

Divorce:
The Family in trouble



**Exalting Christ
among the Deaf**

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1992 No. 137

Personally from Billy



A Special Issue

We have long felt this special issue was needed. Here in the United States of America, **divorce** is a serious problem. As shown on our front cover, divorce destroys families. Divorce leaves behind hatred, despair, and depression. It destroys the self-esteem of not only the parents themselves, but also the innocent children. We can only say that **selfishness** is behind much of this. Either the husband or wife thinks only of himself/herself, and not about the spouse and/or the children. Divorce has even entered Christian homes of the deaf.

It has been said that the United States leads the world in divorce. This is a shame and reproach to those of us

who are Americans. Even in countries where they do not believe in Jesus Christ, but do believe in gods, marriage is taken seriously.

It is our hope that although our magazine is small, and therefore only limited material could be presented, what you see here will lead you to **per-serve** your marriage and family.

We are praying for you as you read. And please do feel free to send us your comments and inquiries.

Warmly yours in Him,

Billy Leavell

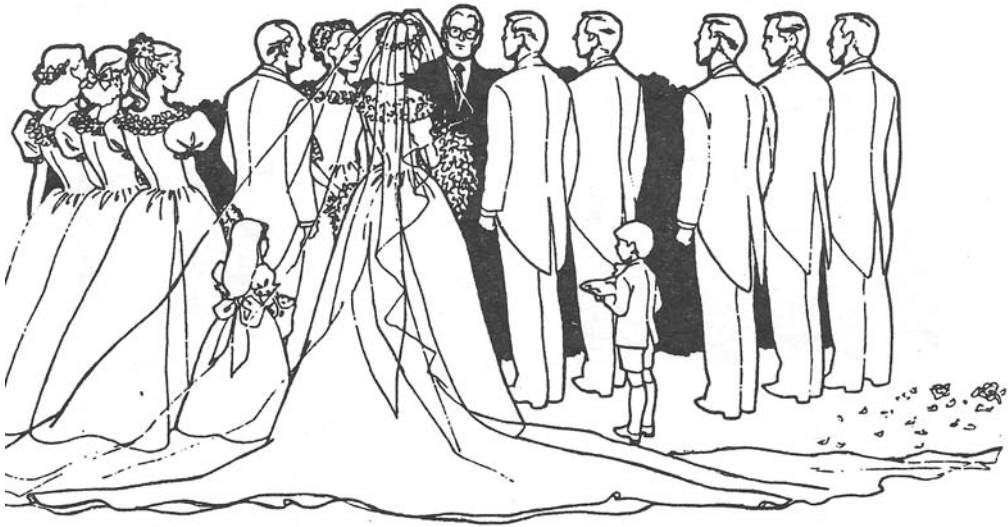
LIGHT FOR THE DEAF USPS (087-210) published quarterly by East Frayser Church of Christ, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee 38127. Second class postage paid at Memphis, Tennessee. **POSTMASTER:** send address changes to: **LIGHT FOR THE DEAF**, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38127. Billy Leavell, Editor.

Subscription is free to all, though donations are welcome.

Serious Vows!

DON'T YOU
LOVE WEDDINGS?

HERE'S AN OLD-
FASHIONED
AMERICAN
WEDDING THAT
YOU MIGHT FIND
IN ANY CHURCH
BUILDING IN
THE U.S.A....



LET'S MOVE IN CLOSER
AND HEAR THE VOWS
BETWEEN THE GROOM AND
THE BRIDE...



JOE, DO YOU TAKE THIS WOMAN, WHOSE RIGHT HAND YOU NOW HOLD, TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED WIFE?

I DO.



DO YOU PROMISE BEFORE GOD AND THESE WITNESSES THAT YOU WILL BE TO HER A **TRUE AND DEVOTED** HUSBAND, TRUE TO HER IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, IN JOY AND SORROW, IN PROSPERITY AND IN ADVERSITY?

I DO.



