

Episode 72 - Marriage and Spiritual Bonds: Insights from Genesis

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In this episode, Scott Stanley from DTG Ministries continues to delve into the deep mysteries of God, focusing on marriage and belief as depicted in the Bible, specifically in the books of 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Exodus, Genesis, Jude, and Acts. The discussion explores Paul's teachings on marriage "only in the Lord," warning against unequal yoking with unbelievers, as laid out in 1 Corinthians 7:39 and 2 Corinthians 6. Additionally, references from the Old Testament highlight the spiritual implications of marrying outside one's faith, using ancient Israel's history and laws to elucidate these teachings.

The episode also addresses prevalent misconceptions from interpretations of Genesis 6 about the "Sons of God" and "daughters of men," offering clarity on how these texts reflect spiritual truths rather than myths of demonic ancestry. Stanley delves into the symbolism of numbers in scripture, explaining the significance of '120' in terms of spiritual completeness and maturity. He concludes by reaffirming the necessity of steadfast faith and discernment in today's apostate environment, urging believers to uphold the true teachings of Christianity amidst widespread doctrinal confusion.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are directly transcribed with notations. See KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi. This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, the deep things of God. We are continuing to explore the deep things of God in the Book of Revelation, and I guess this is our seventy-second podcast. We've been doing this for more than a year, doing one a week. What I want to share with you today is something special to me because there are just certain things I'm seeing out there in the universal church, and I believe that God has given us answers to things that we really need to consider. So while studying 1 Corinthians, chapter 7, I came across verse 39.

1Co 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Now, why would Paul want to put that in there- "only in the Lord." When I talk to people today, people who want to get married, they don't seem to consider that to the same extent that I would. Now, I guess one reason is because of the apostasy, and everybody's been in this apostasy from the very beginning. All of our lives, we've been in the apostasy.

And if somebody claims to be a believer, that seems to be good enough. For some people, it doesn't even matter. They'll get involved with people who don't claim to be a believer. They might claim not to believe in God, which doesn't stop some people. Here, Paul is telling us you can remarry, but only in the Lord. Well, this takes me over to 2 Corinthians, chapter 6, and it's here that Paul writes, starting in verse 14,

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship does righteousness have with iniquity or unrighteousness? What communion does light have with darkness?

2Co 6:15 What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what part has he that believes with an infidel?

2Co 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? You see, you're the temple of the living God; and as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2Co 6:18 I will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Now, all my Christian life, I have read that as "coming out away from churches that are in confusion about God, *come out from among them*." But we see Paul telling us, don't marry except that person is in the Lord. Before I get into this study, I want to point out that, spiritually speaking, <u>the wife that you are married to is your own spirit</u>. I know from Isaiah 54:5, speaking of the Father, talking about New Jerusalem (Jerusalem being a similitude of the Holy Spirit), that God and His Son are married to Jerusalem, and Jerusalem will marry her children. Your wife is your spirit, but you have a literal wife or husband that you're married to.

So Paul is saying, if you're going to marry, only marry someone in the Lord. Now there is a reason for all of this, and I want to read to you from Exodus 34, starting at verse 10.

Exo 34:10 He said, Behold, I'm going to make a covenant: before all your people I will do marvels, which have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which you are shall see the work of Jehovah: for it is a terrible thing, a fearful thing that I'm going to do with you.

Exo 34:11 Observe thou that which I command you this day: behold, I'm driving out before you the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

Exo 34:12 Take heed to yourself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you go, lest it be for a snare in the midst of you:

Now remember, to get married to somebody, that's a covenant. Verse 13

Exo 34:13 Instead, you should destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

Exo 34:14 For you shall worship no other god: for Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Exo 34:15 Lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and they call to you and you go eat of the sacrifice;

Exo 34:16 And you take of their daughters unto your sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make your sons go a whoring after their gods.Exo 34:17 You shall make thee no molten gods.

So here it is in the law that if you're going to marry, don't marry people of the land who do not worship God. They don't understand the true God because your husband or your wife, in this case, the wife, can draw you away from the truth.

Now, again, look at this spiritually. If your wife is your spirit, your literal physical woman that you've married, can affect your spirit. That could happen. Your literal wife can have an impact on your spiritual wife, your spirit. So, therefore, you need to be aware, if you're going to marry and make a covenant with somebody who is not on the same level that you're on spiritually, then you need to beware. Now, if you've already married someone, you've made this covenant with someone, and you have grown in your understanding and changed in your understanding of God, that's another story. Paul covers that in 1 Corinthians, chapter 7.

