



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.11.3

This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF contains chapters 5-6 of *The Marriage Covenant*.

Humility is one of the most underrated fruits of the Spirit. Few people ever really think of God as being humble. We have a hard time equating someone with infinite wisdom and endless power with humility.

The Bible reveals that God is truly humble. The Son of God was a perfect expression of His Father. He said the following:

Matthew 11:29

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for ***I am meek and***

lowly in heart: and you will find rest for your souls.

The apostle Paul gives us the following description of the lowliness of Christ.

Philippians 2:5-7

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant.

Does it not take a humble God to take upon Himself the form of that which He has created? Why would He

ever do such a thing unless He was humble?

The Father desires that all of His sons and daughters share this same characteristic of humility. Has He put you in circumstances that are designed to produce humility in you? Do you chafe against the humility and lowliness of your position, or do you see it as a wonderful opportunity to become more like Christ?

We have wonderful promises in the Scriptures for those who are humble. The meek will inherit the earth, and God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Food for Thought

“God is preparing His heroes. And when the opportunity comes, He can fit them into their places in a moment. And the world will wonder where they came from.”

A.B. Simpson

“When I was young, I was sure of many things; now there are only two things of which I am sure: one is, that I am a miserable sinner; and the other, that Christ is an all-sufficient Saviour. He is well-taught who learns these two lessons.”

John Newton

Scripture Memory

I Peter 5:6

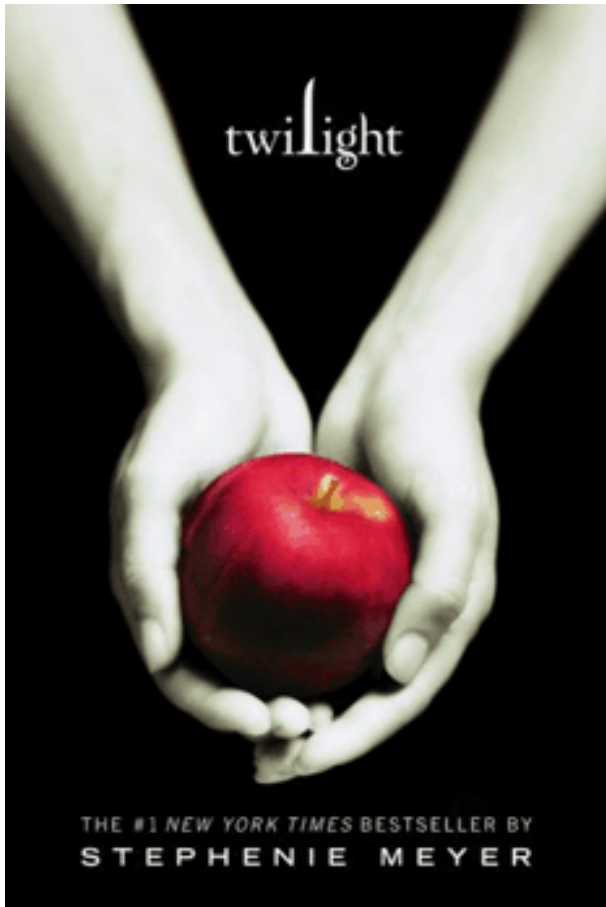
Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

Parables Newsletter

- Series 1.11.3
- *The Marriage Covenant*
- Chapters 5-6

The Marriage Covenant

Foundation Stone Four - Life is in the Blood



If you have not kept up with what young people are reading today, the best selling series since *Harry Potter* is the *Twilight* Saga. Millions of copies of the *Twilight* books are being sold, and they are ranked number one in numerous teen categories on Amazon's website, the world's largest book-seller.

The *Twilight* books are focused on a very familiar theme in this hour, vampires. It seems that everywhere one turns today there are books, movies, comics, and television series focused on vampires. Bram Stoker may have planted the seed of this obsession back in 1897 when he published *Dracula*, but the seed has come to full maturity in this hour. I think it is very telling that the latest book covers and advertisements for this series feature an apple in a woman's hands.



It should ever be kept in mind that Satan is the ruler of this fallen world. It is not New York's book industry that chooses the topics that are presented to America, nor Hollywood's movie and television moguls. It is Satan. Why then the intense focus upon vampirism in this hour? What is Satan up to?

I have for many years pondered the spiritual substance of the laws concerning things mankind might eat, and might not eat. Blood was very much in focus among these laws. Yahweh's first prohibition against partaking of blood preceded the Law of Moses by more than a thousand years. The following injunction was spoken to Noah soon after the flood.