AND DO YOU PROMISE TO FORSAKE ALL OTHERS AND KEEP YOURSELF TO HER, AND **TO HER ONLY**, UNTIL GOD SHALL SEPARATE YOU BY DEATH?

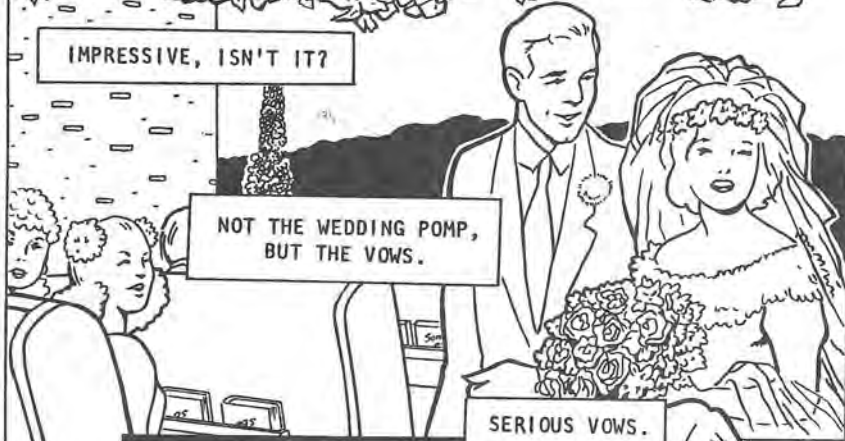
I DO.



YOU MAY KISS
THE BRIDE NOW.



IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?



NOT THE WEDDING POMP,
BUT THE VOWS.

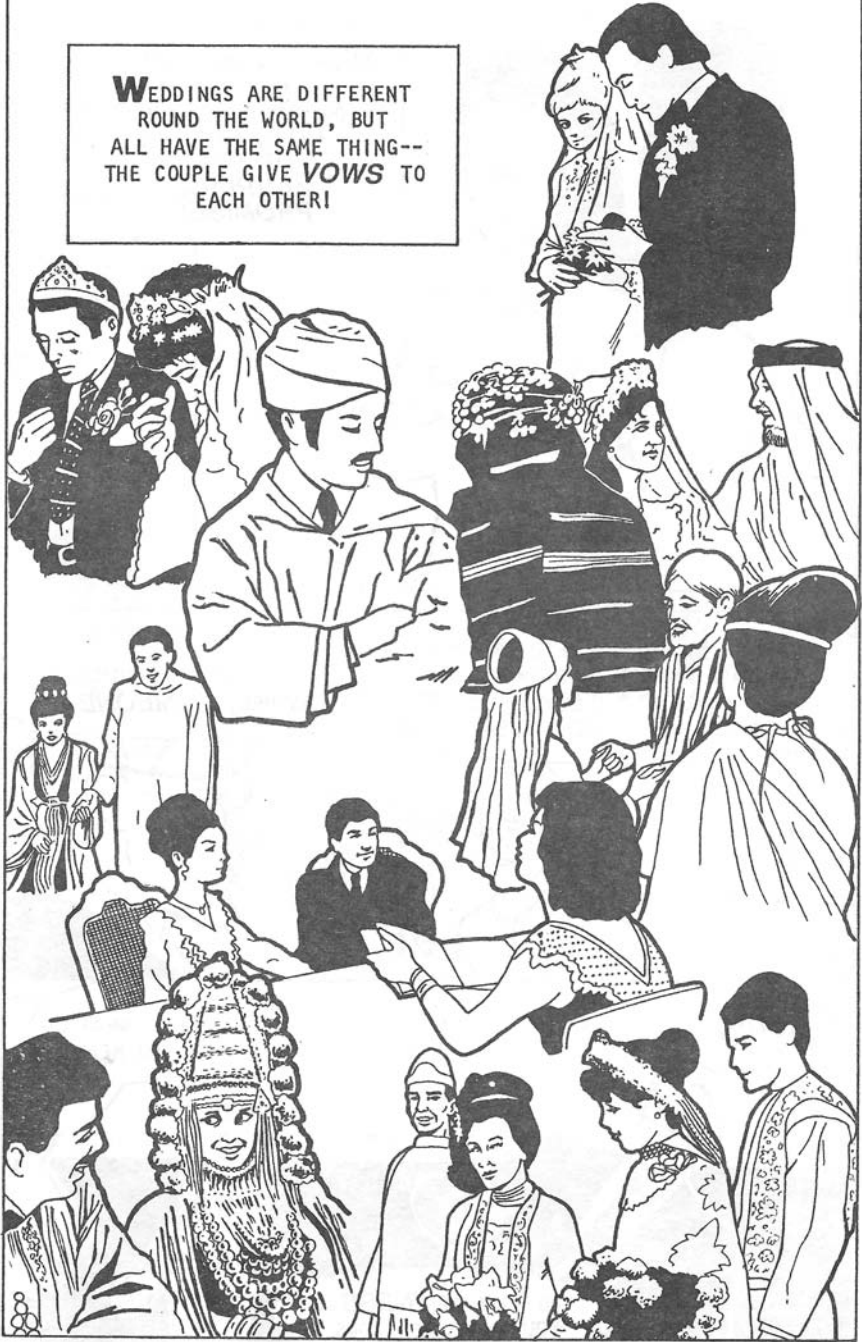
SERIOUS VOWS.