But he's dealing with a believer versus an unbeliever. The truth of the matter is, some people claim to believe in God, and they resist the truth about God and his only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit. You could say, in a sense, they are unbelievers. I'm not saying anybody should leave their wife. I'm bringing all of this up because I want to point something out to you that I keep seeing pop up in different things I watch, I see on television. I think it's important that we understand what the scriptures are telling us.

I want to ask you to turn to Genesis, chapter 6. I'm going to start reading at verse 1, and I hope you've got your Bible. I hope you have more than one version in front of you so that you can compare what they all say. Genesis 6, verse 1:

Gen 6:1 It came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

Gen 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Now, how many times have I heard people try to tell me that the sons of God were angels who fell from heaven? They take that understanding and bring it into this verse, and next thing you know, and I'm not exaggerating, I have literally heard people teach this on different religious broadcasts- that today, there are demons in human flesh walking around because their parents were fallen angels and women on the earth, and they're descendants of this group. So, there are literal demons just waiting to take over. You know, the stuff you hear- some of it's just unbelievable. I want to explain this to you because I pray that you have an answer when this comes up.

So, look at this with me. There's, first of all, "*the sons of God saw the daughters of men*." I'm going to use the Bible to define "sons of God." Sons of God are not fallen angels. They're not the angels in heaven. "Sons of God" is defined in Romans 8:14.

Rom 8:14 As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Is it possible to have been led by the spirit of God? Well, we know the Holy Spirit was not yet given, John 7:38 and 39, until Jesus was glorified. But that doesn't mean that people did not have an understanding of what God desired versus what the flesh desires. Look at this verse.

Gen 6:2 The Sons of God (let's just say those who believed in God), saw the daughters of men (who didn't believe in God). They saw that these women were fair, and they took them wives of all which <u>they</u> chose.

God did not choose these women for them, like Paul states in 1 Corinthians 7, *only in the Lord*. You could marry, but only in the Lord. This is why God stresses this. This is why it's in the law. Don't make a covenant with the people of the land. This is why it's in there. You're going to see what happens when they do this.

Gen 6:2 The sons of God, those who believed in God, took wives of men who didn't believe in God. That means their wives were not on the same level as they were.Gen 6:3 And the Lord makes this statement. Jehovah said, My spirit shall not always strive with man. Why? Because he's also flesh.

When you come to God, you have an understanding of what God wants, but you also have to contend with the flesh.

Gen 6:3 Jehovah said, My spirit will not always strive with man, because he's also flesh. (It's the battle of the flesh and the spirit.) Yet his days will be a hundred and twenty years.

Now, what does he mean by that? Because as you read how old Noah was and how old people were, are we saying that God is saying they're only going to get to be about 120? That isn't even what he means. Because this is being stated by the Wonderful Numberer, I take this "120" to be a spiritual number.

What is "120" spiritually? It is three fours times ten (3x4x10). Now, what in the world do you mean by three fours times ten? What I'm getting ready to tell you, if you just think about it, you'll know it's the absolute truth. Whether that's what this means or not, what I'm going to say is true anyway.

All of us ... and I let me just use myself as an example: When I came to God, my life had fallen apart, and I came to the end of my rope, and I cried out to God. My prayer was, "Dear God, please forgive me and come into my life." I will never forget saying that. "Please forgive me and come into my life." I had reached an earthly completeness. One "four." "Four" is a spiritual number, and it means "earthly completeness." I had come to the end of a four, and I started serving God insofar as I understood it.

"How did you understand it, Scott?" Well, I grabbed a Bible, and I read commentaries, and I listened to TV shows, TV evangelists, and I tried to understand the Bible as they were teaching me. "Well, why would you do that?" Because I figured they knew more about it than I did. Little did I know, they were in apostasy. 1 John 2:18, the apostasy began in the days of the apostles. It lasts until the Second Coming. So here I am, genuinely trying to serve God, listening to apostate teachers, having no idea of what's going on.

So God depicts this as the white horse, red horse, black horse, pale horse, and then what? That fifth seal, you cry out to God to save you from those who dwell on the earthyour earthly thinking. What happened? You just came to the end of another four. You come to the end of your first four and you start serving God. As you're serving God, you'll come to the end of that one, too. That will be two fours.

Now the problem today is people are satisfied living in the second four. They're satisfied living on the white, red, black, pale horse. They won't give it up. They won't realize "God is not working in my life." They fail to look at what is going on, that no positive changes are happening in their church, happening in their own lives.

If you can accept the second four, the end of your earthliness- what do you mean? You're trying to figure it out yourself. You're listening to people who don't know anything. So, you come to the end of your second four, and you cry out for help. What does God do? He moves in your life, and he will give you a new heaven and a new earth, and he will redeem you from all the iniquity these people have taught you.