Genesis 9:3-6

Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. Only

Parables Bookshelf

you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.

From the very moment that Yahweh gave man permission to eat meat, He included the prohibition against eating blood. A millennia later, when Yahweh delivered the Law to Moses, He did not neglect to speak once more of the role of blood.

Leviticus 17:10-14

And any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, ***I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood,*** and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement. Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, ***'No person among you may eat blood, nor may any alien who sojourns among you eat blood.'*** So when any man from the sons of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, in hunting catches a beast or a bird which may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. ***For as for the life of all flesh, its blood is identified with its life.*** Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, ***'You are not to eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood; whoever eats it shall be cut off.'***

Yahweh was very precise in these directions. He wanted there to be no misunderstanding. In no way was mankind to partake of the blood of any beast. To this day the orthodox Jews require a Rabbi to be present whenever an animal is slaughtered to insure that the blood is drained from the animal according to the Law of Moses.

Deuteronomy 12:22-25

Just as a gazelle or a deer is eaten, so you shall eat it; the unclean and the clean alike may eat of it. ***Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out on the ground like water. You shall not eat it,*** in order that it may be well with you and your sons after you, for you will be doing what is right in the sight of Yahweh.

Over and over Yahweh repeats the prohibition against eating blood. The reason is given as “the ***life*** is in the blood.” The Hebrew word rendered here as ***life*** is the word ***nephesh***. This word is also translated as ***soul***. Yahweh is literally declaring that the ***soul*** of an animal is in its blood. The soul of man is also in His blood. This is why we find Yahweh declaring to Cain that the blood of his brother Able was crying out to Him from the ground. Able's blood had been spilled upon the ground when Cain slew him. The soul is in the blood, therefore the soul of Able was now crying out from the ground.

What drew my attention to this topic some years ago, causing me to delve into it further, was the repetition of this prohibition in the New Testament. There are over 600 laws in the Torah delivered to Moses at Mount Sinai. Yet when the early church met to determine what laws to specifically pass on to the Gentile converts, they gave only four. Out of these four New Testament instructions to the newly founded churches, two of them focus specifically on the issue of eating blood.

There are over 600 laws in the Torah delivered to Moses at Mount Sinai.

Acts 15:19-20

Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from forni-

The Marriage Covenant

cation and **from what is strangled and from blood.**

If an animal is killed by strangulation, its blood remains in the meat, therefore such meat was not to be eaten. The church leaders and apostles further added the instruction that the Gentile believers were to abstain from consuming all blood.

We see then that the prohibition against partaking of blood is universal. It is not limited to the Law of Moses. The command to abstain from blood preceded the Law delivered to Moses, and it continues even to this day to those who have died to the Law through the body of Christ.

The prohibition against partaking of blood is universal.

Romans 7:6

But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound..

Those who are in Christ “have been released from the Law,” but they have not been released from the prohibition against eating blood. The mystery of life being in the blood is so great that the command to abstain from eating it will never be altered.

We live in a very dark hour. We are seeing an ever deepening darkness fall upon the earth. The greatest and most universal prohibitions given to man by God are being scorned. **Satan is glorifying that which Yahweh has condemned.** He is flooding the world with fantasies of vampires drinking the blood of men, women and children. Many are familiar with such mega-sellers as the Ann Rice vampire novels, the *Twilight* books and movies, and the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. One website on the topic lists over 700 books that contain vampire lore.

What is so important about this subject that Yahweh has forbidden the partaking of blood through all ages down to this present time? Why has Satan spent so much time driving men and women to fantasize about doing that which Yahweh expressly forbids?

In the introduction to this teaching series, it was mentioned that the Hebrew word rendered as “life” is “nephesh.” When spoken of in the New Testament, it is translated from the Greek word “psuche.” Both nephesh and psuche are words that mean “soul.”

Leviticus 17:11

For the life (nephesh) of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls (nephesh): for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul (nephesh).

KJV

A very deep principle is revealed in this verse. If the translators had been consistent in the translation of the Hebrew word nephesh, they would have written something similar to the following:

*For the **soul** of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for your **souls**, for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the **soul**.*

The following describes the logic of what is stated.

Ezekiel 18:4

The soul who sins will die.

This same truth is expressed in the New Testament.

