

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 21, June 4, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST.***

*To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.”*

## **SACRED MARRIAGE— Until Death Causes Parting!**

### **(Part 6) YOUR MARRIAGE AS A LIVING ‘OBJECT LESSON’**

#### **STOP! READ! APPLY→→ Ephesians 5:18-32!**

From this passage, LET EACH OF US ASK:

- 1.** What is God’s message **to ME**— to conform me more to His will and His likeness?
- 2.** What is God’s message **through ME**— to apply and obey on behalf of others for Christ’s sake?

**Ephesians 5:32— Marriage is designed by God to be a beautiful OBJECT LESSON, A LIVING DEMONSTRATION to a WATCHING WORLD of the UNENDING love relationship between JESUS and His Church!**

**\*\*\* No wonder** satan hates Christian marriages!

**\*\*\* No wonder** there are such awesome consequences for sex related sins!

**\*\*\* And no wonder** that God, (Who has a permanent hatred for all sin), specifically states in the Word of God that HE HATES DIVORCE! (Mal. 2:16)

REALITY: DIVORCE is a **direct assault on God's covenant keeping character** and defiles the beautiful object lesson He has given to the world of the eternal love relationship between the believer and the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

**For this reason, (and by the grace of God),** at Southside we still hold that pastors and deacons, (along with other Biblical qualifications), are not to have a divorce in their background, (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1). Moreover, we plead with Christians NOT to divorce; but to CHOOSE to forgive and love in the same manner as Christ does to us!

**MOREOVER, even if one's theology allows for divorce in some circumstances— there is NO NEW TESTAMENT COMMAND TO DIVORCE!** There are abundant New Testament commands to be redemptive, to suffer for righteousness sake, to love, bless, forgive, pray for, and to do good even to enemies— WE ENCOURAGE such paths of Christ-likeness!

**PURE AND SIMPLE:**

**1. Christ anointed Humility** will save a massive multitude of marriages. **2. Self-Justifying Pride** will destroy a massive multitude of marriages.

**BUT I ALREADY HAVE DIVORCE in my background.**

**Can I be effective and useful in real kingdom work?**

Through the years, here at Southside, we have had and now have DEAR SAINTS IN CHRIST with divorce in their background who have been and ARE blessed and effective servants of Christ in various ministries.

**AND, in their everyday life and in their families— they display Christ!**

- ✓ If you have a divorce or even more than one divorce in your past and you want to spend the rest of your earthly life being greatly useful in God’s kingdom, please understand this: The sin of divorce can be READILY forgiven, even as any other sin about which we HUMBLE ourselves and cry out,

**“O God, I have sinned! I now rest in the merits of the blood of Jesus for forgiveness!”**

**Even if you feel you were ‘the innocent party’—** nevertheless in your heart of hearts, you know that you were not totally without fault in the failure of that previous marriage.

**So, do you want a special blessing? GOD BLESSES HUMILITY!** You are encouraged to **CONFESS something like this:** “I have sin and failure in my past. At this point, it matters not who was the most to blame.

The reality is that **my former spouse and I— we both sinned.** By the grace of God, I have repented of my part in our past failures. “THANK YOU, JESUS that your forgiveness of my past, present, and future sins will never cease! And I have forgiven all other parties, even as God has for Christ sake forgiven me!”

**MOREOVER, IN MY PRESENT MARRIAGE—** “My spouse and I are in an *UNTIL DEATH DO US PART* HOLY COVENANT. We are committed to HONORING CHRIST IN OUR PRESENT MARRIAGE.”

SUCH ATTITUDES AND CONFESSIONS EMPOWER YOUR WITNESS: **“SO, Mr. Co-worker, Mrs. Neighbor— YOU ADMIRE OUR**

**second MARRIAGE?** Wonderful, but you must understand that our good 'second' marriage is NOT because it is a second marriage; but because in this marriage— we are both seeking to follow Christ!

PLEASE DO NOT use our 'second marriage' to justify your present desires/plans for a divorce.

Rather, we plead with you to go the way of the Cross in your present marriage. That alone is the key to miracles and happiness!

**Yes, your flesh, the world, and MANY pastors and churches will tell you that it is fine to divorce.**

Nevertheless— PLEASE DON'T DO IT. INSTEAD, BE REDEMPTIVE!

**MOREOVER, PLEASE don't you be the one that slams the door shut to forgiveness and miracles of love!**

Again, earthly marriage is designed by God to be a beautiful OBJECT LESSON — A LIVING DEMONSTRATION TO THE WATCHING WORLD of the everlasting love relationship between Jesus and His Church!

**Where would we be had God not extended His love to US when we were so undeserving, unloving, and unresponsive?**

**LET US Walk in HIS steps!**

**PLEASE DO NOT GROW WEARY IN WELL DOING...**

**ESPECIALLY, if you feel you are alone in seeking so rescue your marriage.**

**The reality is this: MOST MARRIAGE SAVING MIRACLES** are the result of either the husband or the wife being God's love agent to the undeserving, the unloving, and the unresponsive!

Christians are people who are empowered with DIVINE LIFE!

You are a WALKING MIRACLE! You have been crucified, yet you live!

You are now DEAD to living for sin, self, society, and satan.

Sin, selfishness, society, and satan no longer have DOMINION OVER YOU— Romans 6; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal 2:20; Gal 6:14.

### **You now have new RESOURCES:**

DIVINE LOVE, the oil that eliminates FRICTION: Romans 5:5; 1 Cor. 13.

You have NEW LIFE, NEW POWER; and you have a NEW MIND: Phil. 2:5.

