



THE SEVIERVILLE SOWER

Sowing the seed (Luke 8:11) into the hearts of mankind.

Sevierville Church of Christ | 208 Hicks Drive | Sevierville, TN 37862 | (865) 453-8009 | seviervillecoc.org

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Having Strong Families: We Must Build Them "By The Book"

Dave Leonard

Once read a story about a little girl who was crying brokenheartedly in the car after leaving worship one Sunday. Her mother repeatedly asked her what was wrong, and, finally, the girl answered, "The preacher said he wanted all children to be brought up in Christian homes, but I want to stay with you!"

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all homes would be Christian homes? Christian homes have surrendered to the will and design of God. How does God's word describe and display the proper building of the home?

God's pattern for the beginning and building of a home is focused on marriage. In this study we will be focusing on what the Bible teaches us regarding (1) who are the candidates for marriage and (2) what constitutes a marriage.

Who Are Candidates for Marriage

From God's perspective, marriage is a blessing to all who are authorized to marry. The question is often posed, "Can we be married?" As we have often taught our children, "can" and "may" change a question completely. "Can" deals with ability, while "may" is a matter of permission or authorization. Very often a society or civil law grants ability in situations where God's law does not grant permission or authority. Consider Herod's marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; John the Baptizer told him, "*It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife*" (Mark 6:17,18).

God has specified who is authorized or permitted to marry. First, one who has never been married before. In Genesis 2 we read of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. In stating their relationship bond of marriage, God said, "*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh*" (verse 24). If either of them had been married before, they would not be able to join in this bond together, having been bound as one flesh with someone else. We further read in Hebrews 13:4, "*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*" If one is married and departs to be joined with another, adultery is being committed and would never be authorized by God. So, one who has never been married is authorized, by God, to marry someone else who is eligible for marriage.

Second, one is authorized to marry when their spouse has died. In Romans 7, Paul uses the specific law of God regarding marriage to illustrate the nature of the rule of law in general. In verses 2-3 we read, "*For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is*

released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man." In 1 Corinthians 7:39 we see the same principle: "*A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.*" So, one whose rightful spouse has died is authorized, by God, to marry someone else who is eligible for marriage.

Third, one is Biblically authorized to marry who has put their rightful spouse away for the cause of fornication. When you read Matthew 19:3-9, Mark 10:1-12, and Luke 16:18, you should understand that God's intention is for marriage to be permanent. Two people, male and female, who are rightfully married, are never to be separated from that bond except by physical death. They are never to go beyond their marriage and involve anyone else in a physical relationship. To do so is sin, plain and simple. By inspiration, Matthew states the only exception to the rule of lifelong marriage – putting a spouse away for the cause of fornication (Matthew 19:9). So, one who has put their spouse away for the cause of fornication is authorized, by God, to marry someone else who is eligible for marriage.

What Constitutes a Marriage

According to Genesis 2:24, in marriage there must be a "leaving" of father and mother, and a "cleaving" (KJV) to one another as husband and wife. This means that individuals considering marriage should be old enough to take care of themselves, to take on adult responsibilities.

A husband and wife must learn to rely on each other first, to meet one another's needs. Consider the message of Ephesians 5:22-33, as we see the roles of the husband and wife interwoven as each is seeking to obey God in service to one another.

In teaching regarding marriage, I always stress that there is a three-fold commitment: first, to God; second, to God's law of marriage; and third, to one another. In marriage there will be good times and hard times. When we face the difficult times, it can be easy to turn against one another. A proper commitment to God and His law of marriage will keep us from doing something that will cause us to be in sin and, potentially, harm many souls in the process.

Let us determine to follow God's word, to build our homes "by the book" so that we are blessed and God is pleased!

Prayer Requests & Announcements

Remember Jerry Sutton's brother-in-law, Darrell Layman, in prayer as he is in ICU on a ventilator with COVID complications and kidney failure.

Shirley McKnight will be having hip replacement tomorrow. Please keep her in your prayers for successful surgery and recovery.

