



The
Marriage
Covenant
And
Sexual
Sin



Anchor Ministries International
Al & Collette Martin
(541) 825-3407

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**Written and published by Al & Collette Martin
Anchor Ministries International
P.O. Box 39
Days Creek, Oregon 97429
(541) 825-3407
E-mail: alco@anchor-ministries.com**

Introduction

A spiritual battle is raging all around us. It goes on basically unnoticed by most Christians. This spiritual battle must be clearly understood and dealt with promptly. But the church must first have an understanding of the operation of evil spirits within their midst. They must have discernment as to the destructive nature of unseen evil powers, powers that are bent on breaking up the moral fiber of the church and family. Through just one area of immorality that exists in the world today, these evils powers are seducing even the very young. Church members do not understand the ramifications of having close relationships with the ungodly and how the enemy uses these relationships to affect and endanger future years of life. Most Christians say they believe in the working of evil spirits, but in reality they don't, because at their first inkling of depression, anger or some other emotion they quickly run to psychologists, counselors, therapists or psychiatrists. If the church refuses to see this engulfing spiritual battle, she will never rise or grow to full authority and maturity. She will never be the conqueror that the Lord Jesus Christ intended her to be. As long as we entertain the present Christian "fluff" which offers nothing to help the struggling person overcome, we will continue to be powerless.

Every week there are poor souls attending church, searching for answers to their struggles, desperately desiring freedom and peace but returning home even more discouraged because there was no help for them. Where is the person, who, in the authority of Jesus Christ can show them how to have victory, how to conquer and continue to conquer on a daily basis? The church is becoming much like the world, in that it is a cesspool of every kind of filthy act. To add insult to injury she tries to justify sin, to make an excuse for personal preference, especially in the area of sexuality.

Over the past seventeen years or so, as we have been working with and ministering to people, we have many times encountered situations that have been a bit perplexing. We have prayed and seen wonderful victories. Yet it appears many people cannot keep those victories, they continue to fall back into sin. Often times these defeats are due to the person's broken relationship with Jesus, but this is not always the case. There are times, when it appears to human eyes that the person is doing everything right, yet the frustration of continually falling is a sobering reality. During these years of ministry we have pled with the Lord to give us some insight as to what is happening. We believe He is now answering our prayers.

Through many different channels, He has impressed us that we have not totally seen the significance of a particular area of great importance, an area that is having a powerful impact on lives, and yet so many have never realized it before. It is in the area of relationships, wrong intimate sexual relationships or you might say relationships that *connect* two people together. These kinds of relationships today are taken so lightly they seem unimportant. So many go about doing their own thing, going from one intimate relationship to the next with no thought of the consequences. In the Bible there is clear evidence that relationships carry their consequences, sometimes for good yet often times they work to bring destruction. The life of Samson is a classic example of how close intimate relationships can destroy. The purpose of his life, which was to be the servant of the Most High God, took on a drastic change of direction when he became involve in intimate relationships, in this case marriages with the wrong women.

In our world of relativism, the "anything-goes," "do-your-own-thing," "whatever-feels-good" attitude has affected about every area of life. Employment, entertainment, marriages and personal relationships, all are affected by the permissiveness that exists. We are bombarded with television commercials such as the one for diet coke, which says "I want to make love to you." Big Bird on Sesame Street promotes the changing of roles between male and female. Homosexuals are forcing their sexual preference on everyone through television commercials, talk shows and movies. There are "900" numbers for phone sex. Talk shows are glamorizing the most bazaar sexuality, just to get high ratings. There are highway billboards that are almost pornographic. And of course on the school ground nothing is sacred. There is a feeling that we are in charge of our own destiny that we don't have to live under any moral standard, we make up the standards as we go along. As long as we don't directly hurt anyone we seem to feel we have permission to do it. This permissive attitude is promoted around the world through magazine articles, television and radio talk shows, and videos. It is promoted in such a way that the person feels it is allowable or is not morally wrong to participate. The saddest fact is that this same attitude exists among the members of many churches.

We must also face the fact that it is not just in relationships outside of marriage which brings disastrous results, but even in the marriage bed, sin abounds, sometimes with the blessing of many Christian leaders. Many leaders consider the marriage bed too lightly, promoting the idea that whatever the married partners decide to do is all right. Consider that erroneous concept in light of Adam and Eve who ate the fruit of the forbidden tree, but just because there was mutual consent, did their choice become right? Here lies a great mistake, to make it all right to do something just because there is mutual consent. (continued on next page)

Everything we do, all the way to the wonderful intimate relationship of the marriage, must come under the guidelines of our relationship with Jesus, which is laid out in scripture. It is amazing how our thinking will change when we consider Jesus in this aspect of our lives.

The area of sexuality in marriage is an area that very few have had the courage to talk about. It is awkward or unpleasant therefore it is swept under the rug; meanwhile it brings on its deadly results. It seems there has been some misplaced code of ethics or conspiracy of silence when it comes to sex, which is probably the most vulnerable area of mankind, but captivates one of the most powerful emotions that motivates the human race. But why shouldn't we talk about it? The Scriptures, from cover to cover, is very open and frank about sex. Apparently adults are ashamed to share this subject with their children. A survey was taken concerning how kids learned about sex: 1% found out from their church, 3% found out from their fathers, 7% found out at school, 12% found out from their mothers, 28% found out from the media, but 49% found out from their peers, and we wonder what is wrong!

Think about it. Why should we be ashamed to talk about sex, when God was not ashamed to create it? When Adam and Eve had sexual relations, did God turn His head and say, "Oh my, I can't watch this; they're doing something disgusting and dirty"?

It is our purpose in this little booklet to tactfully approach these subjects with the prayer and the hope that it will help someone to break from the bands of sin that binds him or her so tightly. That past relationships or *connections* which appear to be forgotten but continue to plague him or her, will finally be broken. It is our hope that struggling Christians may raise above the worldly perversion that exists in having so many illicit intimate relationships. We want the deep connection with Jesus to become so real and so personal that all other relationships will be seen through Him and through His eyes.

- **It is our prayer that the material in this booklet is not offensive to you. This is a subject that has gone too long without discussion. Many dear folks are being held in bondage, in many different areas of life, due to sexual sin. It's time to talk!**
- **We have prayed much over the writing of this subject. We have edited and edited as far as possible to make it tactful and tasteful. But due to the subject matter of sex and the sexual relations some things can only be said straightforwardly, honestly and boldly. In certain areas of the Bible sexual topics are much bolder then we have been in this writing.**
- **Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts in this booklet are from the King James Version.**
- **Jesus Himself said "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). This is our prayer!**

Preface

Why a Booklet on the Marriage Covenant and Sexual Sin? The devil is connecting the world through sexual sin. The internet with its sexual filth is available to anyone who can press the keys of a computer. Explicit sex education in schools is only fanning the flames of illicit sexual activity among young people, Sex is flaunted from the television screen to highway billboards. In short sexual sin is flourishing; it is world wide!

Illicit sexual activity in the world, not only with young people, but people of all ages is one of the greatest tools of the devil. He understands very well the text in I Corinthians 6:16 that states "...know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body, for two saith he, is one flesh." He is making the world "one flesh" so to speak by getting them involved with as many sexual partners as possible. He understands the emotional and spiritual ties that take place with this activity. He knows very well that these ties or hooks will inhibit a person, even though they may change and stop doing these things. He takes advantage of specific legal rights to afflict a person. These ties must be broken, (explained in another chapter of this booklet). Unfortunately this kind of activity goes on in the body of Christ, the church.

Just as there are evil soul ties, there are also good ties. As members of the body of Christ, we are spiritually tied together, which is good. But whatever goes on in the body affects the whole, either for good or for evil. When a member of the body of Christ is involved in sexual sin, it affects the whole body for evil. Satan is using this tool of sexual sin very affectively. He knows through this sin, he can break the spiritual soul tie to God, preventing God's people from being the spiritual army that goes boldly out to conquer in these last days of this world's history.

We believe we are living in the last days, the very last days, or the end of all things. Prophetic signs are being fulfilled at breakneck speed. Nations are in a state of unrest; terrorism and wars abound on every side; countries and nations that were once considered Christian are now turning their backs on anything that has to do with Christian principles; the easy availability of drugs and sex is destroying young people by the thousands. Humanism is not only engulfing the world but also the church.

Even though great evil abounds, it is time to call out to the honest at heart to cleanse their lives and make ready for the great time when God will work in mighty ways to save lost souls. We believe it is time to understand that all hooks or rights the devil has in our lives must be broken. A time when we need to be delivered from all strongholds, struggles, inherited tendencies that the enemy of souls takes advantage of to bring us down and destroy our relationship with Jesus. Satan will use anything he possibly can to stop us from being witnesses for Jesus.

We must be free of all worldly encumbrances that binds us to Satan or puts us in a mode of being in agreement with him, especially in the area of sexual sin. We can never experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit unless these things are taken care of. Oh dear friend, it is time to prepare our lives to be used in the last traumatic drama of the great controversy that is intensifying between Christ and Satan.

We need that baptism now so we will be ready to receive the greater power of the Holy Spirit in the Latter Rain which will enable us to go in greater power than we have ever imagined or experienced. The time is now!

The baptism of the Holy Spirit has more than one importance. The following two quotes are taken from the book *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*, by Dennis Smith, page 3:

"The concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that there are two works of the Spirit; one is to lead us to accept Christ and be baptized; the second is to fill us so we can truly live the Christian life and do the works of God."

"Jesus is our model or example in all things. He was 'born' of the Spirit, led by the Spirit from childhood into manhood, and baptized. Soon after this water baptism, He was baptized with the Holy Spirit which He had prayed for at the time of His water baptism. After the infilling of the Spirit, He was prepared to go forth with power to do battle with Satan as never before (the wilderness of temptation). He was empowered to preach and teach the kingdom of God, carry on a ministry of healing, and cast out devils."

So, this is an appeal, an appeal to break out of all ties that may be holding us. To understand, through the intimate connection of a man and woman in marriage, we can more fully realize the close intimate relationship Jesus Christ wants to have with us.

We believe God is calling His army. He is calling His warriors to come out of the pit of sin that abounds; to step into the ranks as mighty warriors, free of all encumbrances. It is our prayer that we will all decide to march with and for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, King Jesus to get the work finished so we can go home!

Chapter 1

Sexuality and The Marriage Covenant

When we look at marriage and the intimate relationship as God intended it to be, we will see the entire spectrum of sexuality of the husband and wife in a whole different light.