Parables Bookshelf

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and ***so death spread to all men, because all sinned.***

The wages of sin is death. Death is always the consequence of sin. This is an unalterable law of the universe. Yahweh will not wink at the sin of man. He will not excuse it. The holiness and righteousness of God requires that sin always bears the consequence of death.

Yahweh will not alter this “law of sin and death.” Yet, in His mercy, He has graciously provided man with a substitute. In the Old Testament the soul of a beast could be offered up in place of the soul of a man. This is what atonement was all about. The blood of an animal was sprinkled upon the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies on The Day of Atonement. The sins of the people were before God’s eyes on that day, and the High Priest was making an offering for the people of God. In bringing the blood of bulls and goats he was entreating Yahweh to accept the soul of the animal in the place of man’s soul.

Man deserved to die, for he had sinned. It was Yahweh’s mercy that permitted another to die in the place of man. We know that such offerings had to be made year after year, for they were imperfect. When Yahweh sent His Son to the earth to be offered up in the place of man, to shed His blood, and to place it upon the Mercy Seat in that Tabernacle whose original is in heaven, then the perfect sacrifice had been made. God had exchanged the soul of His Son in place of man’s soul, that man might live.

Hebrews 9:11-14

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the

blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Why did Christ have to shed His blood? ***Because the soul is in the blood.*** Yahshua gave His soul in exchange for the soul of man so that man’s soul might not perish.

John 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life (psuche - soul) for his friends.”

Christ rendered His soul as an offering that man’s soul might not die. The soul of Christ, like all living beings, is in the blood. He had to shed His blood for man to be redeemed from death. The penalty of sin was paid in full. Man’s soul might now live, for the soul of the Son of God had been poured out in man’s place.

*The soul of an animal
or a man is in the
blood.*

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out His soul (nephesh) to death...

That the soul of an animal or a man is in the blood is a concept that appears strange to the mind of modern man. If you were to ask them where the soul of a man is, most could not tell you.

Understanding that the soul is in the blood, consider why Yahweh forbid mankind to eat the blood of animals. Man could use the flesh of an animal

The Marriage Covenant

for food, but the soul was not given to be eaten. Why is this so? The body is of the earth, but the soul belongs to God.

Ezekiel 18:4

“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine.”

The body was formed of the dust of the earth, and it would return to the earth. The soul was formed by the breath of God, and it must return to God.

Psalms 104:29

You do hide Your face, they are dismayed; You do take away their spirit, they expire, and return to their dust.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Blood could be poured on the altar as an offering to God, for the soul belongs to Yahweh. Man, however, could not partake of it. Neither the souls of animals or people were given to man for his consumption. The soul is holy unto God.

Partaking of blood is the same as partaking of the soul of another. This is made abundantly clear in the words of Christ.

John 6:53-57

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”

This saying offended the Jews, and many of Christ’s disciples left Him after hearing these words. His words were intended to be understood spiritually.

John 6:63

“The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

Christ was declaring that in order for man to pass from death into life, he must have the life of Christ in him. Mankind was under a sentence of death ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. Yahweh said to Adam, “on the day that you eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall surely die.”

Neither the souls of animals or people were given to man for his consumption.

The blood of Yahshua is the only provision that Yahweh has made for man to pass from death into life. There is salvation in no other name. Mohammed cannot save man. Buddha cannot save man. Only one who had been born of holy seed and lived a sinless life could offer His soul as an atonement for mankind. This One is Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah.

When Christ told His disciples that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood, He was speaking of spiritual realities. Man must receive the spirit of Christ into his being that he might have life. We must be born again. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We receive the life of Christ by receiving His seed.

I Peter 1:23

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

Parables Bookshelf

Matthew 13:24

He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field."

Mankind is the field. The seed is the Word of God. Christ is "the Word made flesh." As we receive the Word (Christ) and believe, conception takes place. The life of Christ appears within our own being. It continues to grow and mature until we can say with Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." This process will continue until "Christ is fully formed in us."

Galatians 4:19

My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you...

Ephesians 4:13-14

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

We must drink Christ's blood if we are to have any life in us. We must become one with Christ.

John 17:20-23

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one...**"

The life is in the blood. All those who drink the cup of Christ's communion are symbolically testifying that they are partakers of the very life (psuche - soul) of Christ. He is in them, and they are in Him.

