

# BIBLICAL GUY-GAL RELATIONSHIPS / CLAY & BEV MILLER

Rev (1/21/15)



## 7 Lesson Course:

- I. Being Single is OK
- II. Biblical Definition of Marriage & Divorce
- III. Wrong Relationships & Forgiveness
- IV. Dating or Courting?
- V. When am I ready to Propose or Say Yes?
- VI. Guys Only & Gals Only (Conduct)
- VII. Marriage as a Ministry Platform

January							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Note: there is a good chance these lessons may be taught in a different order than shown.

## Before we get started:

1. The content of this course is made up of three things:
  - a. **C** - God's Commands - are to be obeyed
  - b. **P** - God's Principles - are to be applied when making decisions
  - c. **S** - Our Suggestions - plenty of room for debate; please take these to Scripture yourself
2. Our goal is for you to come to the place where:
  - a. You are willing to follow the Lord's leading in being content with being single, or
  - b. If His will for you is to be married, you marry His choice at His time, so you may have a successful marriage
  - c. You let Him use your life & relationships for His glory
  - d. You have a lifetime position of credibility when you teach others to know & follow Christ
3. Who we are: Bev and I have been married for 27+ years and have raised 5 sons, two of whom have married. Bev was 28 and I was 27 years old when we married. We have spent half our life as singles and half our life as marrieds. We are not perfect. We do not have a perfect marriage and are far from being perfect parents. What we have are a lot of God's grace and a lot of experiences. This course flows out of our life.
4. There is no judgment for your situation, whatever it may be.

## II. Biblical Definition of Marriage & Divorce

### a. Marriage

- i. God created marriage

1. **Gen 1:26-28** *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;*

*and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- a. God created man ( 'adam = mankind, humans) male (zakar = male) & female (nēqebah = female)
- b. He created them both in His Image
- c. He blessed them
- d. He commanded them to **be fruitful and multiply** – God created the sexual relationship to be between a man a woman (not between two people of the same sex), as this is the only way humans can physically reproduce (sperm & egg)

2. **Gen 2:18-25** *(retelling of the creation of humans) "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."*

- a. God gave a job for Adam to do and Adam was busy obeying God
- b. God recognized man's need for a "helper suitable for him"
- c. God made woman from man to be that helper – to help the man obey God...this is the wife's role
- d. God brought the woman to the man
- e. Man named the woman (she takes his name)
- f. They were naked and not ashamed
- g. Husbands are supposed to leave their mothers and fathers and cleave to their wives...they create a NEW family

ii. Marriage is a covenant

1. Dr. Scott Hahn: "a covenant is an exchange of persons, as opposed to a contract, which is an exchange of promises."
  - a. Covenants are established by making an oath—an oath that creates kinship between the two who are making the covenant.
  - b. Christ strikes a covenant with us at our salvation—one that is stronger than blood, one that establishes a divine, everlasting kinship bond. In making covenant with Him, God adopts us into His family and treats us as heirs to the family fortune.

- c. The Hebrew word for "oath" is "shevah," meaning "to seven oneself" (In Gen 21:27-31, Abraham makes a treaty with Abimelech using seven ewe lambs, and they called the place "Beersheva," which means, "the place of the oath" or "the well of the sevens.")
  - d. If you don't have an oath, you don't have a covenant.
- 2. **Jer 31:31-32** *"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD"*
- 3. **Malachi 2:14** *"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant." [bēriyth = an alliance of marriage; first used in **Gen 6:18** "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you."]*
- 4. **Prov 2:16-19** *"To deliver you from the strange woman, from the adulteress who flatters with her words; that leaves the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death and her tracks lead to the dead; none who go to her return again, nor do they reach the paths of life."*
  - a. The strange woman is an adulteress because she is leaving the boundary of her own marriage and violating a covenant between her husband with God as their witness
- 5. **Mark 10:7-8** *"FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."*
  - a. God joins the husband and wife together; it is a covenant between 2 persons: Man & Woman, with God as the witness and God as the One Who joins them together.
- 6. Covenants (vows) are not to be broken:
  - a. **Eccl 5:4-5** *"When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay."*
- iii. Marriage takes place when a man and a women make a covenant using an oath with each other, before God as their witness, to be one.
- iv. Who can perform a marriage ceremony (wedding)? The Bible is silent, but the States have rules.
- v. Who can a believer marry? Two requirements:
  - 1. One person from the opposite sex.
    - a. **Matt 19:4-6,10** *"And He answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE*

*THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." ... The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."*

- i. Jesus made it very clear and His disciples clearly understood he was talking about "Marriage" (vs 10)
- 2. Another believer who loves the Lord the same way you do.
  - a. **2Co 6:14-15** *"Do not be bound together [to have fellowship with one who is not an equal] with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony [agreement] has Christ with Belial [worthless or wicked], or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?"*
  - b. **1 Cor 7:39** *"A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord."*

