

From the Pastor

After Jesus gave an example of the spiritual intent of the seventh commandment concerning not committing adultery He addressed the spiritual truth concerning divorce. “Furthermore it has been said ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.” (Matthew 5:31-32)

The original instructions concerning divorce in Israel are found in Deuteronomy 24:1-4. These instructions were given to a people who were not converted; nor, were they being led by God’s Spirit. Sadly, most people are led about by their own self will—being selfish or self-centered. This instruction was to prevent wife shopping where a man may marry several different women until he found one that pleased him (physically speaking). If in his search he realized that one of the previous wives was better, he was prohibited from going back to her and remarrying her.

The truth that Jesus was teaching was that marriage is a very serious commitment. Marriage is to be for life. A bound marriage in God’s sight is a covenant between the husband, wife, and God. The search for compatibility (spiritual, emotional, mental, interests, attitudes, approaches, and more—but not physical—i.e. not sexual) should take place before marriage. Marriage is a life-long commitment that involves a spiritual, emotional and mental oneness beyond the physical.

Jesus explained that the only grounds for divorce is sexual immorality. The Old King James Version uses the word “fornication.” The Greek word is “porneia” which refers to any form of sexual deviation from what God designed which was marital relations between a husband and a wife. Thus, in the New King James Version “porneia” is translated as “sexual immorality” and not just fornication.

Jesus said that sexual immorality was the ground for divorce since such conduct severely damages—even destroys—trust. For any marriage to be successful it must be built on fidelity, faithfulness, trust between the husband and the wife. Other conduct can damage trust; but, sexual immorality definitely does.

The quality that is needed to defend against this destructive conduct is real love. Husbands and wives need to have real outgoing concern for the needs and well-being of their mate. Growing to truly love God will lead to husbands and wives growing to truly love each other. As both draw close to God they will draw close to each other. That is one of the great fruit of love.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:45pm	5:49pm	5:53pm
Sunset Friday 1-12	5:50pm	5:53pm	5:58pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



January 6, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD

Sermon: DVD

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God.”

1 Thessalonians 4:1

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 1/6	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 1/13	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will speak in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. Victoria will have a DVD. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly will be January 6, 2018.

Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, is pleased to announce two week-long Continuing Education seminars, to be held in the headquarters office in Allen, Texas, during the weeks of June 18-22, 2018, and July 9-13, 2018. Instructors will include David Johnson and Ralph Levy, as well as other headquarters ministers. Details concerning class offerings will be forthcoming.

The cost will be \$75 for an individual student, or \$125 per couple. Registration opens on Sunday, Jan. 14, and we expect the seminars to fill.

If you wish to reserve a place for these exciting seminars, please send an e-mail to registrar David Johnson at david.johnson@cogwa.org.