In no other realm among man do we observe such imagery of two souls becoming one, other than in sexual union. Indeed, we are made one with Christ by becoming partakers of His seed. The seed of Christ is not received by physical union, but by spiritual union. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

I Corinthians 6:16-17

Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "The two will become one flesh." But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Yahweh has given us the physical union of a man and a woman to serve as a parable of the spiritual union between God and man. He also uses the symbolism of a man drinking the blood of another to speak of this mystical union of two beings. Seeing that He uses both illustrations to reveal the same spiritual truth, we should understand that a union of the soul occurs in both instances.

Many cultures from ancient times understood that the soul of an animal is in its blood. The practice of certain American Indian tribes who would eat the beating heart of a wolf or a buffalo was based upon this understanding. Some aboriginal tribes would also drink the blood of some great warrior that they had slain in battle. By doing so they believed that they were taking on the strength of the other animal or person.

*A union of the soul
occurs...*

The principle of the soul being in the blood is what Satan has focused upon as he stirs up the present fascination with vampires. In the *Twilight* series Edward is portrayed as a vampire who falls madly in love with Bella, who is human. The attraction of Bella's blood is so overpowering that Edward is at first repulsed by her, for he has committed himself to abstain from drinking human blood.

The Marriage Covenant

The attraction between the two is very much sexual in nature. Even as a woman may fantasize of being irresistible to a man, or to men in general, so Bella is cast as a character who is lusted after by numerous individuals, some good and some evil.

Today, women live out this fantasy through making themselves sexually alluring. An almost unbelievable expense and effort is poured forth in pursuit of

The relationship between Christ and the church is spoken of in terms of a marriage union.

achieving a sexually alluring image. What was unheard of a generation ago, is now commonplace. Women, young and old, are having their bodies surgically

sculpted and manipulated to increase their ability to arouse an animal lust in man. The desire to be lusted after is found deep within the carnal nature. The *Twilight* series is merely one of many fantasies Satan presents to the world today to stir up that which is primal and forbidden.

The attraction for the male is that he becomes the hunter, seeking to partake of that which is most intimate and forbidden. The male vampire that drinks the blood of a female is in effect drawing her life, her very soul, into his body. Whether men and women understand these things, or not, the same passions and desires are present as they seek after sexual experience. What makes sexual intercourse between a man and woman something that the fallen nature lusts after with intensity, is not merely the momentary physical pleasure. It is the desire to enter into union with another soul.

This drive to be in union with the soul of another is very evident in the vampire fantasies Satan is flooding the world with. The soul is in the blood, and blood is what is lusted after. What is sometimes less obvious, is that the same desire for soul-union is present in the sexual infidelities played out millions of times a day.

Even as Yahweh forbade men to drink blood, He has also forbidden illicit sexual relations. Every

time there is a physical union between a man and a woman, there is a sharing of the soul of the other.

Consider that the consequences of receiving another person's tainted blood through needle sharing, or blood transfusions, is the same as having sexual intercourse with them. Sexually transmitted diseases are communicated through the blood. Whatever is in one person's bloodstream enters the bloodstream of the one with whom they are sexually intimate. HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, chlamydia, and other diseases are transmitted when the soul of one person mixes with the soul of another in an illicit manner.

Is it not interesting that we speak of partaking of the bread and wine of Christ as "communion," and that STD's are said to be "communicable?" Both speak of a very deep level of intimacy. There is a sharing of two souls in both instances. It is little wonder that the relationship between Christ and the church is spoken of in terms of a marriage union.

We have seen in this post that:

- The soul is in the blood.
- Eating blood has ALWAYS been forbidden,
- Drinking the blood of another is a symbol of being a partaker of their spirit, or soul.
- Sexual intimacy also involves a joining of two souls.
- Yahweh has established prohibitions against sexual union outside of marriage.

Why does the Father not allow His children to engage in "free sex"? Why must there always be a blood covenant between those who experience sex-

Parables Bookshelf

ual intimacy with one another? This will be the topic of the following chapters.

End Note: Satan's indoctrination of today's youth through such wildly popular books and movies as the *Twilight* series, reveals the polarization occurring at this time. Yahweh is calling a remnant of His people out of Babylon, even leading them to disassociate with carnal Christians, that he might purge, purify and refine a Bride for His Son. At the same time, Satan is leading the world to a passionate harlotry, and his focus in this instance is particularly upon the youth.

Some insight is gained by understanding the name of the main female character in the *Twilight* series. Her name is Bella, which is short for Isabella.

According to Strong's Dictionary of Greek and Hebrew words, both the Greek New Testament and the Hebrew Old Testament pronunciation of the name Jezebel bears a striking resemblance to the name Isabel. Following is how Strong's records it.