Dr. Bonhoeffer wrote: “Marriage is more than your love for each other. It has a higher dignity and power, for it is God’s holy ordinance, through which He wills to perpetuate the human race till the end of time. In your love you see only your two selves in the world, but in marriage you are a link in the chain of the generations, which God causes to come and to pass away to His glory...” *The Christian Family*—Christenson, pages 9-10.

Pastor Larry Christenson adds: “The Christian family, therefore, does not exist for its own benefit. The blessing of man is a derivative, a by-product. Those who stubbornly hold that their own happiness and convenience are the highest goals of family life will never understand God’s plan for marriage and the family, for they do not grasp the underlying structure, the basic starting point.”

Today the outcry is “marriage is not working, it is failing.” But is it marriage that has failed? If you buy a new car and decide that you don’t have to take care of it according to the manual that came with it, what happens? The car will eventually fail. Would you blame the car for the failure or the person who failed to take care of it according to the factory specifications? People have written their own marriage manuals by deciding to do whatever they please. They do not follow the marriage manual, the Scripture, so “marriage” gets the black eye. You see, marriage is not the problem, it is the way men and women use it. In many situations it is used for their own selfish gratification—the “please me and make me happy” idea. Self is the center point for most marriages today. This is diametrically opposed to God’s intention for marriage.

From another point of view, Dr. Germaine Greer (of Women’s Liberation fame) has been quoted as saying that “marriage is immoral” and that marriage weakens society because the sum of two people joined together (making one unit) is less than two distinct individuals.

This of course is humanistic, and opposes what God intended marriage to be. Again, self is the center of this kind of thinking.

God’s ways and ideals soar far above and beyond pointless humanistic thinking. Let us look at some Bible texts as to what marriage (the joining of a male and female) is supposed to be, according to the divine plan.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.

He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. Ephesians 5:25-33 (New Century Version).

To understand this passage better it might be well to look at the situation against which Paul was writing. At that time, the Jews had a very low view of women. It is said that many Jewish men in their morning prayer would give thanks to God that He had not made him “a gentile, a slave or a woman.” Jews looked at a woman, not as a person but a thing, a possession. The woman had no rights, and was viewed as a thing under the absolute control and will of the man, his possession, to do with as he willed.

The situation was worse in the Greek world. Prostitution was an essential part of Greek life. Demosthenes said it this way: “We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure; we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation; we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately and of having a faithful guardian for all our household affairs.” With this kind of thinking, home and family life were near extinct and fidelity was virtually nonexistent.

In Rome the matter was even worse; it had reached down to the depths of tragedy. Family life was wrecked.

Seneca writes that women were married to be divorce and divorced to be married. There are historical records of men and women having many many divorces and marriages. Jerome tells of one situation in Rome, where there was a woman who was married to her twenty-third husband and she herself was his twenty-first wife. The marriage bond had almost completely disappeared. There was no covenant, no commitment! Their situation has many parallels with our time.

It is against this backdrop that Paul wrote with such passion in Ephesians concerning the relationship of husbands and wives. He was calling men and women, in the marriage bond, to a life of new purity and fellowship. The marriage is taken to a higher plane, because it is symbolic of the fellowship and intimate relationship Christ wants with His Church and with us on an individual basis

Even though Paul wrote some very puzzling things about marriage in I Corinthians, it appears that by the time he wrote Ephesians he had matured much in his thinking.

In this chapter of Ephesians we find Paul's true teaching on marriage. The Christian marriage is the most precious relationship on earth, whose parallel had to do with the relationship of Christ with the Church. This is extremely important to understand as this text "The husband is head of the wife," many times is quoted in isolation, and used as a control issue. But the basis of this passage is not control; it is love.

This love is a sacrificial love. A husband loving his wife as Christ loved the Church. This can never be a selfish love—"please ME, make ME happy." Christ loved the Church, not like the Church would do things for Him, but that He would do things for the Church. Christ would give His life for the Church, in parallel a husband should have such deep unselfish love for his wife that he would give his life for her. This is a much different picture than is portrayed in the world, even in the Christian world today. Christ does not threaten the Church or use fear tactics. He does not verbally or physically abuse the Church in order to get it to do what He wants. He does not withhold His affection to get the Church to do things His way. He does not club the Church with specific Bible texts. Here Paul is instructing husbands to be imitators of Christ. Jesus never controls a person against his will. So, husbands should never seek to control or to mold his wife into what he wants her to be. Sacrificial love is a love that means a husband will sacrifice even his own desires to please his wife. This does not mean that he makes a god out of her or sets her up on a pedestal, or violates his conscience in order to please her, no; he truly dedicates himself to her, making her the high priority in his life.

In Ephesians we read an interesting text, *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word...*, Paul is speaking here of baptism, the washing of baptism and the confession of faith. This text has the connotation of a purifying love. Christ sought to have a Church that was cleansed until there was not one soiled spot or disfiguring wrinkle in it. The same goes for the marriage. Dear friend, do you see the great responsibility of the husband towards his wife? He must exhibit a love that builds his wife up, instead of tearing her down. If a husband will read Ephesians 5 and be honest, there is no way he can use this text as a club against his wife. There is no way he can use this text to say that he can abuse her in any way. A love which drags a person down is a false love. Any love which brings a stain on the character instead of refining it, which weakens the moral fiber, is not love, it is deceit. Real love is the purifier of life.

It must be a caring love. This text says that a man must love his wife as he loves his own body. Real love is not a selfish love, making sure that its needs are taken care of; it cherishes the one it loves. There is something terribly wrong when a man feels that a wife is simply the one who cooks his meals, washes his clothes, cleans his house, bears and trains his children and takes care of his sexual needs. This is nothing more than slavery!

The love of which Paul speaks is an unbreakable love. It is this unbreakable love that causes a man to leave his mother and father and cling to his wife. They become one flesh. This is an example much like all the members of the body being one. A man should never think of separating from his wife, anymore than he would think of tearing his arm or his leg off. He is united to her, they are joined together, under God. As the last part of Mark 10:7 says, "*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*" The cause or reason is to cleave or cling to his wife and become one flesh with her. They knit their lives together caring for each other as they would their own bodies. In the initial union of man and woman, in the Garden of Eden, they were so perfectly joined together that they smoothly blended and became *one flesh*. God was directly involved, it was His decision, not Adam's, that Adam should have a mate.

In the Christian marriage there are not two partners, but three, the third is Christ and they three must become one. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 4:12,...*A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.* The three strands are the man, the woman and God. When these three are bound together there is no tearing them apart. The principle which binds them together is the covenant. God never enters a permanent relationship without a covenant, which we will discuss later in this chapter. This is a high and holy office which the husband and wife enter into. There is no room for a perverted relationship based on animal passions and selfishness. There is no room for verbal and physical abuse from either the husband or the wife. There is nothing in scripture that gives a man or woman the right to be other than Christ-like to each other. Under false interpretation, some husbands use Ephesians 5:25-33 as a club to beat their wives into submission and control them. Anytime there is a spirit of control, evil spirits are involved. This kind of behavior is nothing more than demonic! This is Satan's ideal, to tear down the marriage in anyway that he possibly can.

A loving relationship between a husband and wife is a relationship that thinks of the other person first. This is opposite of the marriage attitude in the world today. The "what's-in-it-for-me" idea prevails. "Make me happy, satisfy me, or I will find someone who will."

How does the Bible look at the word "love"? There are four words for love in the Greek Bible.

The first is "eros." This is a "getting" love. Eros is usually associated with sexual love. The basic element is a desire, a will to possess, seeking satisfaction. Eros exists because it sees something desirable in another. Eros flickers and fades as the winds of desire rise and fall.

The second word for love is "stergo." This is a "caring" love. This is the natural love which we have for others. As human beings we love others as part of humanity.

This is the love that we show to a neighbor in need or that we have for the poor and hungry we try to assist.

“Philos” is a third word for love. This is a “sharing” love. This word expresses the affection we feel for those close to us. It is a heart response to the pleasure one takes in another. It is the love between friends or among family. It is based on common interests, common attractions, and a close sharing of many things.

The final Greek word for love is “agape.” This is a “giving” love. It is a love which impels one to sacrifice for the benefit of the other person. This love seeks to give rather than to get. Agape love keeps on loving even when the other person doesn’t respond; agape love keeps on loving without asking for anything in return.

Husbands and wives should have all four kinds of love for each other, although agape love has to be predominant. Unless agape controls the others, the first three kinds of love will be too empty to endure the conflicts and difficulties of marriage. Eros, stergo, and philos are to be controlled and enriched by agape.

Marriage a Blood Covenant

Let us take marriage one step further and talk about the covenant that is made when a man and woman get married. What is the definition of “covenant?” It is a binding agreement. The Hebrew word is *Berith*, which actually means “to cut a covenant.” In Hebrew times, when a covenant was made it was made with the shedding of blood, which meant there had to be a sacrifice. Why was a sacrifice necessary? The answer is that the sacrifice symbolized the death of each party to the covenant. An animal was cut in half, in two pieces, then it was laid on the ground and whoever was part of or making the covenant would walk between the bloody pieces of flesh, (see Genesis 15:9-18). As each party walked between the pieces of the slain animal, he was in effect saying, “This is my death. That animal died as my representative. As I enter this covenant I enter by death. Now that I am in covenant, I have no more right to live.” A blood covenant between two parties is the closest, the most enduring, the most solemn and most sacred of all contracts. The one who does this renounces the right to live for himself. He is in effect saying to the other “If need be I will die for you. From now on, your interests take precedence over mine. I no longer live for myself, but you.” When you enter into a blood covenant with someone, you promise to give them your life, your love and your protection forever...till death do you part. Marriage is a blood covenant, Malachi 2:14 says, *Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.*

The covenant of a Christian marriage is a blood covenant made at the foot of the cross. When the husband looks back at the cross he can say, “That death was my death. When I came through the cross I died, now I can no longer live for myself.” By the same token when the wife looks back to the cross, she can also say, “That death was my death. When I came through the cross I died, now I can longer live for myself.” Therefore each holds nothing back from the other. When one enters into marriage, as a covenant, never asks, “What can I get?” Rather he should ask, “What can I give.”

When the bride and the groom feed each other wedding cake, there is some real symbolism here. This should never be done frivolously or maliciously as is sometimes done. This is symbolically saying “I am coming into you and you into me. The two of us are becoming one.” This symbolic union is made complete by the physical act of marriage when the groom and the bride come together as husband and wife in sexual intercourse. When the bride is a virgin the hymen is broken and blood is shed, thus the covenant is consummated. This is considered a blood covenant. Thus, every time a husband has sexual intercourse with his wife (goes in between the flesh) he is in essence remembering and honoring that covenant.

