

## I. Calling off the relationship biblically

- a. Establishing the Need: If you had to break up, what are some implications from the Bible that applies to the situation?
- b. Purpose: To cover the subject of ending a courtship or a relationship in as much of a biblical manner as possible.
- c. Things to consider
  - i. Being in a relationship doesn't necessarily mean you will be married.
    1. Remember courtship is not marriage or a "mini-marriage." It is a time where the main focus is on whether or not you and the other person is going to be married.
    2. Sometimes in courtship it turns out that the other person is not going to be your spouse.
    3. This is where the right thing to do is end the courtship.
  - ii. Possible reasons for ending courtship
    1. The person is not a Christian
    2. The person at first seems to be a Christian but turns out not to be a Christian.
    3. The person does not display the fruit of the Spirit.
    4. Major sins that will detrimentally affect any marriage, with no signs of desire or attempt to change.
    5. An unbiblical view of gender roles, marriage, family and children.
    6. Also simply you cannot see that you can marry the other person.
- d. Application
  - i. Calling off a relationship with a non-Christian...
    1. Ask for forgiveness for being a believer that has wronged them.
      - a. Relationship with a nonbeliever is a sin.
        - i. Recall earlier that we have covered in a previous session that courtship and aim of marriage is to be with a believer.
        - ii. If God who created us determines ethics and God wants us to be courting believers if we are believers then we are to obey.
        - iii. If we disobey it is a sin.
      - b. If you are repenting to God, you will break the relationship off and that will involve hurting the other person.
      - c. Therefore, you should ask for their forgiveness.
    2. Share the gospel
      - a. The nonbelievers in their sins are hated by God everyday: "*God is a righteous judge and a God who has indignation everyday*" (**Psalm 7:11**).
      - b. The wrath of God is very real and one day if your former partner does not know Jesus, they will be thrown into the Lake of fire: "*And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire*" (**Revelation 20:15**)

- c. Therefore, knowing the sobering truth of the loss state of the unbelievers, you should be compelled to share the gospel of hope that would save them and pray for their salvation.
  - 3. Breaking off if there is no fruit of salvation
    - a. This part is very painful.
    - b. Sometimes it might mean not communicating with the other person if this helps avoid the temptation of not moving on or sinning again by reuniting.
    - c. This is especially true of there was sexual past: *“Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body”* (1 Corinthians 6:18)
      - i. Note the imperative “Flee”
      - ii. Run away from sin is wise!
    - d. Again sometimes this means ceasing all opportunities of seeing or talking to one another again.
  - ii. Calling off a relationship with a believer
    - 1. Ask for forgiveness for any wrong doing.
      - a. As Christians we are bound to sin: *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us”* (1 John 1:8).
      - b. Therefore, you should ask for the individual’s forgiveness of any of your sins.
      - c. God desires reconciliation between believers (Matthew 18)
    - 2. Protect the person’s public testimony
      - a. Again, everyone has committed sins (1 John 1:8), but that does not mean every sin or bad side of the individual is now subject being revealed to everyone.
      - b. Do not forget the example earlier of Joseph, the father of Jesus in this regards: *“And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly”* (Matthew 1:19)
      - c. This means practicing not speak ill-will of them to others.
    - 3. Consider the person a brother and sister in Christ
      - a. This concerns how you think of the individual.
      - b. Your thought life concerning the individual is most important: What you think of that person will drive how you behave towards that person.
      - c. How you think of that individual is not subject to being the victim of your emotions—what you think of that individual is a choice!
        - i. You are no longer a slave to your emotions!
        - ii. You are now a slave of Christ!
      - d. That person is your brother or sister in Christ so treat them like one.

4. Unless you two are back in a relationship again, think of that person as someone else's future wife or husband and act in purity.
  - a. (Again this concerns how you think of the individual and what you think will determine your actual behavior towards the individual.)
  - b. God is Sovereign and has a plan for every believer that is good (cf. **Romans 8:28**)
  - c. If circumstances lead to the point where you two are not going to be husband and wife, that means that individual might be someone else's husband or wife.
  - d. God has a plan that cannot be thwarted: "For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?" (Isaiah 14:27)
  - e. Therefore, do not sin against God's plan or cause yourself unnecessary heartache.
  - f. Practical application:
    - i. You cannot treat that person in an impure way.
    - ii. How do you treat them in a pure way?
      1. Hear **1 Timothy 5:1b-2**: Treat "*younger men as brothers, 2 the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.*"
      2. You treat the other person as a brother or sister.
    - iii. You do not "own" that person anymore, if someone else was in a relationship with them you have no jurisdiction or right to get upset, be jealous or require the other person to get your permission ahead of time, etc.
    - iv. You cannot be stalking.
- iii. Handling the pain of breaking up and/or rejection.
  1. You pray to the Lord in your pain.
    - a. "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" (**Philippians 4:6**)
      - i. You can pray for all things. This include a breakup or rejection.
      - ii. You cast your anxiety unto the Lord: Your fears, your worries, your concerns for the future, etc.
    - b. "*With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,*" (**Ephesians 6:18**)
  2. You draw closer to the Lord
    - a. Meditate on the Psalms and draw near to Him with prayer and Scripture.
    - b. Meditate

3. You find your contentment in Christ when you feel lonely: *“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”* (1 Timothy 6:6-8)
  - a. Contentment in Christ is important.
  - b. This verse teaches we have nothing we can bring in and take away from the world in the grand scheme of things: this is true with relationship and marriage too.
  - c. See those things as momentary but see your lasting contentment in Christ.
4. You practice Godly singleness.
  - a. Revisit our session in this series about contentment in singleness.
  - b. Also sometimes when relationships are called off it has to do with the individual’s sins. Do you know what those sins are? Are you in communion with Christ and working through those issues and fighting those sins and being changed by God’s grace?