NT:2403

Iezabel (ee-ed-zab-ale'); of Hebrew origin [OT:348]; Jezabel (i.e. Jezebel), a Tyrian woman (used as a synonym of a termagant or false teacher):

OT:348

'Iyzebel (ee-zeh'-bel); from OT:336 and OT:2083; Izebel, the wife of king Ahab:

The Bible describes Jezebel as a woman who sought to rule men by seduction and allure. She is described as painting her face, and adorning herself seductively.

II Kings 9:30

When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she painted her eyes and adorned her head,

and looked out the window.

In recent *Twilight* posters, Bella is depicted with the forbidden fruit in her hands. She is a seductress. As Eve invited Adam to join in her sin, so does Bella invite Edward to partake of that which is forbidden. In a very literal way, she herself has become the forbidden fruit. The advertising companies have played up the similarity between Bella offering herself to Edward for him to bite her, and Eve presenting the forbidden fruit to Adam.

The people of God are living compromised lives.

Millions of young girls are fantasizing about attaining the same powerful allure as Bella. And millions of young men are being led to fantasize about tasting of the forbidden fruit.

We live in an hour when the world is growing much darker. It is at such a time that the glory of God must arise upon His people. Such a glory will only be seen in those who are fully committed to God. The people of God must count the cost of a full surrender to the Holy Spirit. They must die to their own desires, and live for the pleasure of God.

The church has not been able to counter the works of Satan, for the people of God are living compromised lives.

The Marriage Covenant

Prelude to Foundation Stone Five - The Hidden Cost of Free Sex



It is one thing to know that Yahweh forbids sexual intercourse outside of marriage, it is quite another thing to understand why. Perhaps you have never pondered this topic. Seeing that men and women have a strong attraction to physical union with one another, and observing that society at large is ever prone to promiscuity, one might well ask, "What harm is there in engaging in free sex?"

Without a doubt, men and women should obey God whether they understand the reason for a command, or not. Even as a small child should heed the command of their parent to not put their hand on the stove, so too should mankind obey God regardless of whether they perceive the reason for the command.

It is natural for a child to learn the reason behind many of the commands as they mature. They perceive the thought behind the admonition to not play in the street, and to not talk to strangers, etc..

I am persuaded that our Father would also have His sons and daughters to come to a place of understanding the purpose behind the command to not commit fornication, or adultery.

Those who consider the reason for God's prohibition against fornication and adultery may at first think that Yahweh's commandments are given to protect them from the scourge of sexually transmitted diseases. There is real reason for concern here. The incidence of STDs is staggering. In America the percentage of men and women infected with an STD reveals the rampant promiscuity in the land. The following statistics are provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

An estimated 2,291,000 non-institutionalized U.S. civilians ages 14-39 are infected with Chlamydia...

Approximately 20 million Americans are currently infected with HPV (Human Papilloma Virus), and another 6.2 million people become newly infected each year. At least 50% of sexually active men and women acquire genital HPV infection at some point in their lives...

Nationwide, at least 45 million people ages 12 and older, or one out of five adolescents and adults, have had genital HSV (Herpes) infection...

CDC estimates that more than 700,000 persons in the U.S. get new gonorrheal infections each year...

Each year in the United States, it is estimated that more than 1 million women experience an episode of acute PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease). More than 100,000 women become infertile each year as a result of PID, and a large proportion of the

Parables Bookshelf

ectopic pregnancies occurring every year are due to the consequences of PID...

In the United States, health officials reported over 36,000 cases of syphilis in 2006...

Trichomoniasis is the most common curable STD in young, sexually active women. An estimated 7.4 million new cases occur each year in women and men.

[Source:]

This information reveals that ‘free sex’ is not free of consequences. A study of this topic reveals that the negative health effects of becoming infected with various STDs include: genital lesions, blisters, bumps, pustules, cankers, rashes, swelling, discomfort, pain, etc.; vaginal and penile discharge; sterility; increased infant mortality; blindness; dementia; arthritis and other inflammatory diseases; susceptibility to secondary infections; cancer; and even death. This is not an exhaustive list, but merely a sampling of the detrimental effects of STDs.

Many STDs are not curable. Some require lifelong treatment, and the risk is always present of passing the infection to every other person with whom an individual is sexually intimate. The incidence of certain STDs is so high that in some population groups half the population are infected. The website Herpes Online, provides the following information.

It is overwhelming the number of people that do not realize just how strong the genital herpes statistics are. Genital herpes is a very common virus that is affecting a large number of the adult population these days.