At this point it might be well to go back to the very beginning of the creation of man and look closely at what God had to say. Genesis 1:27 says, *And God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him. Male and female He created them.* Somehow our sexual identity represents who God is because the last part of this verse, right after man was created in God’s image, it says He created male and female. Now why would that verse say that we are created in God’s image male and female? Is it possible that it takes the attributes or characteristics of both male and female to portray the attributes God?

You can look at this any way you want to, but somehow we were made male and female “in the image of God.” No doubt, as Paul says, it is a bit of a mystery.

Sexuality in Marriage

Let us first look at four reasons for sexuality in the Bible:

- 1) To mirror the image of God
- 2) Procreation
- 3) Intimacy
- 4) Pleasure

To Mirror the Image of God: We have already quoted the text in Genesis 1:27, *...created in the image of God.* It stands to reason if we are created in the image of God and it is through our oneness of intimacy in marriage that is symbolic of our close relationship with God, then in this area we must also reflect His image.

Procreation: In Genesis 4:1 we read, *Adam knew his wife.* In this situation with Adam and Eve it meant a physical act of sexual intercourse for the purpose of procreating (having children).

Intimacy: Deuteronomy 24:5 says, *When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.* The word “cheer” in this text does not mean he has to stay home and tell her jokes or try to be funny, to make her cheerful. It has the connotation of taking the time, intimately to get to know her. (Reread the text in Ephesians 5 at the beginning of this chapter.)

Pleasure: Proverbs 5:18-19, *Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished (margin: exhilarated) always with her love. The New Century Version reads this way, “Be happy with the wife you married when you were young. She gives you joy, as your fountain gives you water. She is as lovely and graceful as a deer. Let her love always make you happy; let her love always hold you captive.”*

So, when a couple unite in marriage and join through sexual intercourse, they do so to reflect the character of God; oftentimes they do so to bear children; to have very close intimacy and pleasure.

God made intimate relations and Satan has greatly perverted it. Sexuality in marriage is a very sacred thing, never to be taken lightly. If entered into according to how God intended, it is the highest form of pleasure; a giving instead of taking. Scripture says that it is better to give than to receive. In giving we receive more than we could ever expect.

In Conclusion

The Creator Himself for the purpose of expressing the deepest physical and spiritual relationship of unity for man and woman. Monogamy (married to one person at a time) holds up the standard before the world as the form of marriage ordained by God. The unity of man and woman as husband and wife exists as they do in a unity of bodies, a community of interests; a give and take of affections. It is held in high esteem by God because it is symbolic of the relationship He wants to have with us and His Church. For this reason, the devil has made marriage and especially sexuality his special object of attack to pervert, making it so common that it has very little meaning to most people who are involved. The importance and consequences of joining together and becoming one flesh through the sexual union is not understood. Foreign to most Christians is the understanding that ties take place during sexual union. Done according to God’s plan, within the marriage, it is very good, but outside the marriage, it is for evil.

God intended the marriage and sexual union of becoming one flesh to be one of the most fantastic experiences, a loving relationship of giving to each other. A man’s wife should be first in his affections and his first duty is towards her.

God wants to be involved in every area of a person’s life, especially the area of sexuality. He should be able to be in your bedroom when you are intimate. Prayer is always in order before being intimate. This idea is foreign to most Christians. To even suggest such a thing usually brings looks of shock and unbelief. Amazing will be the transformation of your intimate life by praying first and inviting God into the room with you. Prayer will always bring about change in activity. Many things that go on in the bedroom will change when you realize that God is watching you. When He instituted sexual intercourse in the Garden of Eden, He did not turn His head in embarrassment and say “I can’t watch this, this is dirty.” Satan has used evil people to pervert and dilute the importance of this wonderful area of a married couple’s life.

It is time that the marriage and the marriage bed be brought back up to the standard that God intended. It is time to stop all the bed hopping that goes on in the world, even with Christians. It is time that married couples realize that just because they agree on something in the bedroom, does not make it right. It is time that sinning in the bedroom be brought to an end, and the beauty of this relationship be restored. It is time to understand that sexuality is a form of worship — to God in the marriage bed, but to Satan in sexual activity outside of marriage, through perverted sex which is a form of idolatry.

It is our prayer that the words in this little booklet will somehow touch the hearts of Christian parents, that through their influence many young people will come to avoid the terrible consequences of taking lightly what God takes seriously. May God help us to continually remember His Master plan within Scripture and that He wants to be part of everything we do. We must bring glory to Him in every aspect of our lives. Our loving Father wants our marriage to Him to be so pure and undefiled that it will take us to His kingdom that He has prepared for us; His bride.

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Chapter 2

Soul Or Heart Ties

God made us, as human beings, able to reason, think, and have the capacity to be attached to or connected with another person or entity. He gave us the ability to accept spirit into our hearts, His Spirit. He did this for the specific reason that we might be connected to Him and become like Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17 states, *But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.* God does not confine us; we have the free choice to choose whose spirit will be indwelling in us. Which means we also can receive an evil spirit in place of His Spirit. 1 Corinthians 10:20 tells us, *No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons.* The Scriptures speak very plainly of evil spirits, demons being able to control people.

Apparently we also have the capacity to join with other humans and idols. 1 Samuel 18:1 says, *And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.* In Numbers 25:5 we read, *And Moses said to the judges of Israel, Everyone of you kill his men who were joined to Baal Peor.* (NKJV) Baal of Peor was an idol, a false god that was worshipped in those days.

There are many ways that a person can join with demons, as you will see in this touching story.

Many years ago we were ministering to a young woman in her early thirties. During the course of conversation she acknowledged that she had had many bed partners. As we began to explain the spiritual battle and how unseen forces (demons) can afflict us, she told us something very interesting. She said that she remembered when she was involved sexually with a certain young man, she literally felt a demon come into her, and this demon began to control her life in the area of relationships. This young man treated her worse than the other men friends she had. She would break up with him, but would continually go back and make up. She said she never could understand why she would go back. Her life continued in immorality. Many times she had tried to come back to the Lord but would always return to her life of promiscuity. What was it that was holding her? Why did she keep going back?

Everyone of us, at one time or another, have shook our heads in amazement, that someone would continue to return to a very bad living situation, with partners that were abusive, on drugs, violent, etc. Is it just a comfort zone that they are afraid to break away from? Do they go back because of some commitment they feel obligated to fulfill? Do they go back to hold on to the few moments of pleasure, or are they returning because of some connection and they are being pulled back? In so many situations people will say, "I don't understand why I keep returning." There must be some answers.

What Does the Term Soul or Heart-Ties Mean?

What does it mean to be tied through the heart or soul to someone or something? First we must try to understand what the words "soul" and "heart" mean in Scripture, as there can be a wide variety of meanings.

The word "soul" in the Scriptures is very difficult to define and confine to one meaning. Many times it is used interchangeably with the word "spirit" and sometimes coincides with the Hebrew usage of "heart." Let's consider the following Scripture texts that gives some explanation of the word "soul."

Mind or Intellect:

- ...*marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well,* Psalms 139:14.
- *Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good...* Proverbs 19:2.

Emotion:

- ...*my soul is cast down within me...* Psalms 42:6a.
- *My soul is exceedingly sorrowful...* Matthew 26:38a
- *"And my soul shall be joyful...shall rejoice in his salvation,* Psalms 35:9.

Desires: (the soul may also lust).

- ...*whatsoever they soul lusteth after,* Deuteronomy 12:20.
- *"And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee...* Rev. 18:14

So, for the purpose of this writing, from these scripture texts we might define the soul as **the mind, the intellect, the emotions, the desires, and/or the part of a man that allows him to live practically in this world.**

It might also be profitable, at this point, to consider the meaning of "heart" from the Hebrew understanding. In Scripture the word is used figuratively, in most situations, as the totality of man's inner nature. **It refers to the center of man's thoughts. In fact, it literally stands for the center of man, especially the choices he makes and the center of moral behavior.** In Jeremiah 17:9 it says, *The heart is crooked above all, and very sick or desperately wicked,* (Scripture Version). Jesus said in Matthew 15:19, *For out of the heart come forth wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, whorings, thefts, false witnessings, slanders,* (Scripture Version). The heart and soul are very closely connected, and play a very big part in our daily lives.

Now, in consideration of intimate relationships, Scripture uses some interesting words. Genesis 2: 24 says, *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* This is the positive side of "becoming one flesh."

Notice the negative side in I Corinthians 6:16, *What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.* Here we have the phrase “shall be one flesh” used in two entirely different settings. The first one in Genesis is used in connection with the marriage covenant of a man and woman. The second one in I Corinthians has to do with illicit sexual activity or fornication. Yet it says in both cases they “shall be one flesh,” which obviously is more than just sexual activity. Now, if the “heart” and “soul” has to do with the mind, the intellect, the emotions, the desires, and the center of man, especially the choices he makes and the center of moral behavior; it would stand to reason that the “one flesh” would have a definite connection with the heart and soul. In other words, to be joined together as “one flesh” would involve the mind, emotions; choices and the moral behavior, would have solid ties to the heart and soul. Thus we could call it soul or heart-ties. Just as in both of these texts, one is positive (within the marriage) and one is negative (outside of marriage), so you can have a positive or negative experience physically and spiritually.

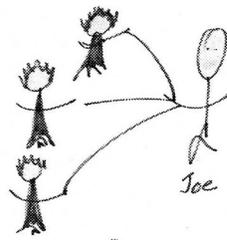
Could it be that in the understanding of being “one flesh” might mean that a transfer or mingling of emotions, thoughts, etc., would take place?

This, apparently, was the situation of the young lady who kept going back to the young man she was bedding down with. She had joined herself, emotionally through intimacy to this man and many others, thus she was “one flesh” with these partners. She had become emotionally tied to this man and the others. These were illicit sexual relationships, outside of marriage. Evil spirits had the legal right to take advantage of these encounters, to take advantage of the weaknesses of these men, and to transfer to her during sexual encounters.

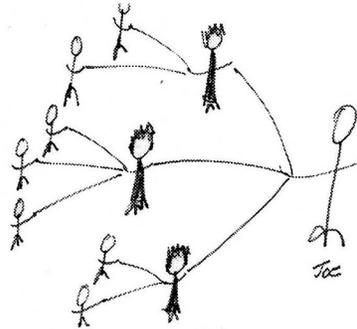
Satan understands what happens when two become “one flesh.” He knows very well that becoming “one flesh” has to do with making a covenant. Just as there is a covenant made between a man and woman when the marriage is consummated, according to the Scripture, the same thing happens with two unmarried persons. This is an area that Satan takes most delight in perverting, because it not only affects the immediate person, but also those who are involved.

