

The Marriage Covenant #1-2

(The First Commandment, "Thou Shalt Have no Other")

Sunday, Sunday September, 2000

This morning I would like to begin another study on relationships and how we can fashion our relationships after the pattern that God has already fashioned for us.

As we know, God is the author of marriage, and as the author and designer of Marriage He knows what it takes to have a successful and lasting marriage.

In scripture, the word author comes in the form of two Greek words, *archegos* pronounced {ar-khay-gos'} and another *Greek word aitios* {ah'-ee-tee-os} *author (1) 1) the author 2) cause*

The first word archegos is translated also as the word -- prince -- captain and author. It simply means the chief leader, one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, a pioneer or the author.

We know God calls Himself the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. And in actuality, He is the beginner and the ender. The One who began it all and the one who will be there to end it all. The Word author simply put, means the one who begins.

And He is the author and finisher. And what sort of things has He authored?

In **HEBREWS 12:2** we read, *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; ...*

We also see this same Greek word used as Captain, in **Hebrews 2:10...** ¶ *For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain (author) of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Therefore, not only is He the author of our faith, but of our salvation as well. And in the Book of Acts we read that he is the author of Life.

And again in **ACTS 3:15** *And killed the Prince (author) of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.*

And in **HEBREWS 5:9** we read, *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

And in **I CORINTHIANS 14:33** we see what He is not the author of... *For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

The word confusion here is a Greek word, akatastasia {ak-at-as-tah-see'-ah} and means AV - - confusion -- tumult -- commotion 1) instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion... If there is any of these attributes in your marriage they were not placed there by God, nor were did they get there because both parties in the marriage union are living according to the Word of God. But they are there because at least one of the two people has cast the word aside. That is the only way that confusion, or tumult, or commotion, fussing, fighting, instability, disorder and disturbance can come in. It does not get there through God's channel. It can not come through God's provided way.

Therefore, if these attributes are not of God, nor are they from God, then they are from the enemy and must be recognized as such.

And therefore, He is the author and the designer of marriage. And notice also, He is not the author of confusion. Therefore without God (Who is the Word **John 1:1** "*And the Word was God*") without God in a marriage, there will only be confusion. And if God (Who is the Word **John 1:1** "*and the Word was God*") is in the marriage, then the marriage will be the opposite of confusion.

Now, we can plainly see by scripture that God is the author of our faith, He is the author of our salvation, and He is the author of Life. And, to be the Author of Life also includes all the aspects of life, including that part of Life that unites two people together in unity in order to reproduce that life. That is why before God brought forth man in his own image, He first laid out the Law of Life, which is also called the law of reproduction in **Genesis 1:11** which says, "*every Seed shall bring forth after it's own kind or nature.*"

The next thing we see is God creating man in his image, a spirit man in Genesis 26. Then in Genesis chapter 2 we see God cloth that spirit man with dust of the earth and then breathing in the Holy spirit to Him thus quickening Him to Life. But notice in Genesis 2:18, it was not man that was lonely, and that asked for a wife, it was God who said that it was not a good thing for man to be alone. And thus God ordained and designed marriage as a state where two individuals would come together and live together to help each other, and share their lives together in a legal God sanctioned union.

GENESIS 2:18 ¶ *And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Jesus told us the way God meant for marriage to be right from the beginning

In **MATTHEW 19:3** we read, ¶ *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.** 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.*

Brother Branham told us that God instituted the marriage in the beginning. FLASHING RED LIGHT 63-0623E 68 *Now notice, It said that... Marriage, God instituted that in Eden, but He certainly condemned adultery.*

Why does God condemn adultery? Because it denies God's Word.

Now, the fact is that Jesus said, What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. And God is the Word. Now, brother Branham said the following about the marriage covenant.

COUNTDOWN 62-0909M 34 *...We take, for instance, the marriage for union. We find out that*

*the marriage; we find the courtship, and **the agreements, and then the marriage.** That should settle it for all the time. Now, that's the same thing it is with Christ and the Church. See? A courtship, God calling to our hearts; we surrender; the marriage ceremony, and the Bride takes the Bridegroom's Name. See, see? See? There it is; that makes it Bride. Now, always the bride takes the bridegroom's name.*

Now, notice he said there is a courtship, next an agreement, and then the marriage. Therefore there are three elements that make up this Holy Union.

#1) Courtship. #2) Agreement, and then #3) The Marriage Union. Now, we dealt with courtship in a series a couple years ago, and we will not deal with the courtship as to the what, and when and where and how in this series. However, I wish to deal more specifically with the agreement which brother Branham spoke of here that must be reached before the marriage can take place. Now we all know that there must be a marriage covenant in order to have a marriage. Two people shacking up together does not constitute a marriage.