Sin, Self, society, and satan are no longer boss.

**You are NOW a COMMANDMENT PERSON and FEELINGS are no longer boss!**

**Your life is no longer about what you think or about what you feel, BUT ABOUT SUBMITTING TO WHAT GOD SAYS, as an act of worship to HIM who is always worthy!**

**BEING FORGIVEN— YOU FORGIVE!**

**BEING LOVED— YOU LOVE!**

THIS NEW LIFE IN CHRIST is enhanced and experienced more and more as we obey the command to be being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit!

O CHRISTIAN, YOU ARE A WALKING MIRACLE.

**You have in Christ all the necessary resources** to be a living demonstration to the watching world of the everlasting love relationship between Christ and His Church!

- ✓ **SOMEONE** might be saying, “I believe I’m saved; but I am a stranger to all the miracle love and forgiveness of which you have been speaking about in this article!
- ✓ I HAVE TO BE HONEST: SIN, SELF, SATAN, and SOCIETY DOMINATE ME! I have no control over the works of the flesh; and I am a stranger to the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Sure, I can be nice to someone who agrees with me...
- ✓ But other than that, it’s war and I am angry, and mad, and resentful, and bitter, and full of lusts...!”
- ✓ **REALITY: Based on your testimony and measuring it by the Word of God, it sounds like you remain a slave to the wrong master: Romans 6:16!** It sounds like you only have a devil’s faith!
- ✓ COME TO JESUS NOW! Come in honest bankruptcy before God, cry out for mercy. All who come to Him, He will receive!

**OTHERS as genuine saints in Christ might be saying:**  
 “WOW! I’m called to be a LIVING DEMONSTRATION TO THE WATCHING WORLD of the eternal love relationship between Jesus and His Church!

O what a glorious and high calling; what a grand reason for being! What a grand motivation to cultivate love in our marriage!

WE CONFESS that, by the grace of God, we are committed, LORD, to your grand purpose for our marriage and our family!”

- ✓ **OTHERS: Maybe you have had marriage failure... MAYBE NON-REPAIRABLE... BUT YOU MORE THAN ANYONE—** you realize the need for a church that is a MARRIAGE SAVING congregation!
- ✓ **This is powerful:** From a position of BROKENNESS AND HUMILITY you can have a ministry of pointing others to Jesus and His ways!

### **MAKE SURE OF THIS:**

**A DARK PAST NEED NOT BE a hindrance to present and future usefulness in God's kingdom work!**

\*\*\* **The WOMAN AT THE WELL** was immediately busy with vital kingdom work! Jesus did not assign her to nothingness or to a 'singles group' so she could date and have 'Christian fun and games'...!

\*\*\* **The Demonic**— Jesus did not assign him to a D.A. GROUP, (Demoniacs Anonymous) and SHAME him about his past!

**GOD'S gospel of amazing grace transforms, gives a whole new identity, and empowers even babes in Christ to immediately be useful in God's Kingdom work— in spite of their (Your!) dark past!**

**STILL OTHERS: Yes, your flesh, the world, pastors, and churches tell you that it is fine to divorce.** Nevertheless, I repeat— PLEASE DON'T DO IT. INSTEAD, BE REDEPTIVE! **Don't you be the one that slams shut the door to forgiveness and miracles of love!**

Again, earthly marriage is designed by God to be a beautiful OBJECT LESSON — A LIVING DEMONSTRATION TO THE

WATCHING WORLD of the everlasting love relationship between Jesus and His Church!

**Where would we be had God not extended His love to us, when we were the undeserving, the unloving, and the unresponsive?**

**MOST MARRIAGE SAVING MIRACLES** are the result of either the husband or the wife being God's love agent to the undeserving, the unloving and the unresponsive!

Great Grace to All! James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

**\*\*\*\* SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

*Listen\_to\_other\_sermons\_on\_sermonaudio/*

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** → Enter via **IRON STEPS, side door**.

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**.

**\*\*\* LADIES BIBLE STUDY— DIFFERENT SCHEDULE FOR JUNE: NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 18, 2019 @**

**11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors **open** at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

**\*\*\* MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am:** (*STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!*) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

## **SUNDAY SERVICES, JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30**

**9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages**

**10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:**

**\*\* JUNE 9 — FAITHFUL MEN, 5:30PM... (1689 Confession of Faith)**

**\*\*\* JUNE 16 — LORD'S SUPPER, at the end of the Morning Worship // HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm**

**\*\*\*\* JUNE 23 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages:**

**Paul David Tripp's 'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)**



**\*\*\*\*\* JUNE 30 — AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE @ 6PM**



## **SOUTHSIDE DAY CAMP**

**JUNE 26-28 / 9:30am - 12:30pm**

There will be **no cost** for this camp. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

### **Age Groups:**

**Ages 0-4** - This class will be taught by Rhiannon Allen and will last from 9:30 - 12:30. This age group is welcome to stay for the afternoon activities, but a parent must pick them up at 12:30 and stay with them for the rest of the day.

**Ages 5-8** - This class will be taught by Bethany Troutt and will last from 9:30 - 12:30. This age group is welcome to stay for the afternoon activities, but a parent must pick them up at 12:30 and stay with them for the rest of the day or other arrangements for a responsible adult must be made.

**Ages 9-18** - This class will be taught by Jaden Allen and will last from 9:30 - 12:30, followed by a craft time and an activity time ending at 3 pm.

**FOR MORE INFO and/or TO REGISTER—**

**Contact Jaden Allen:**

Email at [jadenrallen@gmail.com](mailto:jadenrallen@gmail.com)

Or text/call at 615-939-0318