In a recent study to gather genital herpes statistics, a nationally representative study showed that genital herpes infection is very common in the

United States. Nationwide, 45 million people ages 12 and older, or one out of five (possibly as many as 1 in 4) of the total adolescent and adult population, are infected with HSV-2.

When taking genital herpes statistics into account, look around you at any given time and recognize based on the genital herpes statistics just how many people are likely to have the virus.

HSV-2 infection is more common in women (approximately one out of four women) than in men (almost one out of five). This is according to the same genital herpes statistics research. This may be due to male-to-female transmission being more efficient than female-to-male transmission.

HSV-2 infection has also been found to be more common in blacks (45.9%) than in whites (17.6%)...

Ongoing genital herpes statistics research since the late 1970s, indicate the number of Americans with genital herpes infection has increased 30%. The largest increase is currently occurring in young white teens. HSV-2 infection is now five times more common in 12- to 19-year-old whites, and it is twice as common in young adults ages 20 to 29 than it was 20 years ago.

[Source:]

Genital herpes is caused by the transmission of a virus from one individual to another via sexual intercourse. The statistics above reveal the extent of sexual promiscuity in society. To have such a large portion of the population infected there must be frequent sexual activity among a large number of sexual partners.

Many STDs are not curable.

The Marriage Covenant

Some STDs are bacterial, the most common being chlamydia. The peril of many infections is that they

Over half of the women infected with chlamydia do not know they have it.

remain without obvious symptoms in a great many individuals. It is estimated that over half of the women infected with chlamydia do not know they have it. Yet,

left untreated, it can lead to serious consequences. One fact that I became aware of as I began this study is that both gonorrhea and chlamydia can cause arthritis.

About 15,000 men develop reactive arthritis due to chlamydia infection each year in the U.S., and about 5,000 are permanently affected by it. It can occur in both sexes, though is more common in men.

[Source:]

An article titled Venereal Arthritis shares the following information:

Venereal Arthritis

When a young person has chronic, unexplained pain in a joint, this might be the last thing a doctor would suspect. But there are sexually transmitted diseases that, left untreated, can cause arthritis.

By Laurie Udesky

CONSUMER HEALTH INTERACTIVE

Joshua Heller wasn't worried when he noticed a painless knot below his right ankle in February 1994. A couple of months later, he felt a dull ache in his right foot, but the 26-year-old chef continued working his usual long hours at his family's seaside restaurant. In his spare time, he played racquetball and coached two local sports teams.

By summer, periodic shooting pains in his instep forced him to restrict his activity and stay off his feet. In September, an odd array of symptoms -- pins and needles, shooting pain, and constant aching -- left him with a constant limp.

That's when Heller (not his real name) first reported the problem to a doctor, who diagnosed it as tendinitis and put a cast on his right foot and ankle. Two weeks later his left foot began to hurt. The doctor shrugged it off, saying the new symptom resulted from favoring that leg. But the left foot swelled and the pain grew. After that, Heller saw three orthopedists -- experts in bones, muscles, and tendons. They tried surgery to remove fluid in his right foot and more casting. Nothing worked.

Nearly two years after he first noticed the lump below his ankle, Heller was in unbearable pain, and no doctor could tell him precisely what was wrong. "Both feet were so bad that I almost couldn't walk anymore," recalls Heller, who is now 34.

Finally, he saw a rheumatologist who discovered that he had an uncommon form of arthritis caused by a sexually transmitted disease (STD), typically gonorrhea or, as in Heller's case, chlamydia. This condition, often called venereal arthritis, is practically unknown to the general public, and its diagnosis eludes many doctors.

But the sexually transmitted diseases that can lead to venereal arthritis are on the rise in the United States. After decades of declining rates, the number of reported cases of gonorrhea began increasing, but now appears to have reached a plateau at an estimated 355,991 cases in 2007. What's more, reported cases of chlamydia have doubled since 1997, and in 2007 more than 1.1 million chlamydial infections were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The disease is alarmingly common among teens and young adults. In a study of more than 3,000

Parables Bookshelf

inner-city teenage girls published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 29.1 percent tested positive for chlamydia.

Chlamydia: An often silent disease

Equally troubling is that chlamydia sometimes causes few outward symptoms, especially in women, so people may have no idea they have it until the disease is in an advanced stage. Even if they do, they may not realize that the bacteria, if unchecked, can spread to the joints. Once it does, it can cause excruciating pain and, in some cases, permanent joint damage and deformity.

