



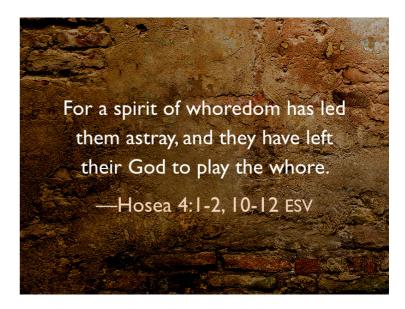
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Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; ²there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery...

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10They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the LORD to cherish ¹¹whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding. ¹²My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles.



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"It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the LORD...

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We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us;

and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us..."—Abraham Lincoln

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"Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins." ²So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.

—Hosea 3:1-2 ESV

²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."

—Lamentations 3:21-24 ESV

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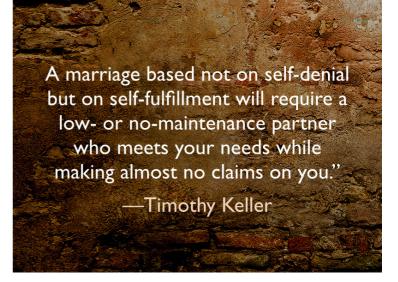
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"At the climax of the Genesis account of creation, we see God bringing woman and man together to unite them in marriage. The Bible begins with a wedding (Adam and Eve) and ends in the book of Revelation with a wedding (Christ and the church). Marriage is God's idea.

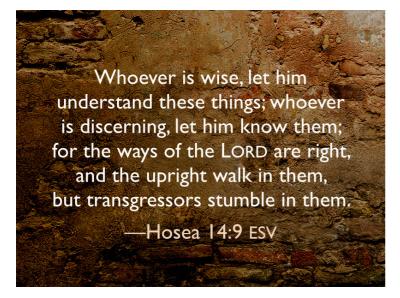
It is certainly also a human institution, and it reflects the character of the particular human culture in which it is embedded. But the concept and roots of human marriage are in God's own action and therefore what the Bible says about God's design for marriage is crucial." —Timothy Keller

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"In our society, we are too pessimistic about the possibility of 'monogamy' because we are too idealistic about what we want in a marriage partner, and this all comes because we have a flawed understanding of the purpose of marriage itself...



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²⁴"Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

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²⁶But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." —Matthew 7:24-27 ESV



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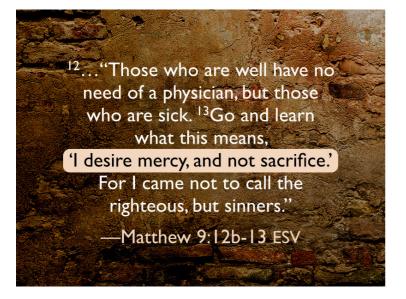
"We are more sinful and flawed than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared to hope." —Timothy Keller

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For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.—Hosea 6:6 ESV

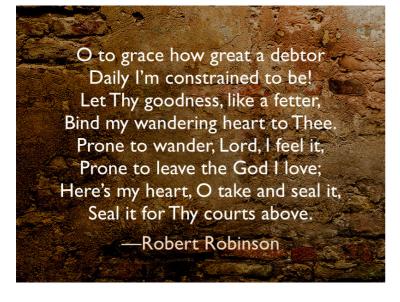
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But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

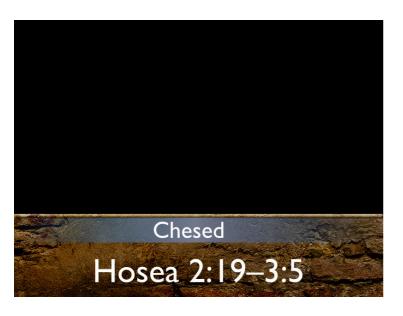
—Revelation 2:4 ESV

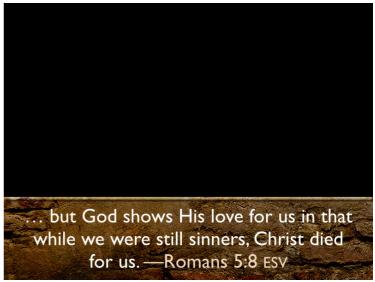
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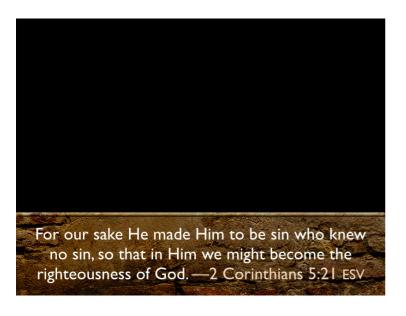
Personally A Compassionate Action for Freedom and Forgiveness

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