

I was challenged by Dan's teaching last night. I'm still thinking about the idea that The Ten Commandments are our wedding vows to God. I'm wrestling with the thought of my relationships being a contract or a covenant. I'm thinking about my heart's 'love affairs' and how they are affecting my relationship with God and my husband.

And all day today, I kept thinking about Paul's verses in Romans 7 where he struggles with knowing what to do, but doesn't do it. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." I've read and reread those words dozens of times, and yet much of my life doesn't match up with them. I don't always put God first, and I usually do what I want to do. My disobedience breaks God's heart. Did Jesus know how hard it would be for us to live this out? Of course He did, and He was willing to go to the cross to show us.

Do you know the story of Hosea, the prophet? God told him to marry a prostitute named Gomer. God told him she would be unfaithful, and yet Hosea obeyed God anyway. They had three children together, and then she left. She lived with several other men until she was sold as a slave. Hosea bought her back for fifteen shekels of silver and some barley. Throughout the book of Hosea, God compares Gomer and her adultery to the Israelites and their unfaithfulness. Their hearts were serving their own desires, not God's. Eventually Hosea's love wins over Gomer. The book ends with repentance and blessing, for both Gomer and Israel. It's a beautiful story of love and redemption.

I felt like Gomer today. I've been unfaithful when I've put my own desires before God's. I've believed the lie that the grass is greener on the other side. I've been unkind to my children when I should've shown patience. I've spoken bitter words when I was angry with my husband. And yet I'm amazed that God would still take me back. He bought me with the price of His son's blood. Paul must have been awed by this, too, when he wrote, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

If we love God with our whole being and put Him first, that spills over into our other relationships. I'm not saying there won't be conflict. God uses problems to sharpen us. But it's how we respond to it that will be different. And this is how we move our relationships from good to great. We continue to seek to do things God's way, even when others don't. We continue to desire to spend time with God and to allow Him to change us. We continue to live in community, encouraging each other toward godliness. And God is blessed by our obedience.

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) What do you need to do to obey this command?

What 'love affairs' do you need to call out and run from?

Are you fully committed to a Christ-centered way of living?

Is your marriage to God/spouse a contract or a covenant?

Why do we believe the lie that the grass is greener on the other side?

Additional Verses: John 14:15, John 14:23, Luke 11:28, Hosea, Exodus 6, 19, 20, 32, John 10:11-13, Philippians 4:13, Romans 7, 8:38-39

This week's memory verse: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Additional Marriage Resources:

www.songofsolomon.com

www.familylife.com

www.focusonthefamily.com

REMINDERS: March is “Community” month @ 1MOSAIC

March 13 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 p.m. - *Community...ahh, that's what it looks like!* This week Dan will be launching us into our new series on community. We all need community & there are many different views on what it looks like...we will explore into the early church and build a model from there!
****BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR A 'M-GROUP' IN THE LOBBY THIS WEEK!****

March 20 – 3rd:Culture Night - We will gather & serve in our 'community' this month. Listen on Sunday nights & watch the web for all the final details of this night! Child care will be provided @ SHU.

March 27 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 p.m. - *Community...ahh, that's what it looks like!* Part II – Dan continues to walk us through the community life of the very first 'Christians'...why was it so different? We will also celebrate communion together this week & **M-group meeting right after service!**