We have been told of a certain commercial on television that is informing people of the dangers of AIDS. It shows a man and woman in bed together and the caption goes something like this “you know you are sleeping with everyone he has ever slept with.” How true this is on a physical level, but what people don’t understand is that something happens on a spiritual level. Let’s look at a hypothetical situation to explain how this works.

Joe and Mary are making plans to get married. 1

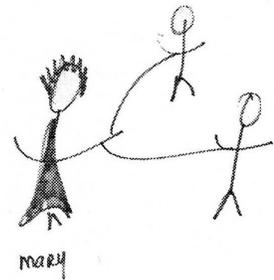


Before his engagement to Mary, Joe has had sexual affairs with at least three other women.

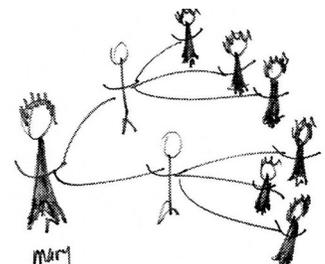


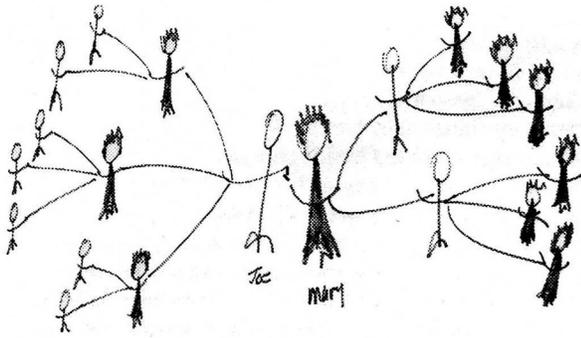
Two of Joe’s girl friends had sexual affairs with two men each, and one had three affairs.

Mary has been to bed with at least two other men before meeting Joe.



Mary’s boy friends had three sexual encounters each, prior to Mary.





Now let's do some addition. Including men and women on Joe's side there are ten different relationships. On Mary's side she had eight. That totals up to eighteen.

So, when Joe and Mary get married they are actually marrying 18 other people, in that they are being affected or afflicted by many of the weaknesses of these relationships. The reason is that they were violating the covenant relationship that God had made for married couples and this gave evil spirits from each, the right to transfer.

Now here is the real sad fact. According to the words of the Scriptures, when two people have sex together they become one flesh. They form a covenant. And since this is a form of worship, and in this case, a worship of the wrong god (idolatry), it gives demonic powers the legal right to transfer through the soul connection, which is through the mind, the emotions, and the desires, which is basically the heart of a person's life. No wonder you hear people saying they don't know who they are anymore and are confused. They are made up of many different character traits of all the people with whom they have been involved. It appears that Satan capitalizes on traits of character. In other words, if Joe had a spirit of insecurity and anger, no doubt the devil would make sure he took advantage of these same weakness and traits in the other individuals with whom he has been sexually active. This weakness of anger could have been enhanced by or come directly to him through one of the people in his chain of relationships. The devil knows this therefore he starts to move in with his evil train of demonic spirits who capitalize on these weaknesses. Many times these weaknesses grow and become strongholds.

The testimony has been told of a young minister who after several years in ministry began to realize that there was something wrong, as his ministry was not going anywhere. He called on a pastor friend to come and help him figure out what might be wrong. The first question the pastor's friend ask him was if he had had any sexual affairs before marriage and before he became a Christian and a pastor. This young minister said that he had been in bed with ten different women before.

His friend was experienced with this kind of thing, and suggested that the soul-ties from these women needed to be broken and the rights of the demonic powers who had taken advantage cancelled. They proceeded to do this, and when they came to the certain name of one of the ladies he had been involved with, a demon spoke out of his mouth and said "no not her, you can't deal with her," speaking her name. Come to find out, this particular lady had been involved in witchcraft and her life as a witch was still afflicting this pastor through the legal soul-tie connection. This is a very serious thing that happens when there are sexual encounters, whether they are physical, mental or emotional. These ties and demonic rights must be broken.

In this chapter we want to discuss openly, frankly, but tactfully some of the things which tie people through sexual sin and allows the devil the freedom to control them.

The Kiss and Sexual Activity (Worship?)

It is interesting to note that one of the meanings of "to kiss" in the Hebrew and Greek is "to worship." People kiss statues to pay homage to or worship them. Sex is also a form of worship. When a married couple comes together sexually, in the covenant of marriage, they do so to bring glory to God. But if there is sexual activity out of the marriage, glory and worship is given to Satan. When the Israelites made the golden calf, part of their worship had to do with sexuality. They were dancing and sinned through sexual activity, (see Genesis 32:6). All things, in a sense are a form of worship as the Scripture says, "Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Many of the pagan belief systems in Bible times had deep involvement in sexuality. When the Scripture speaks about the groves (the idols of the Phoenician goddess Asharah or Astarte where they held pagan activities) one of their rituals was sex with temple prostitutes, both men and women. They even had statues or graven images that they had sex with, all of which was a form of worship. The devil knows very well that sexual activity is a form of worship. That is why he has intensely perverted it, to the point that it reflects his evil character of selfishness. So immoral sexual activity, in a sense, is worshipping Satan.

The shocking reality that must be considered is that Satan is connecting people through sexual encounters outside of marriage, which gives him the right to control in this area. Through sex and sexual relationships of every kind, the devil is connecting the world and bringing them under his bondage. It is easy to see that people, even Christians, are falling into this sin and are being afflicted by demonic powers. What a terribly sobering thought!

In Conclusion

By now you might be asking, “How does this soul-tie thing really affect a person?” Once again let’s reiterate what “soul-tie” means. When two people come together in a sexual encounter (good or bad) the soul; the mind, intellect, the emotions and desires of two people are joined, attached, united, coupled or merged together.

According to what the Bible says, sexual union is a joining together, or becoming “one flesh.” This joining or becoming “one flesh” takes place whether it is done in the marriage or outside the marriage, whether it is done physically or in the mind. So the conclusion is that becoming “one flesh” connects two people to each other, not only physically but also spiritually. There apparently is a bonding that takes place, no matter how brief the encounter. It would only stand to reason that when these sexual encounters are indulged in many times with the same person, no doubt the bonding gets much stronger and grows like a cancer. This bonding or blending has to do with the heart and soul, which is the mind, emotions, desires, the very heart of the individual’s life.

When two people come together sexually, there is some type of covenant or agreement that is made. This is why the Scripture says they become “one flesh,” meaning to become one body for the moment during the sexual encounter, also to be one in mind and desire. Because this is a type of worship and is done outside of the marriage it becomes a worship of the devil, which gives him the legal right to afflict each person with the other’s weaknesses.

In the Bible we read many accounts of the spiritual rise and fall of Israel. In every fall there was a relationship or a connection with the wrong influences; likewise when there was a spiritual upsurge, there was a connection or joining with God. In other words, the spiritual life of Israel had everything to do with whom or what they were united or connected. When they were joined with idolatry they fell, when they were attached or united with the God of heaven they prospered spiritually. When they became involved with heathen men and women they were taken down, because it was physical and spiritual adultery (adultery meaning “the breaking of the relationship”). Times have not changed!

It is important to understand that God intended for the intimate sexual relationship to take place *only* between a man and woman who are married. In that relationship God also knew that something very important would take place. In becoming “one flesh” according to Hebrew thinking would be one person, one body, one personality or oneness in union.

For husbands and wives this intimate time was to be such a beautiful experience because it was symbolic of the beautiful relationship that Jesus wants to have with His children.

Satan started his work of perverting sexuality as soon as sin came into the world. If you remember, Adam and Eve were covered with a robe of light, they were naked and there was no shame (see Genesis 2:25). But when they sinned they hid themselves. When God came walking in the garden looking for them, He said “Adam where art thou?” Adam said “...I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” What had happened to the covering of light? Somehow Adam and Eve were never embarrassed or ashamed about being naked until that pure light of heaven was removed. Notice, they took fig leaves and made an apron to gird about their loins or genitals. Why didn’t they cover their faces? Somehow they all of a sudden were ashamed of their nakedness.

From that point on Satan made sure he promoted sex and sexuality as something shameful and embarrassing. Because God made these relations it as a symbol of the close intimate connection He wants to have with us, Satan went about to make it dirty and reflect that bond he wants to have, in destroying people. He wants to bind us up in soul or heart ties or bondages to keep us from having that close intimate relationship with Jesus.

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Chapter 3

Sexual Sin

Sexual Activity Outside of Marriage

Today, sexual activity of all kinds has become as common as taking a drink of water or changing clothes. The very thing that God gave as a special gift to a married man and woman has become ordinary and common. It is so accepted that it has become the norm to have many sexual partners, in and out of marriage. Television talks shows, magazines of all kinds are promoting illicit sexual activity. In fact it has become a prideful thing to accumulate many different sexual partners. Four or five years ago it was uncovered in one of the news magazines, a club of boys ages eleven through fourteen, who were competing with each other as to how many different girls they could seduce and have sex with. How sad! With all this going on, the intimate, beautiful experience has turned into something common, filthy and dirty.

Again let us look at what the Bible has to say about sexual activity outside of marriage. I Corinthians 6:16 says, *What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.* Now we are going to find out something very interesting about the word “harlot.” Many take this word to apply only to a female prostitute, because most standard dictionaries explain it this way.

Now hold on to your hat. The Greek word, in this text, for “harlot” is “*porne*.” This is one of the words that also pertain to pornography which comes from the word fornication. In this case, meaning a fornicator, which could mean male or female. This also includes adultery in the sense of a married person having sexual activity outside of marriage.

What does it mean to be a fornicator? From the Random House Dictionary this is how it reads: “voluntary sexual intercourse between two unmarried persons or two persons not married to each other.” There is no other conclusion that can be drawn then all persons taking part in sexual activity outside of the marriage are fornicators or are committing fornication.

It is also obvious from this text in I Corinthians, that there is a tie that binds when it says that he “who is joined to a harlot is one body,” and “the two...shall be one flesh.” There is definitely a connection, which is what this booklet on sexual sin is all about; the ties that bind us and give demonic powers legal rights to take us down many different paths of sin. This is giving glory to Satan and actually worshipping him. God sanctioned sex inside of marriage and the devil wants to sanction his brand of it outside of marriage. The whatever-feels-good attitude prevails today. Let us look at just a few of the main stream practices.