GOD MEANS MARRIAGE
TO BE **FOR LIFE!**

VOWS ARE
SERIOUS
PROMISES



WEDDINGS ARE DIFFERENT
ROUND THE WORLD, BUT
ALL HAVE THE SAME THING--
THE COUPLE GIVE **VOWS** TO
EACH OTHER!





WHEN DIVORCE STRIKES, THIS MEANS AT LEAST ONE OF THE TWO HAS NOT KEPT HIS (OR HER) MARRIAGE PROMISE!



AWWW... WE AGREED WE'D TRY OUT MARRIAGE AND IF WE DIDN'T LIKE IT, WE COULD GET A **DIVORCE** AND FORGET ABOUT EACH OTHER!

YOU FORGET SOMETHING, OR RATHER, **SOMEONE--**



GOD!

W... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

GOD IS A WITNESS TO YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS.

IN THE TIME OF MALACHI, THE
LAST RECORDED PROPHET OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT, MEN WERE
DIVORCING THEIR WIVES. THIS
IS WHAT MALACHI WROTE!



You ask, "Why are our gifts not accepted by the Lord?" Why? Because the Lord saw the bad things you did-- He is a witness against you. He saw you cheat on your wife. You have been married to that woman since you were young. She was your girl friend. Then you were young. But you cheated on her-- and she became your wife. So they would have holy God wants husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit. Why? So protect that spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife. She has been your wife from the time you were young. So protect your spiritual unity. I hate the cruel things that men do. So protect your spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife."

MALACHI 2:14-16, English Version for the Deaf

AN EARLIER PROPHET, JEREMIAH,
SAID THIS OF THE SINFUL ISRAELITE
MEN...



EVERY ONE NEIGHS AFTER
HIS NEIGHBOR'S WIFE!

COULD THIS BE THE
SAME TODAY?

JEREMIAH 5:8

HAVE MEN FORGOTTEN THEY
MADE **SERIOUS VOWS** AT THEIR
WEDDINGS?



WOMEN ARE ALSO TO BLAME.
LET'S READ WHAT SOLOMON SAID
WHEN HE WROTE THE BOOK OF
PROVERBS...

Some woman from another country might use
nice words and try to persuade you to sin with her.
That woman married when she was young. But she
left her husband. She is not keeping her marriage
promise. But wisdom will help you to say "No" to
her. If you are weak and enter her house, you walk
the first step toward destruction. If you continue
to follow her, she will lead you to your grave.

