

I. Civil war and David's family (verses 1-5)

- A. Report of war between the two houses: God's judgment in David's favor is evident by his increasing strength and Ish-bosheth's decline.
- B. Children are born to David by six different wives, not including Michal (see also 1 Chronicles 3:1).

II. A parting of ways (verses 6-11)

- A. Ish-bosheth's accusation
- B. The accusation is probably true.

III. Abner's defection and its condition (verses 12-21)

- A. So Abner leaves Ish-bosheth's service for David's service.
- B. David lays one requirement before he will accept Abner's service: Abner must bring Michal the daughter of Saul.

IV. Power and Women

- A. Power and women; women as a means and symbol of power.
- B. It's clear that these things are not right.
- C. To an ancient audience, the goings-on here are *all* understandable.
- D. But the treatment of these women is ugly, it is horrible, it is wrong.

V. Not the way it's supposed to be

- A. This is not the way it is supposed to be (see 2 Samuel 13; 18; 1 Kings 2; also 2 Samuel 3:26-30; also 2 Samuel 6).
- B. Above all, we see that this is not in keeping with the character of God. (see Acts 13:22)
- C. God does not treat people as merely tools (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:14-16).
- D. God is perfectly faithful to us (Ephesians 5:25-28).
- E. Is there anyone we can look to and see Christ (in this passage)?