Sexual Perversion

Same sex involvement; homosexuality or bisexuality are areas of sexual perversion, which should not need to be discussed. The Scriptures are very clear on this one. It is amazing how many Christian leaders will try to twist scripture into condoning this sinful practice. It is an abomination to God. All who practice and continue in this will have their part in the lake of fire; not escaping the hand of God. God’s pure kingdom cannot contain such sinning.

Let us consider a few Scripture texts:

Leviticus 18:22, *Thou shalt not lie with man kind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination.*

Deuteronomy 23:17, *There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.*

Romans 1:26-32, *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

It is extremely important to understand that when perverted sexual activity is engaged in, soul ties also take place. Sometimes these ties are stronger because they are totally against what God intended, therefore it opens the door wide for Satan to come in and wrap his bands around his victim.

Today, there are many atrocities in the area of sexuality that have been spawned by promiscuity, sex education of elementary school children, sensuality in comic books, sexy video games, and easy access of pornography on the internet. There is no end of the saturation of society with sexuality. Even when you drive down the highway, there are big billboards with almost nude women, designed to get your attention. Of all the crazy advertisements, a milk billboard with sexual connotations stating “you got milk?”

We are bombarded on every side with pictures in news magazines, prime time television sitcoms that are sexually charged; talk show programs in order to get you to watch and listen, take the talk to the absolute limit without actually saying filthy pornographic words. Sex is a part of just about every area of life. From scantily clad women in the work place to women in the church wearing mini-skirts, sitting on the podium. They don't seem to realize or they maybe don't care that the men in the audience have to look at the ceiling to try to control their thoughts and to keep their eyes sanctified.

We are living in a sexually charged society, a society that says anything goes. Morality, even in the so-called Christian world has all but gone down the drain. This has brought about a letting down of morals in what God really intended for sexuality. It may shock you to find out that some of the things pastors are telling their members, in the area of sexuality, are not Biblical. Many are giving advice to match their own sexual preferences.

The problem is, there is no way to discuss these things without being very frank, otherwise much misunderstanding is possible. Again we pray that this will be of benefit to many and help in understanding that there is much bondage which can be brought on by wrong sexual practices.

Let's take a look at an area of sexual perversion that has come to be acceptable to many Christians, especially the younger generation.

Unnatural Sexual Practices

There is a pretty common belief among many pastors that whatever a married couple (male and female) consent or agree to do in the bedroom is permissible; as long as the Bible doesn't say specifically it is wrong. There are a lot of sins today that are not specifically named in the Bible. For instance the Bible doesn't say a word about evil video games being wrong. But it does say to protect the eyes from evil, not to indulge in divination, or witchcraft. If we were to apply, across the board, the principle, **that whatever two adults agree upon is o.k.**, there would be a lot of things we could do that are not specifically written in the Bible. Is it possible that this kind of thinking has permeated our Christian world, and has brought us to this do-your-own thing, whatever-feels-good-do-it mentality? Has the body of Christ compromised to the point that Christ is having a hard time dwelling in them?

Many have misinterpreted the verse in Hebrews 13:4 as it reads in the King James Version of the Bible, to say that anything goes as long as the married couples are in agreement. It reads this way, *Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

Let us read this from two other prominent Bible versions. First from the New American Standard, *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.* From the New International Version, *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.* The verse from the King James Version stating that, *the bed undefiled*, is not giving license to do anything you feel like doing. It should be noted that "the bed or the marriage bed" is an inoffensive way to refer to the intimate relationship between husband and wife.

One of the reasons the Bible calls marriage "honorable" and "the marriage bed must be kept undefiled," is that the relationship of a married couple is symbolic of the pure, undefiled relationship we are to have with Christ, as His bride.

What does this word "defile" mean? What is it saying to the married couple? From the Theological Dictionary of The New Testament, page 953, it means to "stain," hence to "pollute, contaminate or soil in the sense of moral defilement," even with the connotation of "with guilt or demonic processes."

Now the last part of Hebrews 13:4 is very interesting, *for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.* This is in context of the marriage bed or the intimate relationship. We understand one aspect of adultery as having intimate relations with someone else's spouse or another person outside the marriage. But this verse goes on to say fornicators are sexually immoral. Again the word "fornication" covers a very broad area, it goes beyond adultery to sexual perversion; doing sexual things that are unnatural to the body.

One thing we must consider is the make-up of the human body; how God made us to function. He made us with body parts that were intended to work and function certain ways. For instance the mouth was intended for eating food and forming words with feeling and expression. In like manner, He made the sexual organs to fit and function a certain way. He did not intend that other openings or non-sexual areas of the body should be used this way.

There is a natural way that God intended for us to relate sexually which has also been perverted. Romans 1:26 reads, *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.* The Hebraic-Roots Version reads this way, *Because of this, Eloah (God) delivered them to the passions of shame. For their women changed the use of their sex and did that which was not natural,* (emphasis mine). From the Complete Jewish Bible, *This is why God has given them up to degrading passions; so that their women exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural.*

So apparently, from this verse, there must be a natural way that God designed for man and woman to be intimate.

It should also be noted that the practice of “unnatural” sex is the way homosexuals are intimate. In the first place, according to the Bible, it is not permissible for intimacy to take place other than within the marriage of male and female. Probably the greatest problem of all is that “**sexual gratification**” has been made to be the primary or most important part of the male-female sexual relationship. It has become a selfish idea “please me or I will go to someone else.” Pleasure is the driving force when it comes to sexuality.

In the Bible the first thing that God told Adam and Eve was “to be fruitful and multiply.” This obviously meant to have children. This takes place through the sexual act. God did not say, “I am giving you the right to make up the rules and guidelines for your intimate life, that whatever you agree upon is alright and fine to do.” God is not a foolish God; He knows the perverted mind of Satan working through man. He would never give us free rein to do whatever we want with such an important function of life.

If you were to treat your car the way many treat each other sexually it would quickly stop running. If you were to take the gasoline nozzle and place it into the oil filler pipe and fill the crankcase with gasoline, and take the oil can and fill the gas tank with oil, how long would the car last. It would instantly cease to perform.

When unnatural sex is engaged in it turns the intimate experience into self-gratification and lust. This is one of the reasons the sexual experience has been made into something sensual, filthy and common. It ceases to be the beautiful relationship that God wants us to experience. Again it is paying allegiance to the devil, because it is certainly not giving glory to God. It is a form of idolatry or idol worship, because it is not worshipping the true God, but a form of worship of Satan, because it is his sexual activity that is being indulged.

Fantasy

What is fantasy? According to the Random House College Dictionary it is “imagination, especially when extravagant or unrestrained, the forming of mental images, an imaginative sequence in which ones desires are fulfilled, a fanciful thought or creation.” There are many other definitions of fantasy but the above is the best definition in connection with what goes on in the mind concerning lust and sexual sin. Apparently fantasy or fantasizing takes place in the thoughts, the mind, the forming of mental pictures.

In many situations of fantasizing, the person finds himself taking part in the picture. For instance, Jesus said in Matthew 5 that *whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

This text has the connotation of going through the experience in his thoughts, in other words he has lived it out in the pictures of his mind. He takes part in the pictures of the sexual encounter with the woman. This fits very well with the definition of fantasy or fantasizing: “an imaginative sequence in which ones desires are fulfilled.” This sheds light upon the fact that many people today live in their minds, a world of fantasy, because fantasy is always available, it can be manipulated to suit the desire, and the end generally brings some form of satisfaction. Some people live their lives in fantasy because it is easier to live there than it is to live in reality. If the experience is fantasized upon long enough, in many cases it becomes reality and brings the person to physically acting it out. This, of course, is nothing more than a corrupt imagination. The heart is corrupted through corrupt fantasies or imaginations. Fantasy is a powerful tool of the devil. He knows that if he can get a person to fantasize he has a very good chance of getting that person to sin and act on that sin, which cements the problem more solid in the heart.

Please do not confuse fantasy or corrupt imagination with an imagination that has been dedicated or turned over to God. God gave us an imagination. Words bring pictures in the mind. Jesus understood this well. He spoke in parables, which painted pictures in the mind. You can’t read about the sower going forth to sow seed, or the man building his house on the sand and the flood washing it away, without seeing these pictures in your mind. So God gave us this gift to help us in our understanding.

The devil, as usual, has taken something that God gave and perverted it so it can be used in way to tear a person down. Experiences of intimate and passionate pleasure are indelibly imprinted in the mind and emotions, and are easily replayed—by the person or the devil—in the imagination of our hearts throughout our lifetime. This is the reason we must guard the senses well against any kind of evil, especially sexual fantasies.

If we understand fantasy or evil imaginations properly we will realize that this is a way the devil works to bind up our minds. To tie us or keep us connected to a sexual experience, real or fabricated. Of course, fantasy can and is used in many other situations besides sexual pictures. The world has promoted the idea that if we visualize something long enough it will become part of us. There is certainly a truth to this; the Bible says “*by beholding we become changed.*” As we continue on in this study we will see how fantasy plays the leading role as a tie that binds.

Lust

Fantasy and lust go hand in hand in the area of sexual sin, but just what is lust?

Romans 6:12 says, *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.* According to Vines Bible Dictionary the rendering of the Greek in this verse, *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body,* is “an injunction—an order or command—against letting sin reign in our mortal body to obey the ‘lust’ thereof, referring to those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity.” In Romans 1:27 of the New King James Version we read, *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burning in their lust for one another....* The word “**lust**” here translates as “a reaching or stretching after, to stretch ones self out, reach after,” a general term for every kind of desire.

Lust is mentioned many many times in the Bible and manifests in a variety of ways. For instance, in Ephesians 2:3 it speaks of *the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind....* Intimating these lusts are actually strong *desires* (same Greek word for lust) of the mind. Romans 2:24 states, *the lusts of their own hearts.* Revelation 18:14 says, *And the fruits that thy soul lusted after....* In these three texts we see that lust can come through the flesh—our bodies or physical flesh and blood—through the mind, the heart and the soul. Wow! Lust appears to be something that could be very deep in a persons make up, especially if it is cultivated.

It is fascinating to understand that one of the Greek words used for *covet* in some texts is also the same word that is used for *lust* in other texts (*epithumia*). Covet, in some cases meaning “to evilly long for or lust after; desire earnestly; a desire to have more; to have that which belongs to others,” from the Vines Bible Dictionary. If we put the meanings of these two words *lust* and *covet* together in the context of sexual sin, it really broadens the picture. It might look something like this: **“those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity, longing for more, and for that which belongs to others.”**

Lust is at the top of the heap, because all sexual sins first begin with lust, which are **“those evil desires (thoughts) which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity, longing for more, and for that which belongs to others.”** These thoughts or pictures take place in the mind, which motivates the flesh into action. It might come as a shock to you to know that lust is just as prevalent in women as it is in men. No doubt it has much to do with the permissive society in which we live.