PROVERBS 2:16-18, English Version for the Deaf

WHEN WILL WE BE **WISE**?
WHEN WILL WE LET WISDOM
GUIDE OUR PATH?



I CHEATED ON MY
WIFE... AND I
NOW HAVE **AIDS**.



THIS IS WHAT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST SAID ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE!



MATTHEW 19:4-6

HAVEN'T YOU READ WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS? GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, AND SAID, "FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND JOIN HIS WIFE. THE MAN AND HIS WIFE WILL BECOME ONE."

GOD JOINED THE MAN AND HIS WIFE TOGETHER. SO NO PERSON SHOULD SEPARATE THEM!

DIVORCE WAS NOT ALLOWED IN THE BEGINNING. I SAY TO YOU--

ANY PERSON WHO DIVORCES HIS WIFE AND MARRIES ANOTHER WOMAN IS GUILTY OF THE SIN OF **ADULTERY!**



THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS IF THE MAN'S WIFE IS GUILTY OF **SEXUAL SIN.**

MATTHEW 19:8-9



WHEN YOU MAKE A VOW (PROMISE), DON'T BREAK THAT PROMISE. **KEEP** THE VOWS (PROMISES) THAT YOU MAKE TO THE LORD.

MATTHEW 5:33

AND THIS IS WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID...

A WIFE MUST NOT LEAVE HER HUSBAND. BUT IF A WIFE LEAVES HER HUSBAND SHE MUST NOT MARRY AGAIN. OR SHE SHOULD GO BACK TOGETHER WITH HER HUSBAND.

ALSO THE HUSBAND MUST NOT DIVORCE HIS WIFE.



1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-11

FINALLY, HERE IS A WAY TO AVOID ADULTERY AND BREAKING YOUR VOWS...

"I made an agreement with my eyes not to look with lust at a girl."
JOB 31:1, English Version for the Deaf

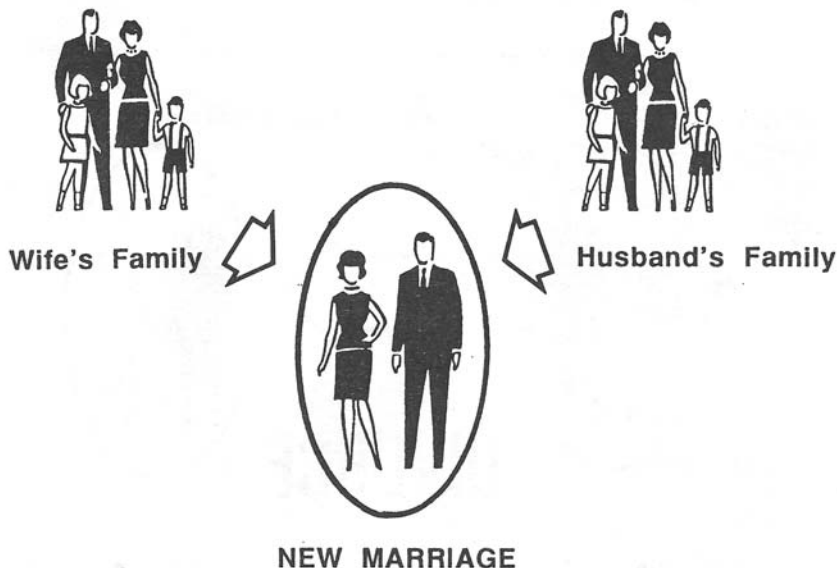


MARRIAGE VOWS ARE SERIOUS. THEY ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU JUMP INTO MARRIAGE. GOD WANTS TO SEE YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND GODLY MARRIAGE. **KEEP** GOD IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

Basics of Marriage & Divorce

There has been much confusion about marriages and divorces. We feel that a study of the basic teachings on Marriage and Divorce in the Bible would be of help. The diagrams on this page and page 14 without comment from us should be of help to you.