## **b. Divorce**

- i. We must be careful not to add to (or take away from) Scripture. We must faithfully study, apply and then teach the whole Word of God.
  - 1. **Ezra 7:10** *"For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."*
  - 2. **1 Cor 4:6** *"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other."*
- ii. God hates divorce
  - 1. **Malachi 2:14-16** *"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."*
- iii. Does God ever allow what He hates?
  - 1. Two exceptions:
    - a. #1 – Your spouse has illicit sexual intercourse with someone else.
    - i. **Matt 19:3-9** *"Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?' And He answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from*

*the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery."*

1. Jesus said God created & instituted marriage to be between one man and one woman
2. Moses allowed Israeli men to divorce their wives only because the men's hearts were hardened and they all ended up dying in the desert because of hardened hearts
3. It was never God's will and He did not desire for them ever to divorce
4. Jesus mentions an exception for "immorality" in vs 9
  - a. *Porneia = **illicit sexual intercourse***
  - b. Adultery in vs 9 - *Moichaō = to have unlawful intercourse with another's wife, to commit adultery with her*
5. Jesus did not say the spouse MUST divorce their unfaithful mate, but He does say it's allowed: confession, forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration are always the first options, separation might be the second option and divorce should only be the last and final option:
  - a. **Luke 17:3-4** *"Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."*
  - b. Other passages: **Matt 6:12; 18:21-35; Rom 11:30-31; 12:18; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Cor 5:19; Gal 2:20; Phil 4:13; Heb 4:14-16; Jas 2:13**
  - c. Consider the definition of the two words which described Jesus: Truth & Grace.

b. #2 – Your Unbelieving Spouse abandons/divorces you:

i. **1 Cor 7:10-16** *"But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?"*

1. A wife should not leave [chorizo = separate from] their husband
  - a. If a wife leaves her husband she is not to remarry, but may be reconciled to her husband
2. A husband should not divorce [aphiēmi = send away] their wife
3. Paul's Instructions: If a non-believing spouse wants to stay married to you, you must not divorce or send them away
4. *If the unbelieving one leaves [chorizo], let them leave...you are not under bondage [douloō = to voluntarily make oneself a slave to]*

### c. Remarrying

i. In order to remarry, you must first be free from the covenant of marriage.

There are four ways to be released from the covenant of marriage:

1. Your spouse dies

a. **Rom 7:1-3** *"Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man."*

i. Ok to remarry if your spouse dies

- ii. If your spouse is still alive and you are "joined" to another (except for the two cases above), this is adultery
- 2. You die
  - a. **Mark 12:24-25** *"Jesus said to them, 'Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.'"*
  - b. We will become married to the Lamb! **Rev 19:7-9** *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"* And he said to me, "These are true words of God."
- 3. Your unbelieving spouse leaves you (you did not send them away)
  - a. **1 Cor 7:15-16** *"Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is **not under bondage** in such cases, but God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?"*
    - i. If the believing spouse sends away – or leaves – the unbelieving spouse, the spouses may not remarry another person, but they may reconcile with each other (see **1 Cor 7:10-14**)
    - ii. You are free to remarry another believer
- 4. Your spouse has illicit sexual intercourse with someone else
  - a. **Mat 5:32** *"...but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of **unchastity**, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."*
    - i. If you divorce for any other reason, you make your spouse commit adultery, and if you remarry for any other reason, you commit adultery
  - b. **Mat 19:9** *"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for **immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery."* [Immorality: illicit sexual intercourse such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals, incest, etc.]
    - i. You are free to remarry another believer

#### d. Hard cases

- i. **Polygamy** - (from Late Greek πολυγαμία, polygamia, "state of marriage to many spouses" or "frequent marriage") is a marriage that includes more than two partners. When a man is married to more than one wife at a time, the relationship is called **polygyny**; and when a woman is married to more than

one husband at a time, it is called **polyandry**. If a marriage includes multiple husbands and wives, it can be called group or conjoint marriage. The term is used in related ways in social anthropology, sociology, as well as in popular speech. It is in direct contrast to what God teaches in His Word: monogamy.

