**Reconnect: marriage**

1. **Introduction-**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrMftm6Km3g>

* Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. Prov 3:

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of ALL MIGHTY GOD, to obey His will and to be grateful for His benefits. “ First President George Washington.

“The highest glory of the American a Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."    President Adams, July 4, 1821

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure.

—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

* Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. Jn 15:13

1. **Today, July 4, 2020, we are again engaged in a struggle to see if the United States will survive**

* If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25**And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. Mk 3:24

1. **God in His love is disciplining and correcting us-**

* When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, **14**if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.  II Chron 7:13
* For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives.” **7**It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? Heb 12:6

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” John Adams, second president of the United States

1. **Bad news, good news and for sure the really the best news-**

* If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, **3**and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, **4**then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. **5**He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. Ezk 33:1

1. The bad news and the warning-

* The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who keep his covenant  and remember to do his commandments. 19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Ps 103:17

1. **God’s plan and promise for marriages–**

* Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Eph 3:20
* Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Eph 5:31

1. **Marriage is God’s creation and for our good-**

* God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Gen 1:3
* The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. Gen 2:18
* Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **25**And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Gen 2:18

1. **The damage of sin in marriages-**

* To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you. Gen 3:16
* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. I Jn 1:8

1. Divorce of marriages-

* Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3 He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” 4 They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” 5 And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. 6 But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ 7 ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. Mk 10:2

1. Marriages live in strife anger and pain in their marriages-

* The works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20**idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21**envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God gal 5:19

1. Marital détente

* I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. **2**I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **3**for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? I Cor 3:1

 Détente= the relaxation of strained relations or tensions (as between nations)

1. **All marriages can be restored and show Christ to the world-**

* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. II Cor 5:17
* The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**gentleness, self-control. Gal 5:22

**III. Marriage rescue and restoration-**

* Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:12
* Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes. Jer 29:12
* Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Mat 6:33

1. **Our relationship with Jesus Christ will define our marriage-**
2. Be a biblical Christian-

* I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20
* Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25**For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24

1. Learn to love-

* He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38**This is the great and first commandment. **39**And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40**On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Mat 22:37

1. Grow in Christ-

* If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. Jn 15:7
* If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  Jn 14:15

1. Close the divorce door-

* So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. **16**“For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence. Mal 2:15

1. **Be a servant-**

* Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7**but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Phil 2:3
* When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? **13**You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14**If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15**For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.  Jn 13:12

1. Find our spiritual gift and use it

* As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11**whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.  I Pet 4:10

1. Serving those who do not obey the word-

* Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **2**when they see your respectful and pure conduct. **3**Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— **4**but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. I Pet 3:1
* Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22**He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23**When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **24**He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **25**For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. I Pet 2:21

1. **For the unmarried, choose wisely-**

* Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15**What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? **16**What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God. II Cor 6:14

**D, The hope for each marriage-**

* Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **8**For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9**And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.  Gal 6:7

1. **Summary and application-**
2. **Marriages and families are under attack-**

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