You will come to a place where you will realize, Lord, I feel forsaken, yet I still thirst for truth. I cry out for help. I feel forsaken. I'm searching for truth, and I'm not going to do this myself anymore. It's finished. I am giving my spirit into your hands. "What is your spirit, Scott?" <u>My spirit is my emotional side in how I see a thing</u>. I did not pray that prayer when I first came to God. My prayer was, please forgive me and come into my life. That got me past the first four into the second four.

Well, in the third four, you give him your spirit, how you see a thing. "Lord, I've been looking at this Bible, putting interpretation to it, listening to people. Some claim to be a prophet, and I've concluded that nobody knows what they're talking about. I'm giving it to you. Father, you teach me your word. The Bible is yours. You have inspired it. I need your explanation of it. Please help me, oh God, to be right."

Now, bear with me. Jesus on the cross is not a picture of Scott Stanley reaching the end of his first four. He's a picture of Scott Stanley reaching the end of his second four and entering into the third four, where I will come to the end of my earthliness and be saved, be redeemed from all iniquity. That's what I'm in right now. I'm in my third four, trying to reach the end of it, trying to come to the place where I can walk in love and be longsuffering and patient and so on. That is the end of my third four. So when you see Jesus, or you see the Son of God, the God of Israel, make this statement, Gen 6:3 Jehovah said, My spirit will not always strive with man because he's also flesh. Yet his days are going to be "three fours" to come to God's understanding.

Three fours times ten. That's 120. Now let me give you an example. Genesis, chapter 5, verse 22.

Gen 5:22 Enoch walked with God <u>after</u> he begat Methuselah for three hundred years. Back up one verse.

Gen 5:21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and then he begat Methuselah.

After he begat Methuselah, he walked with God. So that means Enoch was in his first four for sixty-five years. Then he enters the second four. Now Enoch walked with God, and he never died because God took him. Why? Because Enoch was the seventh man from Adam. That is a symbol of the fullness of man. That's what we're all trying to reach. We're trying to reach the fullness and be made in the image of Christ, so Enoch was a symbol of that.

The point I'm trying to make here, he never entered into his third four. Guess what? Nobody in the Old Testament did. Again, John 7:38 and 39, *"the Holy Spirit was not because Jesus was not yet glorified,"* and without the Holy Spirit, you are not going to be made perfect. You've got to have it to be made perfect. Hence, in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter, at the end of it, verses 39 and 40,

Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, did not receive the promise of the Holy Spirit:

Heb 11:40 God having provided something better for us so that they, without us, should not be made perfect.

Nobody in the Old Testament was made perfect. I'm not saying nobody went to heaven. That's not what I'm saying, because perfection is not going to heaven. <u>Perfection is</u> <u>being redeemed from all iniquity</u>. The iniquity that we carry that God wants us to understand is what was portrayed on the cross, and that had not happened for Enoch or any of them in the Old Testament. They did not have the chance to be made perfect the way the New Testament saints can be made perfect because Jesus had not died. Look at Hebrews chapter 5, I'm going to start reading at verse 6. Heb 5:6 As he said also in another place, You're a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. (Who is he speaking to? The Son of God.)

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto his Father who was able to save him out of death, and God heard him because he feared God;

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, being a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he came to be the author of eternal salvation unto all those who will obey him;

Jesus in the flesh learned obedience through suffering and authored eternal salvation. So anybody who lived before that could not have possessed it if he is the one who authored it. Again, salvation is <u>not</u> God letting you go to heaven. <u>Salvation is</u> <u>redemption from all iniquity</u>. <u>It's the perfection of your faith</u>. You perfect your faith, you're taught something, you live it, and it's perfected. James 2:22, "Your works will perfect your faith. The salvation of your soul is the completion of your faith," 1 Peter 1:9.

Again, in the Old Testament, they didn't have that opportunity. If you look again at Genesis 6:3, the Son of God (I believe that's who we're speaking about here),

Gen 6:3 ... said, My spirit will not always strive with man, because he's also flesh: yet his days shall be "three fours times ten" to come to an understanding of God.

He knew they couldn't do any better than they were doing without the cross, without the Holy Spirit. He knew this, and this is what he's talking about. So in Acts 2, after the cross, we see the Holy Spirit falling on the disciples, and Peter giving his explanation of what is going on. In Acts 2:14, he stands up and says,

Act 2:14 Ye men of Judah and all that dwell in Jerusalem, be this known unto you and hearken to my words, for these are not drunk as you suppose, seeing it's the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel.