There are many who promote the idea that lust is alright if one doesn’t act on it. One prominent radio personality who has a program that focuses on the Christian family unit, says if a man is looking at a woman and the wind blows her dress up, exposing a good share of her lower torso, it is not a problem to look at her and have sexual thoughts about her as long as he physically doesn’t act on it.

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount said it this way, *But I say unto you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart,* Matthew 5:28 from the New King James Version. This verse is very clear that to lust—“those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity”—is one aspect of committing adultery or taking part in the act in his heart.

We realize that “lust” and “covet” have their part in many other areas of life, but here we want to consider it in the context of “sexual sin.” Lust appears to be the seat, basis or beginning of all sexual sin, because it originates in the mind, and the body then acts on it. Because it is actually fantasy or creations in the mind, it can be created to suit the individual’s own desires. **Some say the reason lust or fantasy of the mind is so successful is that it is always available and it never lets you down.** It is through lust in the mind, heart and soul that keeps many people tied to other individuals, ties that sometimes grow into strongholds and become like bands of steel to keep them in bondage and control them. Many evil acts are committed today all springing from lust—“those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity, longing for more and for that which belongs to others.”

Pornography

Pornography used to be something that you had to go searching for. It was available in magazines that were accessible only through mail order. Then adult stores became lawful with all kinds of books, magazines and sexual toys that were obtainable only if you were old enough to walk through the door. Times have changed, pornography is available to anyone who can put his or her hands on the keyboard of a computer and hit a key that will open the internet. It is available to anyone who can pop a video or DVD into the machine.

In this world of “free speech or free and open expression of art” we have “come a long way.” Maybe it should be said we have come “the wrong way.” Minds of young and old, male and female are being filled with the most awful gross sexual thoughts. These pictures and videos are available from around the world, through the telephone wire. This has brought onto the computer screen the cultures of people who for hundreds of years have practiced sexual perversion. The porn industry has become very bold. They don’t have any problem programming it in so it will pop up on your computer screen, even during times of sending emails. Yes, we have come a long way, the wrong way.

People from all walks of life, from clergy to the preschool student are daily becoming addicted to the industry of pornography. The devil has been very successful in destroying people through the God given gift of sight.

Let us take just a moment to look at the word pornography and find out where its roots are. In the Random House Dictionary it describes pornography this way: “obscene literature, art, or photography, especially that having little or no artistic merit.” Then the dictionary brings up two most interesting Greek words from whence pornography has its roots, the words “*porno*” and “*porne*.” Now if you look these words up in Young’s Bible Concordance you will find they are words that are used for “fornication.” Wow! Lets see what the concordance says about these words: “‘*porne*’ means ‘a harlot or whore,’ from the root word ‘*pornos*’ or ‘*porno*’” which means a **male** prostitute as venal (able to be purchased, not rightfully offered for sale), a debauchee (a person given to excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures; intemperance).

The word “*pornos*” comes from another word “*pernemi*” which means “to sell, to traffic, to sell or bring into slavery.” –Doesn’t it make your head spin to realize that the word “pornography” has come from all these Greek words that originate in the word “fornication”?

Now the big question is, do all these descriptions above apply only to those who are involved in making the pornography or does it also apply to the person who looks at it and fills his mind with it? Again, let’s look at the text in Matthew 5:28, *But I say unto you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ...whoever looks...to lust*, is what a person does when he or she views pornography. The principle here applies to man or woman and understanding what lust is, “those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity,” it seems to apply also to the person who looks at it and fills his mind; taking part with the pictures in his mind. When a person does this he or she is having intercourse with the computer or magazine they are looking at. They are at best copulating with themselves.

In doing this they are having communion with the devil—bowing in worship to the flesh. This is a lust that is never satisfied. The lust of pornography draws a man deeper and deeper into this dark tunnel until the takes him to a point that he discovers he has missed life and love.

One area that many forget about when they indulge in this filthy habit is the affect it has on the rest of the family, especially the children. Continually we must realize that we live in a world filled with both righteous and fallen angels. We are surrounded with evil spirits who seek the moral ruin of every person, they respect no one. The children of godly parents are protected under their moral umbrella. But one must understand that when a father or mother gives their eyes or bodies over to lusts of the flesh, this allows evil spirits to break through this hedge of protection. It literally invites evil angels into the home. When a person, man or woman tunes into pornography they have established a solid link with the dark spirits of this world.

When a father or mother lies in bed at night and allows the devils to conjure up evil images, these evil spirits don’t stop with just their minds. They gleefully go into the bedrooms of the children and assault their minds with some of the same evil thoughts. These precious defenseless children may be taken captive and one or the other of the parents is the one who threw the door wide open. Yes, God created us with sexual drive, but He gives guidelines or steering wheels to direct us in the proper use of this sex drive. He also gave us weapons to use, brakes so to speak, so there can be victory over the evil that abounds today in the area of sex.

In looking at the broad picture does this mean that “whoever looks” at these pictures and “lusts,” becomes a harlot, prostitute or a debauchee (a person given to excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures; intemperance)? Does it mean, in taking part in pornography a person has become a fornicator? You be the judge. Any way you look at it this is very serious. The reason is that pornography leads people into deeper sins; sins of masturbation, rape, crime, and all kinds of sexual deviation even in the marriage bed. This is fornication. In Galatians 5:19-20 it states that “*fornicators shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*” If this is true then anyone who indulges in the sin of pornography and does not overcome it, will forever be left out of His eternal kingdom. The devil convinces people that they can be Christians and indulge in pornography. What a lie!

It must be understood that these cords of pornography will bind a person in threads of evil pictures. Once these evil pictures have been placed in the mind, they are there for the devil to rerun, at just the right moment. These pictures will not go away until God does an erasing process to fade them from the memory. Sometimes it takes years of daily filling the mind with the things of God for these pictures to go away. Evil spirits make sure to return every day and night to offer every opportunity to rehearse these pictures. But God can and will deliver you from the pull of this temptation. The weapons of warfare that are laid down in the gospel of Jesus Christ are the power of God unto salvation. He is able to save those who have fallen into this sin. He came to “set the captives free.” This means the ties that bind can be broken and anyone desiring freedom can be “free indeed.”

Masturbation

Many psychologists, therapists and church leaders promote the idea that since masturbation or self abuse is not specifically named as sin in the Bible; it must be alright to engage in this practice. -There are many sins that are not specifically mentioned in the Bible. However, through obtaining an understanding of Biblical guidelines we can see how immoral principles manifest as sin. Masturbation is one of these practices that manifest as moral sin.

Again, let us look at the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:28, *But I say unto you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* Masturbation, for the most part, is not just a mechanical act. Lust and fantasy, fastening the mind intensely on a sexual situation, actually taking part in that fantasy brings on the end results of an orgasm. So, does it not come from the lust of the imagination; a perverted imagination? Therefore, according to Jesus, the lust in a person's mind is the same as committing the act; then to carry the process to the next step of masturbating, using that lustful picture, actually taking part with that picture, would constitute sexual sin. There is no doubt that unclean spirits activate the sexual imagination, stirring up the passions, which produces lust and sin. This intense lust results in acting out the fantasy. What difference if this acting out is physical with another person or done mentally in the mind and physically through masturbation. The results are the same and the sin only intensifies.

There are, no doubt, many other sexual practices other than those we have mentioned briefly here that can bind a person in soul ties, but we have written about the main stream practices. There are other sexual practices, outside of the realm of humans with humans which are not necessary to discuss as they are obviously wrong. Anything that is done which steps out of the simplicity and beauty that God intended for the marriage intimacy is sin and is paying homage to the wrong god. When unnatural sex is engaged in, it opens the door for Satan to tempt with other perversions and filth. It opens the door for him to torment with guilt and shame. It also sets up an environment for all kinds of illness and disease. Let no one convince you that it is o.k., just because it has been agreed upon. All perverted sexual relations have their influence on a person's life and many times these ties bring about a bondage that affects the person for a lifetime.

Chapter 4

Breaking Soul Ties

A Testimony

Gaining a better understanding of the spiritual realm and learning more of how to fight the battle against the enemy has become a great passion for my husband and me over the past five years, as we've seen miracle after miracle transform from the use of the "weapons of warfare."

About a year ago my husband, Joe and I were enjoying a wonderful time together, as it seemed the Lord had been blessing us with a more fulfilling marriage each day. Then one morning in April, I got a call from my sister stating that one of my old boyfriends of 15 years prior had just passed away. She said she saw Steve's picture in her little local newspaper and wanted to let me know what had happened. As she read the small article, which stated Steve's occupation, place of residence, wife's name, and funeral arrangements, I couldn't help but wonder if he had died the careless alcoholic that I had always remembered him. Unfortunately, the obituary told nothing of his death. Oh well, I thought, the guy was a wreck anyway and I proceeded to tell my sister a whole slew of horrible memories I had of him.

After hanging up the phone the Holy Spirit revealed to me that I had harbored a huge amount of bitterness in my heart towards Steve. Crazy, how we can hang on to bad spirits without even realizing it! Immediately, I hit the floor on my knees, pouring out my heart to the Lord, asking for His forgiveness and cleansing of any demons of anger, bitterness, resentment or criticism which I may have held on to. Then, rebuking Satan in the Powerful Name of Jesus, I commanded him to reveal himself to me, showing me what he had done regarding my relationship with Steve. Then I asked the angels and God's Spirit to surround me.

The next thing I knew, I was sobbing my eyes out as my mind was filled with compassion towards Steve, remembering the many times he had tried to contact me in an attempt to make amends. Now, 15 years later, my heart was breaking over spilled milk with no possibility of reconciliation. It turns out that Steve only lived an hour from our home and I never realized it! I could have easily made some attempt to bring a peace into both our lives!

After struggling much with God in prayer that afternoon, I got up from my knees vowing to trust the Lord completely, even if it seemed that I had made a mess out of yet another area of my life. Later that evening, when my husband returned home from work, I told him of our old friend's death, as Joe too had been acquaintances with Steve. Joe asked me if I wanted to go to the funeral. Without hesitation, I responded, "absolutely not."

Realizing the pain I was just feeling and the fact that it had been 15 years since I had any contact with his friends or family, I strongly felt that no good could come of it. But my husband had a hunch we should go. He asked if I cared if he called directory assistance to get the number of Steve's wife and find out, at least, how he died. I said I didn't care so we prayed for the Holy Spirit to speak through Joe and he made contact. Talking for some time to what he later described as a wonderful, loving and terribly hurting woman, Joe decided that we should go to the funeral. So I called my sister asking her to join us and we went.