MARRIAGE

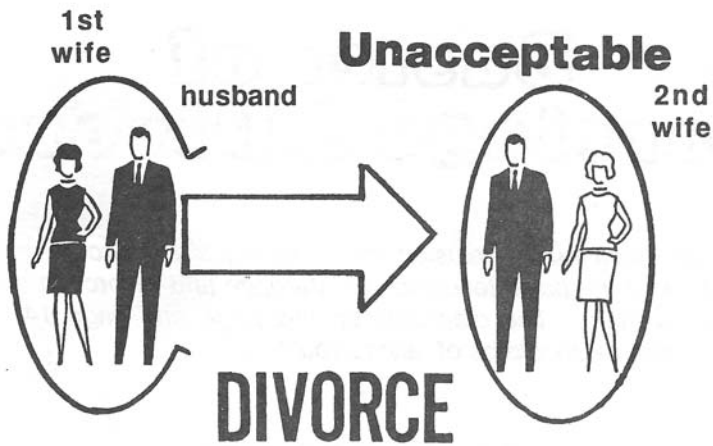


"So a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife. And the two people will become one."

Genesis 2:24

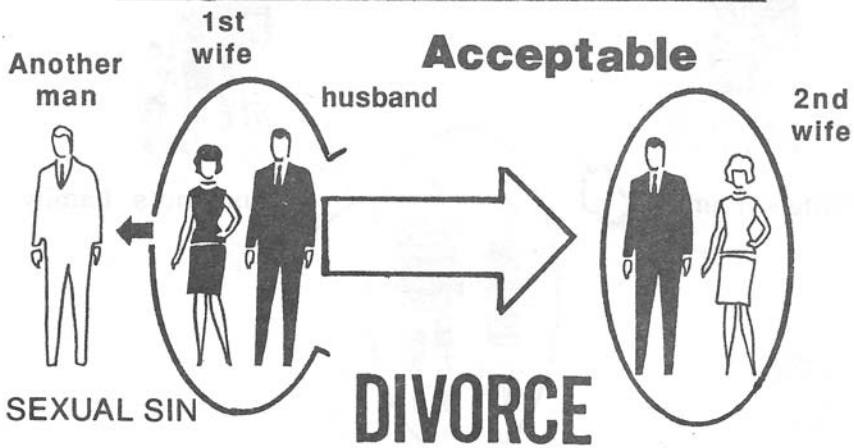
"God joined those two people together. So no person should separate them."

Matthew 19:6



"I tell you that any person that divorces his wife and marries another woman is guilty of the sin of adultery."

Matthew 19:9



"But I tell you that any person that divorces his wife is causing his wife to be guilty of the sin of adultery. The only reason for a person to divorce his wife is if his wife had sexual relations with another man. And any person that marries that divorced woman is guilty of the sin of adultery."

Matthew 5:32

"The only reason for a person to divorce and marry again is if his first wife had sexual relations with another man."

Matthew 19:9

SUGGESTIONS FOR A HAPPIER MARRIAGE



GENERAL ADVICE FOR BOTH HUSBANDS AND WIVES

Don't change yourselves to be like the people of this world. But be changed inside yourselves with a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide and accept what God wants for you. You will be able to know what things are good and pleasing to God and what things are perfect .

Romans 12:2

Live in peace with each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:13

Agree in your minds with each other, and live in peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

So let us try as hard as we can to do the things that make peace. And let us try to do the things that will help each other.

Romans 14:19

Try to understand each other. Be kind and humble.

1 Peter 3:8

Show mercy to people; be kind, humble, gentle, and patient.

Colossians 3:12

Don't be angry with each other, but forgive each other.

Colossians 3:13

Be happy because you have hope. Be patient when you have troubles. Pray all the time.

Romans 12:12

That hope comes from the patience and strength that the Scriptures give us. Patience and strength come from God. And I pray that God will help you all agree together the way Christ Jesus wants. Then you will all be joined together.