He then begins to quote Joel 2:28. So, if I go to Joel 2, before I come to verse 28, I want to start reading at verse 23. Peter has already said what's going on in Acts chapter 2, *this is that which was spoken of* in Joel 2:28. Let's just back up to verse 23.

Joe 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in Jehovah your God: for he has given you the former rain moderately (and if you look at your margin, it is "a teacher of righteousness according to righteousness"), and he (that teacher) will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

That teacher of righteousness in Joel 2:23 is explained in Hosea 6:3. It is the Lord coming down as the rain. So, again, Joel 2:24,

Joe 2:24 Floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. Joe 2:25 And I will restore to you the years the locust has eaten, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. Joe 2:26 And you shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of Jehovah your God, that has dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. Joe 2:27 And you'll know that I am in the midst of Israel, that I am Jehovah your God,

and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass after that, I'll pour out my spirit upon all flesh; ...

What you're seeing in Acts 2 is a picture of God pouring out his Spirit upon all flesh after the latter rain. It is after the latter rain when he pours his spirit upon all flesh, that is called the trumpets, the sounding of the trumpets. The message goes to the whole world "*for a witness to all nations, then shall the end come*" (Mat 24:14). But what is significant is when you look at Acts, chapter 2, you have to go back to Acts 1:15.

Act 1:15 In those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and he said, (the number of the names together was about what? An hundred and twenty.)

Do you think that's an accident? Do you think that just happens to be how many there were? Because they are a picture of the last generation church- they are a picture. Joel 2 happened at the time of the last generation church. What you're seeing in Acts 2 is a similitude of it. *God will pour out his spirit upon all flesh, and those who received it were*

about 120. Now think about it. They are a picture of the people who have entered into their third four. Now Genesis 6:4:

Gen 6:4 There were giants, Nephilim, in the earth in those days; and also after that, ...

Stop. Look at it again. "There were giants in the earth in those days and <u>also after that</u>." Why is it that when people read this text, they miss the point that the giants came before something? Let me read this to you in the NIV. "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also afterward." Every version of the Bible I read puts that in there. Nobody seems to leave that out. Here's the Youngs: "The fallen ones were in the earth in those days and even afterwards." So these fallen ones were already in the earth. These Nephilim, these giants, were already in the earth.

Gen 6:4 The giants in the earth in those days; and after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, ...

Stop. There were already giants on the earth. The sons of God were those who believed in God and were trying to follow the spirit of God as they understood it, and the daughters of men- the men are those who didn't believe, and their daughters didn't believe either. Maybe to some extent, a believer, somebody who wanted to follow God, these believers married unbelievers, and they bore children to them.

Gen 6:4 ... To the children, the giants became mighty men, men of renown.

Their children looked highly upon the giants. Why would they do that? Well, go back. There are no video games. No TV and music are blasting everywhere. What do they have? Well, I guess they learned to fight. They learned to plow. They learned to work, and these big giants over there made it look a heck of a lot easier than what they were doing. They became men of renown to these kids, to the children of people in a mixed marriage.

It is exactly what is happening today. The giants today are in the music industry. They're celebrities. They're in the movies. The people who are trying to serve God, along with their wives and their children, are drawn to the giants today. The Bible heroes do not seem to draw them. Today, it is no different. There were giants in the earth. No one is

denying that. But they were not there because angels became men and had sex with women. That is totally ridiculous. Look at all the doctrines that they're inventing now to make that a reality. Now we've got them in human form walking around at the end of the world, going to take over the world, or whatever they say. It's ridiculous. We're just simply reading the Bible. Look at this again.

Gen 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; after that, when believers came into the daughters of unbelievers, they bore children, and those giants became mighty men, men of renown to those kids, to their children. (Where did that lead?)

Gen 6:5 GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

That is where that comes from because the believers married women who were not on the same level, and the children were not taught the truth about God. Now look at it in our day. In our day, we were in apostasy for our entire Christian life. We really did not have a chance to teach our children the truth because we didn't even have it ourselves.

I can remember one time sitting in a meeting in Oklahoma City, and this is back in 1990, 1991, around then. And I can remember someone in that group was having a meeting on Saturday. And we're all sitting there, and somebody looks at me and they say, "Well, where are your boys?"

See, I had two sons of my own, and I had adopted a third. "Where are your boys? How come they're not here in this meeting? Just where are they?" And I looked at this guy, and I said, "You don't have anything they want." Everybody in the room was stunned. "You know, basically, what are we doing here? We're meeting on Saturday, and you're reading a bunch of books from people who had long beards and suspenders, and there hasn't been a change made in a hundred years or more. Why would my kids want to come in here? You're not offering them anything."