[Source:]

Reading the words above, I am reminded of the words of the apostle Paul to the Christians in Corinth.

I Corinthians 11:27-30

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord... For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

The apostle Paul declares that among the saints at Corinth were a number who were partaking of the body and blood of Christ in an unworthy manner. We should not think that Paul was merely speaking of people acting as gluttons and drunkards while participating in their love feasts, although this was occurring. The wider understanding of the apostle's words is that those who had become partakers of the life of Christ, symbolized in the bread and the wine, were living in an ungodly manner. Consequently, many were sick and some had even died.

Reading the same epistle to the Corinthian church we find that there were a number who were forni-

cating, and even having sex with temple prostitutes. Without a doubt, some of these Christians were sick, and some had died. Sin has consequences, though many people very often do not make any connection to their sin and the consequences in their body.

How many Christians today, upon receiving a diagnosis of sickness in their body would begin rebuking the devil, praying for healing, or standing upon some Scriptural verse to claim their healing? Few take the time to discern the reason for the sickness. Oftentimes, sickness is the result of past, or present, sin.

James 5:14-16

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and ***if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.***

There is a great amount of sickness among the body of Christ today. There is also much sin in the body that has not been repented of, nor confessed. Knowing that those in the church have practiced fornication and adultery to practically the same degree as those outside, it should be no surprise that much of the sickness among Christians is the result of rampant sexual transgression. How many are experiencing sickness in their bodies while not understanding its link to sins in their life?

There is a great amount of sickness among the body of Christ today.

Let me say here that not all sickness is the result of sin. Christ declared that sickness was caused by many reasons. At times an individual has sinned leading to sickness. At other times their parents have

The Marriage Covenant

sinned. Sometimes a sickness is due to demonic oppression. At other times a person is sick that the glory of God might be revealed in their healing. There are many causes of sickness. Without question, one of the leading causes of all types of illness and disease is sin.

This is one reason why it is so important that Christians abstain from sin, and if they have sinned, that they repent of the sin and seek Yahweh's forgiveness. Yahweh has caused there to be consequences of sin in the lives of people.

We have only been looking at one aspect of these consequences thus far. There are many other dire consequences of violating Yahweh's commands to abstain for fornication and adultery. There are negative mental consequences that occur in the lives of those who are sexually promiscuous.

The blood stream serves as a source for transmitting sexual disease, and the previous post in this series revealed that "the soul is in the blood." Each STD stands as a parable of something evil, impure, and unclean in the soul of another person that has been transmitted during the act of sexual intercourse.

There is not only a union of two bodies, but a union of two souls during sexual intercourse.

Do you think that only physical things are passed between two people who are sexually intimate? Far from it. There are many soulish things that are passed as well. Everything that is in one person's blood is given access to the body of the other person through sexual contact. Because "the soul is in the blood," there is not only a union of two bodies, but a union of two souls during sexual intercourse.

The body is designed to be a temple. The temple of all men and women are filled with many things, some clean, and some unclean. One cannot enter a polluted temple and worship there without coming away with the stain of the pollution. When men and women enter into sexual union, joining two temples together, it is in an act of intimate worship. There are things transferred both physically and via the souls of the

two who are joined.

Yahweh never intended sexual intercourse to be an open and communal activity. From the beginning, sexual union was to be only within the context of marriage. When sex is kept inside of marriage the entryway for sexually transmitted diseases is shut. The temple remains pure. Both the body and the soul of the man and woman are isolated from the many unclean and injurious influences found in the bodies of those who are acting promiscuously.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

People of God, the judgment of God begins in this lifetime, not in the next. Many are even now suffering the effects of God's judgment because they treated as unholy that which Yahweh declared to be holy.

Beyond the physical damage to the body wrought by unbridled sexual lust, there are other detrimental effects. Many men and women who have been sexually promiscuous prior to marriage find that they have difficulty being intimate with their spouse. A husband may find that he lacks a strong attachment to the soul of a wife who has given herself to other men. Likewise, a man that has engaged in fornication will often find it difficult to enter into a full union of soul with his wife, leaving her dissatisfied with the lack of intimacy between them. The souls of those who are sexually promiscuous become divided and dispersed even as water is poured out in the streets.

Proverbs 5:15-18

Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well. Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be yours alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.