Romans 15:4-6

Each of us should please other people. We should do this to help them. We should try to help them be stronger in faith.

Romans 15:2

FOR HUSBANDS

Husbands, love your wives, and be gentle to them.*

Colossians 3:19

The husband is the head of the wife, the same as Christ is head of the church.

Ephesians 5:23

Husbands should love their wives... They should love their wives like they love their own bodies. The man who loves his wife loves himself. Why? Because no person ever hates his own body. Every person feeds and takes care of his body.

Ephesians 5:28-29

FOR WIVES

Wives, be under the authority of (obey) your husbands. This is the right thing to do in the Lord.

Colossians 3:18

Wives, be under the authority (obey) your husbands, the same as the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22

You should be under the authority of your husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:24

In the same way you wives should accept the authority of your husbands. Then, if some of your husbands have not obeyed God's teaching, they will be persuaded to believe. You will not need to say anything. They will be persuaded by the way their wives live. Your husbands will see the pure lives that you live with your respect for God.

1 Peter 3:1-2

And a wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:33

**Most translations follow the original Greek: "and be not bitter with them."*



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*All answers are the responsibility of the Editor.
Please send all questions to LIGHT FOR THE DEAF,
2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38128*

What about those preachers who do not teach baptism, or who do not teach baptism is for the remission of sins?

It is sad that these preachers do not believe in baptism for the remission of sins. Jesus plainly taught baptism as part of our response to the Good News (Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19). Baptism does not have any "magic" power to cleanse us of our sins. The apostle Peter wrote, "Baptism is not the washing of dirt from the body. Baptism is asking God for a pure heart. It [baptism] saves you because Jesus Christ was raised from death" (1 Peter 3:21). What Peter said here is that baptism is the response of an honest person who now believes in Christ and who wants Him to wash his sins away. This is why sometimes the person who is baptized is said to "wash away his sins" (Acts 22:16)-- it is not the person himself who washes away his sins, but Christ. Paul teaches us that we become part of Christ when we are baptized; we also share His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). Paul says the

same thing in Colossians 2:12, but puts the emphasis on faith: "And in that baptism you were raised up with Christ because of your faith in God's power. God's power was shown when He raised Christ from death."

Then there are Peter's words in Acts 2:38. He commanded those who believed in Christ to be baptized, so that their sins could be taken away. The King James Version says, "For the remission of sins." The EVD says, "Then God will forgive your sins." The Greek word translated "remission" in the King James Version of Acts 2:38 means "removal"-- a taking away. When we are baptized into Christ, our sins are taken away, or removed.

So those preachers who deny baptism, or those who teach baptism does not take away sins, are hurting the truth and hurting those people who hear them.

Continued 

*All Scripture quotations are from the EVD (English Version for the Deaf),
copyrighted by World Bible Translation Center, Fort Worth, Texas*

What will happen to people who believe in Jesus Christ, but their churches are different?

Let's look at a few facts before we answer this question:

1. Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). He is the truth and life. Only under His name can we be saved (Acts 4:12).
2. Jesus Christ has only one church. This church is also called His body or God's family (Ephesians 4:4; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13).
3. Jesus not only told the apostles to go out into all the world and teach people to be disciples (followers) of Jesus, but also to obey all the things Jesus taught (Matthew 28:19-20).

The above facts are simple. Jesus Christ, not the church, is the only way to the Father. The church is all the believers saved by Jesus. We are taught to obey all the things Jesus commanded.

Many people teach things different from the Bible. These people make many changes in what the Bible teaches. This is against what God says (Revelation 22:18,19). It is sad that there are different religious groups that cause confusion

among people and divide them. Jesus warned, "Every plant that My Father in heaven has not planted Himself will be pulled out by the roots" (Matthew 15:13). The context shows Jesus was talking about the Pharisees' traditions which they tried to teach as part of God's Word (verses 1-14).