Paul Rolen, Mary Kate's brother, is scheduled to have back surgery tomorrow. Your prayers are appreciated for this lengthy and extensive surgery.

Connie Duncan had successful shoulder surgery and has been recovering at home.

Please pray for Mary Carr regarding the passing of her husband Earl recently at LeConte Medical Center. There are no plans for a funeral service.

Remember Tammy Gresham in prayer regarding the recent passing of her mother.

The *Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat* will be held February 16–20 at both the Gatlinburg and Sevierville congregations. Sevierville members will be able to attend at our building without cost. For schedule info go to <https://smokymountainmarriage.com>.

Next month, we will begin a monthly fellowship night on February 25 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall (it will usually be held on the third Friday of each month). All are invited to come and bring friends, games, and finger foods.

Continue to Remember...

Chris Bender, John and Helen Carr, Dennis and Marty Danilchuk, Lindsey Johnson, Shirley McKnight, Sue Moore, Lyn Morris, Joanne Roark, Shirley Yeager, Becky Duncan (Joe and Connie's daughter-in-law), Brittany Hutchcraft (Shirley Yeager's granddaughter), Adam Lane (son-in-law of Vickie Price), Harlie McClung (John and Helen Carr's 12 year-old great-granddaughter), Anita Ogle (Sherry Simms' friend), Casie Rains (friend of the Hansens), Paul Rolen (Mary Kate's brother), Frankie Simms (Scott Simms' father), Wayne Tart (Tammie Fish's brother).

Ladies' class Thursdays at 6:15 at the Hansen's house

Monthly afternoon song service: January 30

Fellowship lunch: February 6

Fellowship night: February 25, 6:30

Evangelism Materials

Extra supplies for our evangelism work are freely available in the supply room to our members. Instructional books, DVDs, and Bible study materials are available. We also have a variety of cards for our Compassion Card work.

Weekly Assemblies

Sunday:	Bible Study 9 a.m.
	Worship 10 a.m.
	Worship 1 p.m.
Wednesday:	Bible Class 7 p.m.

We Need to Imitate Jesus' Compassion

Roger D. Campbell

In every aspect of His life, the Son of God was perfect. As much as possible, we need to follow His steps (1 Peter 2:21) and have the heart/mind that He did (Philippians 2:5).

As we study the marvelous message of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we quickly see that Jesus showed compassion as He dealt with people. Our Lord not only was aware of the hardships and troubles that people faced: He *cared* about them and had a *desire* to *help* them. That is what compassion is. Jesus did more than sympathize with others who faced hard times... He demonstrated His compassion by taking action.

In what situations did the Christ show compassion? He had compassion on those who lacked food, as we read, "*I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with me three days and have nothing to eat*" (Mark 8:2). He then proceeded to feed about four thousand men.

Jesus showed compassion on those who were grieving. After the only son of a widow in the city of Nain died, Jesus had compassion on her (Luke 7:11-13). We need to emulate such tenderhearted mercy.

Our Lord also demonstrated compassion on those who needed a spiritual shepherd. It is written, "*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd*" (Matthew 9:36). When Jesus saw humans, He saw more than physical bodies... He saw people's wants and needs.

Before Jesus fed about five thousand men, He showed compassion in at least two ways. At that time, according to Matthew 14:14, "*And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude, and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*" He saw, He had compassion, and He took action. At that same time, what else transpired? "*And Jesus... saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things*" (Mark 6:34). What do we see? Jesus' compassion caused Him to care about people's *physical* and *spiritual* needs.

Finally, the Christ showed compassion/pity on those who messed up. For instance, after Peter denied Him three times, Jesus used the former fisherman to strengthen his brethren (Luke 22:31,32) and serve the Lord's sheep (John 21:15-17).

God wants each Christian to show compassion (1 Peter 3:8). We know where to find the greatest example of tenderheartedness — we see it in the life of Jesus. May we learn to be compassionate like Him!

Elders

Randy Hansen, Robert Moore, Kevin Ruiz, and Jerry Sutton

Deacon

Lenwood Johnson (finance)

Preacher

Kevin Ruiz