See, we didn't have the truth to give them. It's a miracle any of us were sitting there. "Why aren't your kids in here? You're not offering them anything. What do they want to come in here for?" Really, being in the apostasy, what else could we offer? I mean, we're reading the Bible, trying to understand it, and trying to figure it out, and we have a lot of help in misunderstanding it. There's a lot of help out there. You've got your prophets writing what? Oh, you're trying to make that fit? Well, it doesn't fit. It has never fit. It has held us down. The apostasy has held us down. The man of sin did his job.

So I want to read something to you in Jude because I have found this so interesting over the years. Reading in Jude, I want to start reading at verse 3. I hope you have your Bible when you're reading this.

Jud 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints. Earnestly contend for the faith that you now have.

Jud 1:4 For there are certain men who crept in among you that you were unaware, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ... before of old, ungodly men, they're turning the grace of God into a license to sin, they're denying the only Master God, and our Lord Jesus Christ- the Father and Son.

Jud 1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, I want you to remember this, though I know you once knew this, how the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt ... (He saved them. He brings them out of Egypt, which is a similitude of the world. He brings them out of the world, which fits the universal church), but afterward destroyed those who believed not.

Jud 1:6 The messengers which kept not their first estate, they left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Well, people will take that and say, "Well, there you go. There are the sons of God who fell from heaven and had sex with women on the earth." No, not so. Messengers, it's any messenger; this could be any time in history. They don't keep their first estate. They leave their own habitation of thinking and understanding, and God reserves them in everlasting chains. They're not alive, wrapped up in chains, creeping around in hell. That is not what he's saying. They're in everlasting chains under darkness, you could say, in their graves, or some to this very day have not yet physically died, and they're in chains of darkness just waiting for this judgment to take place. Jud 1:7 It's like Sodom and Gomorrha, the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh. Well, they're set forth as an example of what? Of eternal fire, the vengeance of eternal fire. They're an example of that.

Jud 1:8 Likewise, these people who have crept in unaware among you that were before of old ordained to this condemnation, likewise, these dreamers defile the flesh, and they despise anyone having dominion over them, and they speak evil of glory.

What is glory? Long-suffering, forgiveness, the very characteristics of God himself, that you are trying to be made in the image of God, while they speak evil. "You can't do that until Jesus comes. You're going to be a sinner." Verse 9.

Jud 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the whisperer, he disputed about the body of Moses, did not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you.

When Moses died, the Son of God took the body, put the body where he wanted to put it. People wanted to see that body. They wanted to make an idol out of it and worship it. That was the Satan the archangel was dealing with in those people.

Jud 1:10 But these guys that we're talking about, they speak evil of those things which they don't know: but what they know naturally, as a brute beast, in those things they are corrupting themselves.

Jud 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, they ran greedily after the error of Balaam for a reward, and they've perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Jud 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of love, when they come and feast with you, they feed themselves without a fear of God: they are clouds but they don't have any water, they're carried about of winds; they're trees whose fruit withers, they're without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Jud 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their shame; they're wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever, just like he said in verse 6. Verse 14 is what I want to get to.

Jud 1:14 Now you've got Enoch also, Enoch was the seventh from Adam, (he was before the flood, he prophesied not "<u>of these</u>," it is "<u>to these</u>" ... What difference does

that make? Because in Enoch's day, there were men just like this.) Enoch prophesied <u>to</u> them when he said, Behold, the Lord comes in myriads of saints Jud 1:15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all the hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against them.

This has been going on since the very beginning. Even in the days of Enoch, you had people like this that you see today. They despise dominion, and they speak evil of glories. And they will turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, a license to sin. They will define love on one side, but deny the other side- you spare the rod, you hate your child. They will deny that and claim you <u>only</u> should forgive; you <u>only</u> should do this... well, you do if people are repentant. If they're not, you've got to stand firm in your faith and believe the truth, which reminds me of another verse, 1 Corinthians 15. I want to read the last two verses.

1Co 15:57 But thanks be to God (that is <u>the</u> God), which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Stand fast in the truth, and don't let anybody move you out of it. Take the Bible, learn what it says in Jesus Christ, and stand on it. Don't be moved by all the sentimental stuff that people are going to throw at you, the emotional stuff as they try to sway you from remaining faithful to Christ and God.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, I thank you for helping us. I pray for those who have ears to hear, who will let you help them, and I pray that we have the courage to stand. In Jesus' name, Amen.