For those who care to pursue the matter, there are

Parables Bookshelf

spiritual parables that can be gleaned from a study of sexually transmitted diseases. The effects of the various viruses and bacteria upon the body would prove insightful as one looks at the same consequences of unfaithfulness upon the body of Christ, or even the body of the individual.

For example, some STDs cause men to become impotent and women to become sterile. The fruitfulness of the man and woman's life is therefore diminished. This is true spiritually as well as physically.

In all STDs there is the risk of the person infected passing along something harmful to others with whom they are intimate. This too is a spiritual parable. If we do not guard our lives, and walk in righteousness, the impurity in our life will affect all others with whom we communicate and interact.

It was mentioned that some STDs lead to debilitating effects such as arthritis. This renders the body immobile. So too does the body of Christ, and the individual, become hindered in their "walk with Christ" when they have pursued a course of sensuality and sin.

These are but a few obvious examples of parables to be found in a study of the consequences of sexual promiscuity. Undoubtedly those with understanding of the biological and anatomical processes involved would be able to glean even more detailed spiritual insights. Yahweh has designed the physical creation to show forth spiritual truth.

We have not yet touched on the root of this matter. Why does Yahweh not desire for men and women to be promiscuous? Certainly, it is to spare them the negative consequences spoken of here. However, there is a deeper issue at the heart of all. Yahweh caused there to be consequences for sexual infidelity because it is a transgression of His own character and nature. The true reasons that Yahweh does not desire for men and women to commit fornication and adultery are spiritual in nature.

Heart4God/Parables



Bringing hidden things to light...

Parables Bookshelf

P.O. Box 804

Montezuma, GA 31063

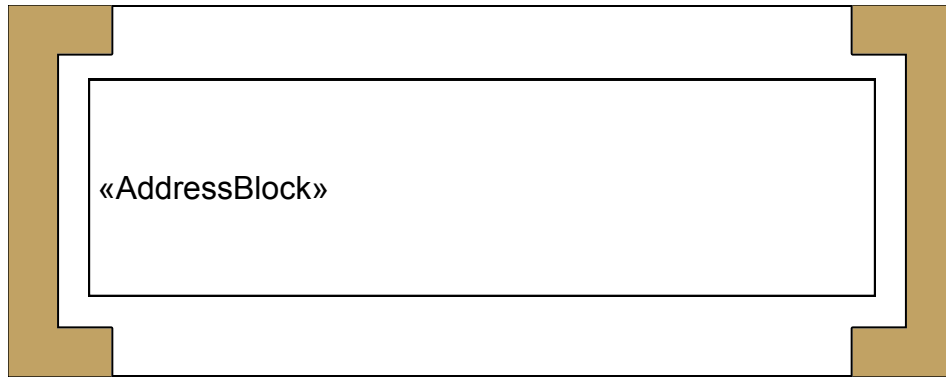
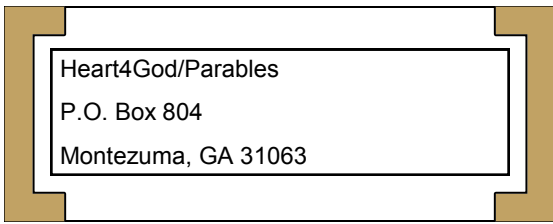
Websites:

Parables

www.heart4god.ws

Parables Blog

www.parablesblog.blogspot.com



Parables Bookshelf — Series 1.11.3

PARABLES PRECEPT— What's in a Name?



There are three men in the Bible of whom it is recorded that God changed their names. The first is Abraham, then his grandson Jacob, and in the New Testament there is Peter.

Abraham's name was originally Abram. The name Abram means "Exalted Father." Many Christians today are familiar with the Aramaic word Abba, which means father. This word for father is seen in the "Ab" portion of Abram's name.

When Abram was 99 years old, and had not yet had a son with his wife Sarai, Yahweh appeared to him and told him the following.

Genesis 17:5

"No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations."

Abraham was not just to be an exalted father, but the father of a multitude of peoples and nations.

Many Christians today think of Abraham only as the forefather of the Israelites. Abraham also had a son by Hagar the Egyptian. This son, Ishmael, became the father of twelve sons who became twelve nations of people, and are often associated with some of the Arab

nations today.

After Sarah died, Abraham married another wife named Keturah. She bore Abraham other sons who also became nations.

Genesis 25:2-4

And she bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. And Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. And the sons of Midian were Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah.

Abraham was the father of many nations in a natural sense. He is also the father of a great many spiritual nations of people. These are the ones who share the faith of Abraham.