Armed with much prayer, I reluctantly walked into the funeral home. The place was packed with bikers and recovering addicts. While hearing story after story of Steve's life, I could not stop thanking God that He had completely healed me of my alcohol and drug problems and had saved me from a life of pain, as Steve and I had once been making serious plans for marriage. God had not only healed and saved me but had taken away all desires for that old lifestyle.

After the service, we walked up to speak with Steve's wife. There was no open casket due to the fact that he had gotten hit head-on by a van while riding his Harley and had already been cremated. There was only an 8" x 10" picture of Steve sitting on his brand new purple bike. Wow! What an absolutely gorgeous man! I thought. The years had definitely done this man justice! I found myself wanting to stand there and stare at his picture. I could instantly feel my heart being drawn to him and in a strange, unexplainable way, I felt as though a flash of dim light had come into me. Huh? That's strange! I thought, What an incredible pull! With everything in me I longed to talk to him. I literally had to force myself to turn my head and walk away, as the thought entered my mind that I must be making a scene. Fortunately, we were able to talk with several old friends. The support of my husband and sister was a great blessing but that picture kept calling me and I found myself walking back to look at it a couple more times before we left. Each time my heart would race with what seemed to be a million different emotions.

On the drive home I was filled with extreme remorse, depression and guilt over the fact that I had not made some attempt to contact Steve at least once before he died. Why had God not impressed me? My mind was filled with memories of fun, playful times Steve and I had spent together, of which had not come to mind in 15 years. And my heart was throbbing with an intense desire to talk to Steve just one more time.

Retiring that night, I concluded that God had to keep Steve and me apart because there was an incredible pull between us which was demonic and our meeting again would have put a giant wedge in my happy, blessed marriage. It seemed that the demons would have been too big for me to try to fight so I vowed to trust God Who always knows best. I thanked Him for spiritual insight and we went to sleep.

By the next day, I realized I was under a full-blown demonic attack. My thoughts were beginning to be consumed of Steve. I thanked God for revealing this to me and began spiritual-warfare prayers at once, rebuking all heartfelt attractions for Steve. The war was on and I wasn't about to loose the battle, armed with the Powerful Name of Jesus!

Within a few days, my confidence was becoming a little shaken. I was consumed with thoughts of Steve and the past. Regret and depression filled my mind. To make things worse, every time I heard a Harley, my heart skipped a beat. I longed to get back on a bike and ride for days, carefree like I used to be. "Maybe we should buy a brand-new Harley," I told my husband. "Have you lost your marbles?" he replied, "What's with you?" He tried to reason with me, reminding me of our lifestyle as stable business owners and leaders in the church. "It probably wouldn't be the best witness if all of the sudden we became bikers," he quietly snickered. But to me, it sounded like a great idea although I was having a little difficulty justifying the cost.

"What's wrong with you, anyway?" my husband asked.

"You seem so different lately," knowing that this behavior was completely out of character for me. All I could tell him was that I knew I was under attack after being at Steve's funeral. I asked him to pray and anoint me, of which he did immediately. Joe's prayer seemed to help a little and I felt somewhat stronger afterwards.

Several weeks past and I had partaken in many hours of telephone conversations with Steve's sister Terri, back in Minnesota, inquiring about every detail of his life. But the fact still remained that I was mourning the death of my old boyfriend immensely and it just didn't make sense. This is ridiculous! I thought.

By the end of May I was in an absolute tizzy. I was praying and rebuking many times during the day. My thoughts of Steve had greatly subsided but I was under a strong delusion that my life was a complete waste that I had missed so much of what could have been. Depression, regret, guilt, anxiety, discontentment, and an incredible desire to get on a Harley, being free of life's daily burdens, plagued me. "I know too much about the spiritual battle to be under such demonic oppression," I kept telling myself, but seemed powerless to obtain freedom.

The weeks rolled on and I continued in prayer for wisdom, guidance and discernment, still plagued with a slew of negativity.

Finally the thought occurred to me, could Satan have some legal right to me? I knew that my downhill course started during the time of Steve's death. Where do demons go when people die? Demons don't die with people. I hadn't been next to Steve or even talked to him in 15 years. How could they have a connection to me? As I began trying to remember the atmosphere around Steve I recalled his always being depressed, discontent, impulsive and dwelling on the past, all of which seemed to be the exact emotions I had been experiencing. Could demons have a legal right to transfer into me through Steve? "HELP ME JESUS!" I pleaded. "TEACH ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW!"

It wasn't but a few days later when plans were being made to meet with Al and Collette Martin of Anchor Ministries for a seminar down in Pismos Beach. Joe and Al were going to attend a men's leadership retreat dealing with overcoming sexual addictions, in hopes of acquiring more skills to help people fight the battle against Satan.

Joe and I were really excited to have the opportunity to learn more in the area of spiritual warfare and spend the weekend with our dear friends.

Needless to say the entire experience was a wonderful blessing! Unbeknownst to me, God was working mightily to bring me the answers I needed for total victory over the demonic stronghold I was under. Al and Collette shared a video with us on sexual soul ties. "THAT'S IT"! I exclaimed. "That's what has a hold on me!" Thoughts began to rush through my mind; It's so simple - Satan did have a legal right to me because I had become "one flesh" with Steve through sexual relations. Satan was playing it for all it was worth. Had I confessed my sin of fornication? Had I asked the Lord to cut the cords that held me to Steve as "one flesh"? Had I asked the Lord to forgive me and cleanse me, claiming the promise in 1 John 1; taking away any legal rights the enemy had, dismantling the demonic forces that were claiming me through Steve?

Immediately the Holy Spirit began to call me into prayer. "THANK YOU JESUS!" I wanted to scream! I could hardly wait to get home to go through chapter five of Proverbs, verse by verse, asking the Lord to turn the curses into blessings!

Later that evening, Joe and I did have the opportunity for united prayer. We were able to privately confess our past intimate relationships to our Merciful Father alone, then came back together in prayer, going through Proverbs 5, verse by verse. God quickly answered our requests and I was completely freed from the demons that held me!

Looking back, my heart is filled with praise and thanksgiving for our Mighty God Who reveals His light in His perfect timing. The trial I experienced last summer was working in me to instill greater faith in our Heavenly Father, greater humility and distrust of my emotions, especially when I can't figure life out.

The Lord gave me an understanding of sexual "soul ties" which I will never forget and another glimpse of the legal rights the enemy claims in this battle raging around us. He has given me a heartfelt assurance that I will someday have the opportunity to make amends with my dear friend Steve as we bask in the love of our Redeemer. My admiration and devotion to my husband is even stronger now and God has blessed us with yet, another weapon of warfare! Today, I have to smile when I see a good-looking man on a Harley.

My heart screams inside, "THANK YOU JESUS THAT ALL POWER AND VICTORY IS IN YOU!"

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Next to the chapter on marriage, this is probably the most important chapter in this booklet. The process of breaking these "heart-ties" or "soul-ties" is extremely important. Like overcoming any sin there is a bit of a process. This, like all battles, must be fought in the battlefield of the mind, where Satan works and establishes his soul-tie strongholds. It is a spiritual battle and must be fought that way, with the supernatural forces of God against the forces of evil.

Since ignorance places people in the soul-tie position in the first place, as seen in Hosea 4:6a; *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*, common logic tells us that education or the understanding of soul-ties would be the first step in the process of canceling these rights. You can't expect a person to want to break something they don't understand or see as bondage. In this area there needs to be a very thorough understanding of what is involved.

The person who is in need of freedom must first acknowledge that soul-ties or heart-ties exist and make the decision that he/she wants to be free from these strongholds. They must be determined to do whatever it takes to be free. Sometimes for many years, legal rights have been given to Satan. Through prayer, God will bring to mind what must be dealt with.

In preparation for prayer to break soul-ties, ask God to bring to your recollection people you have been involved with and/or the character traits that have transferred. Depression, hate, anger, lust, jealousy, insecurity, etc., are examples of common demonic emotions often obtained through soul-ties. A word of caution: It is not always necessary that each person be named, as this may open the door for those sexual experiences to be relived in the mind. Let our infinitely wise Father impress you as to the correct way to pray.

We have constructed some specific prayers that cover the different aspects of being delivered from evil soul-ties.

There is no magic in the words, but some people like to know what to say. We believe God wants us to be specific when we pray. The following are the four elements of prayer for forgiveness and healing.

1) You will be experiencing deep repentance for all the sexual relationships and asking forgiveness for those who have been part of the soul-ties through the sexual encounters.

2) You will be asking God to break the soul-ties, to undo those relationships, to bring back the part that was joined to the other person and take away that which came to you from the other person. The past has to be undone. You see, God has to be the one who breaks the soul-ties and cancels the sinful covenant. We cannot break these ourselves. Only God can unravel the past and restore what has been lost. He is the only one who has the right to cancel the covenants we've made with other people.

3) Since God has given human beings authority over demons in the powerful, victorious name of Jesus, which have taken advantage of the violated marriage covenant. You will in turn take authority over these evil spirits as you place and confess your list before the Lord.

4) You will be praying for physical healing. Sickness can come down through soul-ties, which could be one of the primary reasons there is so much illness in the body of Christ.

Some prefer to do steps one and two independently. Then have a prayer partner for the deliverance and healing part, commonly done in the privacy of their homes.

Be aware that some physical things may take place when you start to pray or during the prayer. You may experience unnatural feelings in your body, you may cry profusely, or have many big yawns, or you may feel like you are shaking inside. There could be other manifestations. If this takes place, praise the Lord! He is letting you know He is doing a work for you. Everything is in His hands. There is no reason to have any fear. Most of all never have doubt as to what He is doing. Doubt can ruin the experience.

The following prayers are only suggestions, and any part that doesn't pertain to you may be omitted.

Prayer for Forgiveness and Undoing the Past:

Father, as I enter into this very serious time with You, I ask that You send a host of Your heavenly angels to protect me. I ask that you cover me totally with the heavenly armor of protection. All evil spirits that may be in this room, who have no legal rights to be here, and are here to look on and take advantage, I command you to go in the mighty Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Father, please usher them out!

Thank you Lord for creating me in your own image. And because of the fallen condition of my own heart I have made wrong choices and I have sinned. I confess that I have sinned before you God, and I choose this day to humble myself and confess my sexual sin.

