# BIBLICAL GUY-GAL RELATIONSHIPS / CLAY & BEV MILLER

Rev (2/11/15)

### 7 Lesson Course:

I. Being Single is OK

II. Biblical Definition of Marriage & Divorce

# February S M T W T F S S M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 8 9 10 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



# III. Wrong Relationships & Forgiveness, Part 1 & 2

- IV. Dating or Courting?
- V. When am I ready to Propose or Say Yes?
- VI. Marriage as a Ministry Platform
- VII. Guys Only & Gals Only (Conduct)

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.

# III. Wrong Relationships & Forgiveness (Part 1)

- a. We all have a past
  - i. Christ came to save people from this sinful life consider who He spent time with (prostitutes, drunks, etc);
    - 1. **1 Cor 6:9-11** "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the

- name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." Your past does not determine your future.
- 2. **2 Cor 5:17** "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." Christ offers to CREATE us anew, from our bad past.
- 3. **Phil 3:13-14** "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul looked FORWARD, not back. Satan wants us to look back.
  - a. **Pro 4:25** "Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you."
  - b. **Heb 12:1-2** "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
- ii. Our common sinful past renders us in a position to show grace and mercy, and even forgiveness, but not judgment.
  - 1. **John 8:3-11** "The scribes and the Pharisees \*brought a woman" caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more." Truth and Grace.
  - 2. Matt 18:21-35 "Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying,

'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

- iii. Our Savior taught & demonstrated what He expects from us, towards others:
  - 1. John 13:12-15 "So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."
  - 2. **1 Cor 6:18-20** "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."
- iv. We are commanded to NOT treat the Body like the World
  - 1. **1 Cor 6:1-8** "Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren."
- b. Avoid wrong physical relationships
  - i. Fornicator [pornos = male prostitute, a man who has illicit sex]

- 1. Fornication [Porneia = adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.; sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18; sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mk. 10:11,12]
  - a. 1 Cor 6:12-16 "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him."
  - b. **Heb 13:4** "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
- 2. What about living with someone before marriage, such as your boyfriend or girlfriend, or even your fiancé? Go back to **Heb 13:4** what does that mean? Fornication is always sin. (Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Jude 7).
  - a. When God revealed the law to Moses on Mount Sinai, there were many regulations regarding marriage. A man who seduced a virgin and had sexual relations with her before marriage was required to pay the father of the girl and was required to marry her if the father permitted (Ex. 22:16). Sexual relations with a virgin betrothed to another resulted in death by stoning of both parties (Deut. 22:23-24). These laws revealed the importance of marriage and the sin of premarital sex.
- 3. What about just sharing a house with someone from the opposite sex where there is no "physical" relationship (e.g. a roommate, to save money)? Ultimately, there is nothing wrong with a man and a woman living in the same house—if there is nothing immoral taking place.

  However, the problem arises in that there is still the appearance of immorality (1 Thessalonians 5:22; Ephesians 5:3), and it could be a tremendous temptation for immorality. The Bible tells us to flee immorality, not expose ourselves to constant temptations to immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18). Then there is the problem of appearances. A couple who is living together is assumed to be sleeping together—that is just the nature of things. Even though living in the same house is not sinful in and of itself, the appearance of sin is there. The Bible tells us to avoid the appearance of evil (1

Thessalonians 5:22; Ephesians 5:3), to flee from immorality, and not to cause anyone to stumble or be offended. As a result, it is not honoring to God for a man and a woman to live together outside of marriage.

- a. This unwise action could easily encourage others to live together outside of marriage: **Romans 14:13-22**
- b. **Suggestion:** use a <u>married</u> chaperone for any situation where you might be alone with someone from the opposite sex, not your spouse or relative (e.g. traveling, etc)
- ii. Adultery [moichos = one who commits adultery]
  - 1. Exo 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."
  - 2. **Mark 6:17-18** "For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.""
  - 3. See previous lesson (Lesson #2)
- iii. Homosexual [arsenokoitēs = one who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite]
  - 1. First mentioned in Sodom:
    - a. **Gen 13:13** "Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD."
    - b. **Gen 19:1-11** "Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. And he said, "Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant's house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." They said however, "No, but we shall spend the night in the square." Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them." But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, and said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof." But they said, "Stand aside." Furthermore, they said, "This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them." So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door. But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the

- house with them, and shut the door. They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway."
- 2. People are not "born" homosexual. Homosexuality (including lesbianism) is not a condition by birth because God calls it "unnatural" meaning it is "against nature." He also says people "exchanged" functions and "abandoned" functions. These verbs indicate choices were made. Additionally, the Bible teaches that homosexuals are never satisfied with practicing homosexual behavior, they also will promote it and sometimes demand others accept it as natural behavior (see Gen 19:9).
  - a. Rom 1: 21-32 "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."
  - b. **1 Tim 1:8-10** "But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and

# kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching..."

- iv. Effeminate [malakos = soft (the opposite of John the Baptist), a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man; in the general means a person who is so perverted they have chosen to exchange the gender roles God created for them for that which is not their gender (transvestite, drag queen, crossdresser, people who get surgery to try to change their gender, etc):
  - 1. **Deut 22:5** "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God."
  - 2. **1 Cor 16:13** "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." God expects men to act like He created them, and not to act like women.

# (Part 2)

### v. Lack of Self Control

- 1. **Gal 5:22-24** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
- 2. **1 Cor 7:9** "But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."
- 3. **2 Tim 3:2-7** "For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
- 4. **Matt 5:27-28** "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
- 5. Pornography.
  - a. **Phil 4:8** "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."
  - b. **1 Thess 5:21-22** "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."
- 6. Masturbation. Awkward subject, but in essence, this is a form of either a lack of self-control or selfishness, or both.

### vi. Incest

- **Lev 18:6-18** "None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the LORD. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. The nakedness of your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born outside, their nakedness you shall not uncover. The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours. The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; they are blood relatives. It is lewdness. You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness."
- 2. **1 Cor 5:1-2** "It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst."

# vii. Bestiality

- 1. Ex 22:19 "Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death."
- 2. **Lev 18:23** "Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion."

## c. Avoid wrong emotional relationships

- i. Defrauding & Seducing
  - 1. Knowingly
    - a. **Prov 7:1-27** "My son, keep my words
      And treasure my commandments within you. Keep my
      commandments and live,
      And my teaching as the apple of your eye.
      Bind them on your fingers;
      Write them on the tablet of your heart.
      Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
      And call understanding your intimate friend;

That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words. For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, And I saw among the naive, And discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense, Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and in the darkness. And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home; She is now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him: "I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows. "Therefore I have come out to meet you, To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you. "I have spread my couch with coverings, With colored linens of Egypt. "I have sprinkled my bed With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. "For my husband is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; He has taken a bag of money with him, At the full moon he will come home." With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him. Suddenly he follows her As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, Until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it will cost him his life. Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, And pay attention to the words of my mouth. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths. For many are the victims she has cast down,

And numerous are all her slain.

- Her house is the way to Sheol,

  Descending to the chambers of death" She uses words and
  her dress to seduce him. He goes to her house. We must
  guard our mouths and not use our bodies to defraud another.
- b. **1 Thess 4:3-8** "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you."

We must not go to sin.

- c. **1 Tim 2:9** "Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments..." [modestly = aidōs = a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect; discreetly = sōphrosynē = self-control, sobriety]
- d. Matt 18:5-7, 10 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. "Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! ... "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven."

### 2. Ignorantly

- a. 1 Cor 8:1,9-13 "Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies." ... "But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble."
- ii. Manipulating & taking advantage of another

- 1. **Gen 39:6b-10** "Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her."
- 2. **2 Sam 13:4-5, 32** "He said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so depressed morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Then Amnon said to him, "I am in love with Tamar, the sister of my brother Absalom." Jonadab then said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill; when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me some food to eat, and let her prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat from her hand." ... Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, responded, "Do not let my lord suppose they have put to death all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead; because by the intent of Absalom this has been determined since the day that he violated his sister Tamar."
- 3. **2 Cor 7:2** "Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one."

# d. Forgiveness

- i. What do I do if (when) I blow it? Study David's crisis and how God took him through this:
  - 1. David stepped out of accountability 2 Sam 11:1
  - 2. Which resulted in David sinning 2 Sam 11:2-16
  - 3. God saw everything 2 Sam 11:27
  - 4. God sends Nathan the prophet to confront David 2 Sam 12:1-12
  - 5. David confessed 2 Sam 12:13 (cf 1 John 1:9); and wrote Psa 51
    - a. Confession is AGREEING with God's assessment of the situation
    - b. Since God sees everything we do, anything short of full confession is no confession
  - 6. Because it affected others' view of God there were very severe consequences **2 Sam 12:14-19** 
    - a. Sometimes forgiveness cannot undo the consequences of our sin: **1 Cor 6:18-20** "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."
  - 7. David returned to the Lord 2 Sam 12:20-25
  - 8. What activity was stopped in all this mess? **Psa 51:13**

9. How can we let God use our mistakes? - Luke 22:32