GENESIS 6:1 ¶ *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they [were] fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. 3 ¶ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [is] flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

In the message Flashing red Light of His Coming, brother Branham tells us the following concerning the reading of this passage of scripture.

FLASHING RED LIGHT 63-0623E 58 *Did you notice, it never said nothing about marriage? Notice. The sons of God came unto the daughters of men: nothing about marriage. And if you take in the original Greek there, the word meaning... says... Or, I've got it wrote down here somewhere-- wife, taken unto them wives in the 3rd verse, taken them up... In the Greek, I looked it up this afternoon, it didn't say take to them wives, it said **took to them women, not wives**. Now, you check it with your, with your the "Emphatic Diaglott" and watch if that isn't true. Taken unto them women, not wives. They took them just as they were, free lovers, like they have today. Other words, they were lovers in that day just as they are now. They went any way they wanted to and took any woman that they could.*

Now, what he is saying here is that there was no marriage covenant. Let's look at verse 4 carefully because this speaks more plainly what took place.

Genesis 6:4 ¶ *There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare [children] to them, the same [became] mighty men which [were] of old, men of renown.*

You see, it says nothing here of them being married. It just says that the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men. And as Brother Branham said, "*They took them just as they were, free lovers, like they have today. Other words, they were lovers in that day just as they are now. They went any way they wanted to and took any woman that they could.*"

FLASHING RED LIGHT 63-0623E 82 *The sons of God fell because of beautiful forms and faces of the daughters of men. And that's just exactly what we got today, same thing again. Now, compare that day: Multiplication of people, the women getting fair, the sons of God falling, marriage and giving in marriage, divorce cases, living in adultery, and so forth. "Why," you say, "Brother Branham, just a minute. I don't know." Listen, brother, just before you say something listen to this. Jesus Christ said that whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. And when you see... When a man walks out of his office, walks out of the church, walks out of his house, strikes the street, what does you see but a display on every side of flesh and blood of females, form-fitting, pretty-faced... Tempted... That's what God said would take place. When that taken place then the time was at the door. As it was in the days of Noah when the sons of God saw the daughters of men and begin to take unto them women... See? There you are.*

Therefore there can be no marriage without an agreement. And that Agreement is a contract or covenant between the two parties. And this is what I wish to examine today.

Now, before we go any further in this study let me just say this. God has been courting a Bride for nearly 6,000 years. How many in here knows that? He sought Israel, and she went a whoring after other God's.

EXODUS 34:11 *Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the*

Jebusite. 12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: 13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God: 15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and [one] call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; 16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods. 17 Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

Therefore Rules Number One and Two, or Commandments NUMBER ONE and TWO, is the same as the first commandment God gave to His People. **Thou shalt have no other besides me...**

EXODUS 20:1 ¶ *And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I [am] the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Notice, God is the Husband, and He sought Israel for a Bride. And His first Rule that He laid down

for this relationship, is "THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER BESIDES ME.". And Brother Branham uses this same rule when he issued forth the wedding covenant each time he performed a Wedding.

From the **WEDDING CEREMONY 63-1201W E-3** he said, *But duly believing you have considered this solemn obligation you're about to assume, and that you have prepared to enter upon the same, reverently, discreet-fully, soberly in the fear of God, **I shall propose to you the marriage covenant.** You will witness the same as you join your right hands together. [The groom and bride join their right hands together--Ed.] Will you have this woman to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together in this holy state of matrimony? Do you promise to love and honor and cherish, and support in sickness or health, riches or poverty, and **will forsake all others as long as you both live?** [The groom answers, "I will."] Will you have this woman to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together in this holy state of matrimony? [The bride answers, "I will."] I will require a token. [Two rings are placed on the minister's Bible, then offered to the groom for the bride, then to the bride of the groom.] Will you join back your right hands, and step forward for your covenant. Let us bow our heads.*

Notice what He asks them to acknowledge! He says to both the Bride and Groom the same thing. *Will you have this woman to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together in this holy state of matrimony? And **will forsake all others as long as you both live.***

God's first commandment to us in His marriage covenant is the same as we should have in ours. And that is a commitment to forsake all others.

Therefore the first commandment is the primary commandment and primary speaks of ONE. The word primary is defined as the Most important in position, rank, or influence:. · chief · dominant · main · leading · supreme · paramount · predominant · preeminent · prime · uppermost · highest · topmost · upmost.

Therefore we are looking at the first and foremost rule in the Marriage Covenant. The most important, and if we had no further rule to govern our relationship, this One would be it. That is why God laid down these 10 commandments to us in order to give us a Covenant with Him, and that is why He placed this Rule as His first and foremost Rule. He said, I am to be your God and there shall be NO OTHERS, period. And you shall not substitute anything for me. You shall not worship anything manmade, (That's materialism), you shall not worship any thing that has been created, which includes your body and the body of others, (That's hedonism which is the preoccupation with the body) and the satisfaction with it's desires. Because this leads to sensuality, animalism, carnality and voluptuousness)..