1. Many men in the Old Testament polygamists:
  - a. The first case was from the ungodly line of Cain in Gen 4:19
  - b. Abraham (Gen.16:1-3 Sarai and Hagar. Gen.25:1 Keturah and verse 6, Abraham's concubines.)
  - c. Jacob (Gen.29:28 30:4, 9)
  - d. Caleb (1 Chron.2:18-19, 46, 48)
  - e. Gideon (Judges 8:30-31)
  - f. David (1 Sam.18:27, 25:39, 43, 44, 2Sam.3:3, 4-5, 13-14, 6:20-23, 12:7-8, 24, 15:16, & 1Chron.14:3.
  - g. Solomon (1Kings 11:3)
  - h. Hosea (Hosea 1:3, 3:1)
2. In some African and Muslim nations where polygamy is legal and a wife or even the husband comes to Christ, there are different thoughts on what should happen next. Polygamy is not specifically condemned in the Bible, but it is also not God's plan for us, or His will. When it happened in the OT, it seemed that God then worked with the situation and did not order the marriage(s) to be broken up.
3. In order to be an overseer in the NT church, an elder and a deacon each needed to be a husband of one wife (1 Tim 3:2,12)
4. It would seem to me that if a person was in a polygamous relationship, and then they came to Christ, they are in the same position as any other person who comes to Christ and finds themselves married to an unbeliever. See Paragraph 3 at top of Page 6. This is my opinion.
- ii. **Bigamy** - (e.g. Ben Carlson's mom found out her "husband" was actually also married to another woman) - this is an act of sexual immorality on his part and she is free to divorce him and remarry according to Scripture (Matt 5:32; 19:9). This is my opinion.
- iii. **"Same-sex Marriage"** - legal in many states and some countries. Although it is recognized by the DoD, it is in direct violation of God's commands (Lev 20:13, Rom 1:26-27, 1 Cor 6:9-11, 1 Tim 1:8-11) and is contrary to Jesus's own definition of marriage in Matt 19:4-10. If a believer is in such a relationship, they should repent, ask God forgiveness (1 John 1:9), have it annulled by the state's laws, and they are free to marry according to Scripture. So-called "churches" which practice this are in violation of Scripture and those who teach it are some of the false teachers Peter warned us about in 2 Pet 2:1.
- iv. **Prison** - Spouses sent to life in prison for some reason other than sexual immorality (e.g. murder) - I see no Biblical justification to divorce and remarry until that incarcerated spouse dies.
- v. **Celibacy** - Matt 19:12. The third category of "eunuchs" here seem to suggest that some people voluntarily choose to remain unmarried for the "sake of the kingdom of heaven." God does command some people to not



marry (e.g. Jer 16:1-4), but not most. In 1 Tim 4:1-5 Paul warns that false teachers will come in the future who will forbid marriage.

- vi. **Can the spouse who caused the divorce (by sexual immorality or abandonment) ever remarry?** "All of the biblical allowances for remarriage after a divorce relate to the "innocent" spouse in a divorce with biblical grounds. There is no biblical allowance for remarriage for a spouse divorced for unbiblical reasons or for a spouse who caused a divorce, whether by adultery, abandonment, and/or other possible grounds. The Bible nowhere states that the "guilty" spouse in a divorce is allowed to remarry." But it seems to me that if the two parties remain unmarried, and if they seek to be remarried to each other, that this would not violate any Scripture. If an unbeliever divorces their spouse...then comes to Christ, but by this time their spouse is remarried to someone else, I do not see any support from Scripture that the previously unbelieving spouse may remarry anyone. And their first spouse should not divorce their second spouse in order to return to the first spouse. This is my opinion.
- vii. **Physical and emotional abuse – is this grounds for divorce?** Without question it is grounds for separation (for safety and health), but I can find no grounds for divorce in Scripture. Spouses in this situation should separate and they should both get professional Christian marriage counseling and then enter into an extended accountability relationship with another Christian couple. This situation is usually best avoided in the first place by only entering marriage through careful prayer, and seeking biblical counsel. Oftentimes the abused spouse failed to heed Proverbs 22:24-25 "Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself." Fathers, whether they are believers or not, are often the best judge of character of a future husband for their daughters. A potential suitor who avoids a woman's father during courtship is sending a strong signal that he is untrustworthy. This is my opinion.
- viii. **Can a marriage that is not sexually "consummated" be "annulled?"** I can find no Scriptural support for this famous Catholic doctrine. It is "extra-Biblical" and I believe it to be false. The Bible teaches that marriage is a covenant, not based on an act, but based on an oath, between two people and witnessed by God. You are married the very second both parties complete their oaths...not later that night. This goes back to **Malachi 2:14** *"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant."*
- ix. **Forced Marriage (not arranged marriage).** Now what about a 10-year old girl in Nigeria who is kidnapped from her parents by Boko Haram thugs and forcibly "married" to her adult terrorist "husband?" Two party Covenants must be mutual in order to be enforced. No marriage can be "forcibly" made and still called a covenant. So in this situation – if that girl were to be rescued by someone (relatives, soldiers, police, etc) – I feel she is free from that "marriage" and free to grow up and remarry whomever she pleases. This is my opinion.

- x. **Arranged Marriages** – commonly practiced in the Old and probably New Testament days. Still practiced in many countries today (India, China, Japan, Israel, Pakistan, etc). A marriage could be arranged by the parents and yet still be a covenant, if the son and daughter both “agree” and move forward with the marriage, voluntarily obeying their parents and agreeing to the marriage. For example, Abraham arranged the marriage of his son Isaac by sending his servant north to find a wife from his relatives. **Gen 24:57-58, 62-67** *“And they said, “We will call the girl and consult her wishes.” Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go...” “Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev. Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel. She said to the servant, “Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?” And the servant said, “He is my master.” Then she took her veil and covered herself. The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”*