get right with God (spiritual relationship), like Ezra of old, it may be very difficult to give up an adulterous marriage. Jesus' own disciples react:

Disciples could see the danger

Jesus' disciples reaction indicates they saw the danger in verse 9:

Mat 19:10 His disciples said to Him, "If this is the case between a man and his wife, it is better not to marry."

Jesus corrected their misunderstanding of marriage.

Only some don't need to be married.

Mat 19:11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:

Paul said: 1Co 7:7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.