But we still must remember Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and no person comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ. The church does not make you "right with God". The church does not save you. Only Jesus does that. That is why the Bible warns both individuals and congregations to examine themselves to see if they live in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5 and Revelation 2-3).

What about individuals in those different groups? Will God take them to eternal glory no matter if they make mistakes? Our answer is that it is not our business to judge anyone. It is God's business. But the business God did give us is to try to teach people to believe in Jesus, and to try to give the correct teachings that Jesus gave us in the Bible. Read again Acts 4:19 and Matthew 28:19-20.

What about those people who "feel" they are saved? Is not Jesus the only One who saves us?

"Feeling" you are saved is dangerous. A person might "feel" he is in perfect health, yet the next moment fall over dead from a sudden heart attack. The same is true with spiritual things. We should not trust

our "feelings". Our feelings can fool us. We must know for sure if we are saved (1 John 5:13). You are right, Jesus is the only One who saves us (Acts 4:12).

Cruelty

The Destroyer of many marriages

by Billy Leavell

We have seen that adultery is not the only reason that many divorces happen. Another, very common reason, is **cruelty**. An example is **wife-beating**. **Husband-beating** also happens, but is rare.

No person should suffer cruelty at the hands of his/her spouse. The same verse that tells us God hates divorce also says He hates the cruel things men do (to their wives) (Malachi 2:16).

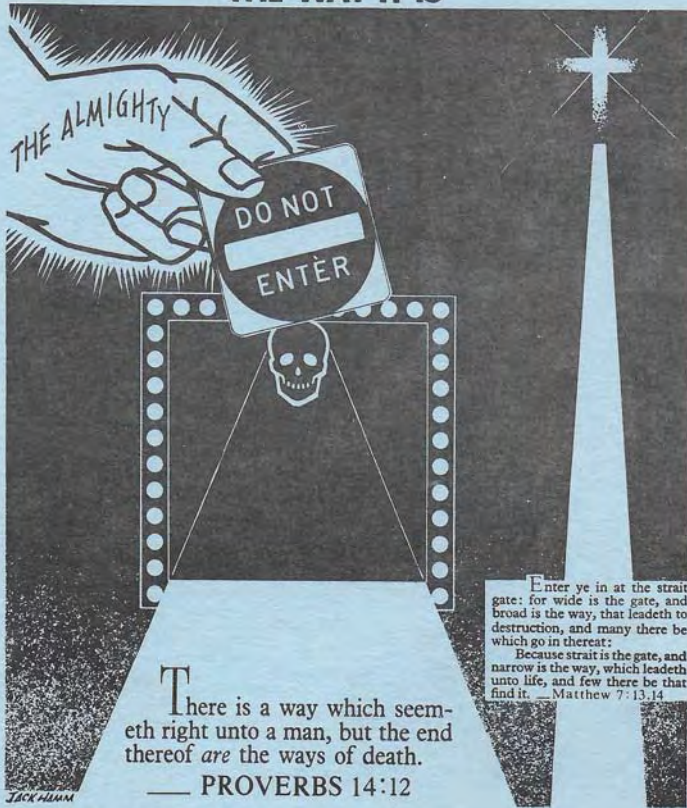
If you are a person who beats your wife, or who does cruel things to her, please read the above verse from Malachi. God is against men who beat their wives. The same is true for those few women who beat their husbands or who do cruel things to them.

Also, God warns that a person should take care of all the people in his own family (1 Timothy 5:8). If this person will not take care of his family, then God says two terrible things about this person: **(1)** This person is refusing to accept the true faith; and **(2)** This person is worse than an unbeliever. We remember what will happen to people who refuse to accept the faith (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

God's grace teaches us to live on earth in a way that is wise and right (Titus 2:12). This means we should do right by our spouses and families, and not only be kind to them, but love them!

The key to a happier marriage, and family, is to *begin with yourself*.

THE WAY IT IS



Light for the Deaf

Second Class Postage
Paid at Memphis, Tennessee

2285 Frayser Boulevard
Memphis, Tennessee 38127