Father I want to say that I am sorry. I want to confess to You Lord, the impurity of my mind, my actions and my relationships that have not been of You. I come before You today and ask You to deal with my past and equip me for the future. I confess that I have had sexual partners that have not been my marital partner. I confess that this is adultery. I confess all sexual perversion in sexual acts that I have committed. And as I confess these things I ask You Father God, in the Name of Jesus to forgive me for my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

Father, in the Name of Jesus, I pray for myself right now. I ask You for Your humility and that it will bring a willingness in me, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, to come and deal with sexual sin in my life. I am dealing with sexual relationships that were outside of marriage (even with the one I am married to now). I ask You now to come and touch me by the power of Your Holy Spirit. I ask Father God that You will undo the chains, the cords that have held me in bondage. I ask You to work a miracle, the miracle of Your undoing the cords of my past. I ask that You will draw back to me everything that left me because of being joined to other people or pictures. Draw them back Lord, so I will begin to know who I am, for the first time in years. I ask Lord that You will take away everything that has come to me from the partners I have known, so I can be free to be myself. Lord I ask You to do this. Cut the chains, all the demonic soul-ties, everything that has been ungodly in all these relationships. Lord, would You undo it now? I am sorry for the mess I have made. Please undo it now.

Continued Prayer to Take Authority Over Demonic Powers:

Now Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ, I take authority over the spirits that have come in through these relationships. I break the curse of the spirit of prostitution that Hosea talks about. I break the curse of false worship. I tell the demonic powers that came into me through these relationships, in the Name of Jesus, to leave me now. I break the curse of adultery, in the Name of Jesus. I break the curse of fornication, in Jesus' Name. All lustful spirits, I break your power in the Name of Jesus. I break the power of the enemy that holds me in bondage. In the Name of Jesus you spirits go. I break the holds of the enemy that have come through those curses and I say demons go, in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Demons you have to leave, you have to set me free.

Father, I know that the enemy will try to come and infect my mind again. Give me courage now to close all the doors and to choose to bring my will in line with Your Holy Spirit, so I will not walk anymore in the ways of ungodliness.

Lord, may Your Holy Spirit so convict me that when I am near temptation, I will run from it, as You have promised to make my way of escape (see 1 Corinthians 10:13). Help me to reject the enemy. Give me Your power, Your discernment that I might immediately recognize when the enemy tries to come back to tempt me. Please Lord, this day, this very moment set me free. I will praise You forever.

Continued Prayer for Healing:

Father, your Word tells us that when we have been involved in sexual sin, the enemy has rights over our lives (see Proverbs 5:22). I may have disease and illnesses that are afflicting me because of my sexual sin.

Lord, if I have an infirmity or illness, in the Name of Jesus I curse that infirmity. I ask You Lord Jesus to release me from this infirmity, whatever it might be, that has come to me because of my sexual sins. I break the curse of infirmity, on my mind, upon my will, upon my body, upon my emotions, my blood streams, anything in my physical body. I especially order spirits that may be causing sickness of my sexual organs to leave in Jesus' Name. I break the curse on the sexual reproductive system **(for those women who have had abortions). I break the power of the enemy holding me in bondage, the curse that has come through abortions, in Jesus' Name.** I pray Lord, that You will release Your healing power into my body, that restoration will come. I ask Lord that where the spirits are leaving, Your Spirit will fill the space and bring healing to me. I thank You Lord Jesus that You undo the works of the enemy. That all the works of the spirits of infirmity must leave in the Name of Jesus. May Your Name be magnified through what You are doing for me. I praise You for blessing me this day.

Thank You Lord Jesus! I ask this in the name of Jesus my Saviour, my Deliverer and my Healer, Amen.

Prayer for Breaking the Soul-Ties Through Pornography:

Thank You, Lord, for making me in Your own image. Because of the fallen condition of my own heart I have made wrong choices and I have sinned. I confess that I have sinned before you God, and I choose this day to humble myself, confessing my sexual sin. Father I want to say that I am sorry. I want to confess Lord, the impurity of my mind, my actions and my relationships that have not been of You. I come before You today and ask You to deal with my past, equipping me for the future.

I confess that I have been involved in pornography and I have been joined to other women (or men) through the lust of the eyes. I confess that this is adultery. I want to repent of all perversion in sexual acts that I have committed.

As I confess these things I ask You Father God, in the Name of Jesus, to forgive me for my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness, just as You have promised to do in 1 John 1:9.

I now break the curse of pornography on my mind, in the Name of Jesus. I cut all the holds of those pictures and images and I tell the spirit of lust to go. All lustful spirits I break your power, in the Name of Jesus. I break the power of the enemy that holds me in bondage. I break the curse on me, in Jesus Name. Oh Lord, let Your Spirit just flow over me and cleanse my mind. I know that the enemy will try to come and infect my mind again. Give me courage now to close all the doors and to choose to bring my will into line with Your Holy Spirit, so I will not walk anymore in the ways of ungodliness. Lord may Your Holy Spirit so convict me that when I am near temptation, I will run from it. Help me to reject the enemy. Give me Your power, Your discernment that I might know when the enemy is coming back to tempt me. Please Lord, this day, this very moment set me free. I will praise You forever. Thank you for Your patience, mercy and love!. I ask this all in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Amen

...

After you have finished your prayers, you may experience a freedom or deliverance taking place for several days, as some people do. Just praise the Lord and ask Him to continue it until it is over completely. You also may feel extremely tired, this is normal because sometimes it can be a very physical thing, and sometimes we believe God would like you to rest while He continues the work. This is a very beautiful experience.

Now the enemy will come back to knock on the door with his many evil thoughts, and try to cause you to doubt that anything happened. Do not entertain those thoughts for a moment. When this happens use the weapons of our warfare in the last chapter of the booklet "Defeating the Powers of Darkness" to come against these evil spirits. Briefly these weapons are:

- Ask God to cover you with His heavenly armor.
- Pray.
- Quote scripture texts - this is your Sword.
- Rebuke in the Name of Jesus.
- Sing praise songs.
- Verbally praise the Lord for what He has done for you.
- Write down daily blessings from the Lord in a tablet and then read them to remind the devil of what God has done for you. The enemy hates this.

Remember this, no matter how far into the depths of sin you have gone, no matter how much the devil whispers to you that you cannot be forgiven, it is a lie.

The Bible is very clear in 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

There probably have been times when Jesus has said to the Father, in our behalf, "forgive them for they know not what they do." If God is interested enough in the "sparrow that falls" when there are millions of them, then He certainly cares all about you. Remember, Jesus shed His blood so you could be forgiven.

—The blood that flowed from the brow of Jesus, from the crown of thorns on His head, was shed so we could be forgiven for all the thoughts we have had that we shouldn't have had.

—The blood that flowed from the face of Jesus, from being slapped and having His beard pulled out, was shed so we could be forgiven for all the words we have spoken that we shouldn't have spoken.

—The blood that flowed from the nail pierced hands of Jesus, flowed that we might be forgiven for all the things we have done with our hands that we shouldn't have done.

—The blood that flowed from Jesus side, flowed that we might be forgiven for all the feelings (anger, hatred, lust, depression, etc.) that we shouldn't have had.

—The blood that flowed from the feet of Jesus, flowed that we might be forgiven for all the places we have gone that we shouldn't have gone.

—The blood that flowed from the beaten back of Jesus, flowed for all the burdens He has carried for us.

All of this, just for the asking.

Other Spiritual Warfare Materials Available From Anchor Ministries International



The Marriage Covenant & Sexual Sin

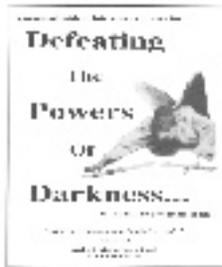
by: Al & Collette Martin

What did God intend the marriage covenant to be? Is it all right to have many sexual partners outside of marriage? Are their consequences of sexual sin that are binding people with cords or ties that can effect their having victories in other weaknesses of life? This booklet is a must for every Christian.

Suggested donation-----\$2.00 each
 10 or more - Suggested donation-----\$1.00 each
 Marriage Covenant on DVD----- \$8.00 each

Defeating The Powers of Darkness

by: Al & Collette Martin



A practical guide to intercessory prayer in the day to day trials and struggles of life. Today, a supernatural battle is going on inside the home, between husbands and wives, parents and children. It time we recognize how to be victorious using the weapons of the Bible.

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 The War Is Real--2-DVD's-----\$15.00

Campmeeting Series on Spiritual Warfare

by: Al & Collette Martin

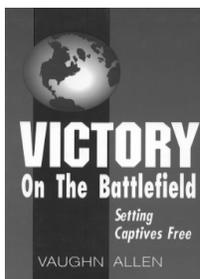


This series covers many areas that could be open doors for the enemy to afflict the Christian. The false ideas of psychology, twelve step programs, so-called "Christian Counseling," the temperaments, are researched. Food additives that are destructive to you health, are discussed. This set of cassette tapes or CD's are a must for the Christian soldier who wants to be spiritually and physically clean for the Holy Spirit to live in.

Suggested donation (includes postage)---Cassettes or CD's-----\$21.00

Victory On The Battlefield

by: Vaughn Allen



In this book, Vaughn Allen draws on more than a decade of personal experience in ministering to "those possessed by evil spirits." He writes with conviction that restoration of this long-neglected aspect of the gospel ministry is more needed now than ever—a need which will become even greater as we draw nearer to the second Advent of Christ.

Suggested donation (includes postage)-----\$9.00



Prey of The Terrible

by: Robert Rominelli

This book is designed to assist in the deliverance of those suffering from demon influences and demon control. Every Christian is the "prey of the terrible". Satan and his evil host of demons are the "terrible." Only Jesus of Nazareth can set us free from being the "prey" of this vicious enemy.

Suggested donation (includes postage)-----\$4.50

Our Mission

*It is our purpose to direct our focus where we see Satan at work in the lives of husbands, wives, parents, young people—enslaving them in sin, keeping them from the influence of the gospel, hindering their spiritual development, preventing the gospel from having its full influence, bringing discouragement, depression, and moral failure. Most of all it is our ultimate purpose to teach and preach the mighty victory of Christ over Satan and the powers of darkness; that the believer's victory comes and stays through union with Christ; to proclaim in every home, in the work place, and especially in the privacy of the Christian life where besetting sins, Satanic lies, and spiritual attacks are taking their toll, that **Jesus Christ is still Lord and Savior.***

Al & Collette Martin are available for seminars and workshops in your area.



**To sponsor a seminar or workshop in your church,
contact:**

***Anchor Ministries International
Al & Collette Martin
P.O. Box 39
Days Creek, Oregon 97429
(541) 825-3407
www.AnchorMin.org***