In other words, God placed as the first , the primary, the pre-eminent rule to govern our relationship to Him that He alone is to be the object our worship and no other thing shall preoccupy our soul when it comes to worship.

I believe the same thing applies in the Marriage covenant. The man and woman who have courted with the purpose of seeking out that special other that they will enter into union with must come through the courting stage where you sort out whether this person is that one special person that God has placed here on earth that you will spend the rest of eternity with.

You see, the courting stage begins by an attraction to that person. It is not a physical attraction and should not be a physical attraction that begins the courting stage. Some people see another and say it is love at first sight. No, it may be lust at first sight, but never love at first sight. Let's never cheapen love to that point where it is ruled by any of the senses. Love is developed just as maturity and character are developed. Jesus learned obedience by the things that he suffered and finally gave himself for us. And love is the giving of self for other. Jesus said, "No greater Love has a man than He lay down His Life for a friend." And No greater Love is there than to give other everything you possess, physically, mentally, spiritually. And no other relationship is this made so possible than the union of a man and woman becoming man and wife.

And Jesus spoke of this when He spoke of God's desire to enter into relationship with us.

MARK 12:29 *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. 31 And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

The Lord our God is ONE Lord, and One is the primary position. It is the essential beginning. It is the first and foremost, and without it there is no beginning. In mathematics, all numbers have number one as their primary factor. All numbers have as root and beginning at number ONE. And all numbers consist of number One. By One and through One and To One do all numbers consist.

When you take a number and break it down, it will eventually keep breaking down until you come to number one.

The Number 3 is broken down into 1+1+1. The number 5 is broken down to 1+1+1+1+1 and the number 7 is 1+1+1+1+1+1+1, until you could take every number in the universe and bring them all back to their primary beginning with is the number ONE.

So so is it with this Great One We call God. He said I alone am God! I alone am to be worshipped. I am the root and offspring. The beginning and the ending. The first primary number in any number is one and the last primary number in any number is ONE. I am the alpha and Omega, the first and the last and when it comes to worship there is no other.

And in marriage He is showing us by His ten Commandments the rules which are essential to govern our marriage union. The Union between two persons. And since God is a person and we are a person He has shown us through the ten commandments the rules essential to have union with Him. And in the courting process, that is the first and primary thing we must come to an agreement upon is that "There is only one that I will enter into this union with and there shall be no other." And it is at this point that the Courtship changes from the one I am checking out, to the one I am planning to spend my life united to forever.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 64-0830M
1095-Q-342 342. We--we were married twenty-one years ago by the justice of the peace. Was--was it wrong? Yes, it was wrong for you to do that. Marriage belongs in the house of God. But being that you are married, here's when you're really

married: you're married when you vow one to the other, when you promise one another that you're, that you'll take one another. The justice of peace could give you license; that's legal terms of living together as husband and wife without being common law husband and wife. But when you promise this girl and this--you promise that man that you'll live true to him, and you take him to be your husband, you're married then. You remember, I explained that last week, I believe it was. See? When you promise her... See? Even in the old--in the old Bible, if a man was betrothed to a maid, and... You know the laws on that. Why, it was just the same as an adultery. Certainly was, when he promised, that was it. 1095-156 The question was asked the other day, "Was a annulment--annulment--an annulment the same as a divorce?" See? When you ask me those questions, friend, you don't know what that does to me. I've got many friends setting here that's married two or three times. Did you realize I'm talking to my own son, Billy Paul? Would I spare Billy Paul? No, indeedy. Billy Paul got married to some little girl, and come up, and said, "Daddy, I'm going to get married." I was washing my car; I said, "Butt your head against the wall," just kept on washing my car like that. He said, "I'm going to get married." I said, "Oh, go on," just kept on like that. He goes around and tells his mother, and his mother laughed at him. You know what he done? Run off with some little kid still in common school and got married. We annulled the wedding, the father of this girl and myself. We annulled the wedding, but he was married just the same. He's my boy setting here listening at me now. That's exactly. He come to me with the girl that he lives with now, my daughter-in-law. My little grandson... He said, "Daddy will you marry me?" I said, "By no means." That's my own son. You think that don't cut me to the core when I packed him in my arms and done everything

I could do, and I've been both father and mother to him? You think that don't kill me to say that? But it's the truth. Certainly. My boy setting here listening at... My daughter-in-law and my little grandson setting right here now... But I tell him it's wrong (See?), because I've got to. I'm duty bound to that Word.