

# Welcome

Community Christian Fellowship  
1702 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline, IL

Phone: 309-762-2027

Website: [www.ccfmoline.com](http://www.ccfmoline.com)

Schedule... We pray together in the East Lounge at 10 AM. No Sunday School classes till September. Join us in the Main Auditorium for a combined time of preaching, Praise and Worship starting at 10:30 AM.

To Our Guests... We are glad you have joined us. If you are visiting today, please sit back and enjoy worshipping the Lord with us. If you would like to know more about our church, please fill out an RSVP form & drop it in the offering box in the back of the auditorium.

Parents... Childcare is provided at 10:30 AM. Thanks for Coming... If you wish to financially share with us in the work of God's Kingdom, there is an offering box on the center pillar in the rear of the auditorium in which you may place your gifts. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Please come again!

## More Information



in October...

\*Music Fund Raiser - 10/6

\*Women's Event W/Marie - 10/21

\*Thanksgiving & Pastor

Appreciation Sunday, October 29

\*Packing Week - November 7 - 11

## August 27, 2023

So he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.

Luke 16:15

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## Information

**Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting**  
Prayer Meeting every Sunday morning from 10 to 10:20 AM. Please join us in the East Lounge to pray together for CCF.

**Tuesday Morning Small Group**  
Tuesday Morning Small Group meets at CCF at 10 AM. September through April. Talk to Dan Cooper if you have any questions.

**Women's Circle**  
Women's Circle arranges to bring meals, babysit, run errands, etc. during times of births, illness or bereavement. If you know of anyone at CCF with such a need, please call Anita

**Prayer Chain**  
If you would like the church to pray for your prayer request, email Mary Ann at mathanavan@gmail.com. If she can't be reached, email antaccctmoline@gmail.com

**Health for Life Team**  
If you have any questions or concerns, just call Margaret Cooper at 563-285-6190

Our Elders, Steve & Ron are available if you would like to talk with them regarding any questions or concerns you may have or if you would like counsel. Steve: 563-340-8284, Ron: 309-592-3000

## Announcements

**Today**  
"The Standard  
of God"

Luke 16:14 - 18

Ron Hanavan

**Pizza Ranch**  
Fund Raiser

Results!!!

\$842,72 Raised!

Thanks so much to all who served and to all who ate! It was a very fun & successful night.

September 4 - Labor Day

September 10 - Sunday School

Kick Off

September 11 - Prayer Meeting

September 17 - Outside Worship

& Picnic

## Announcements

Shoe Box Ministry Up Date...

MUSIC NIGHT FUND RAISER

**Friday, October 6**  
7:00 to 9:00 pm



Here at CCF. More details to come

School supplies needed for shoeboxes : pencils, CRAYONS, pencil sharpeners, lined filler notebook paper.

Shoe box packing November 7-11

Thank you to everyone for all the support & prayers for this ministry. So far, from fundraisers and donations, we have already collected \$5,042.72



*The Standard of God – Luke 16:14-18* August 27, 2023

**Luke 16:14–18** Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. <sup>15</sup>And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. <sup>16</sup>“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. <sup>17</sup>“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail. <sup>18</sup>“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

*Vs 14* Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. What we have revealed here is the heart of hearts of the Pharisees, the religious leaders and influencers of the day. The affection of their hearts was fixed upon wealth. They loved money, not God.

What a sad commentary regarding one’s value system. To love money is both a foolish and vain pursuit. Foolish, because it doesn’t deliver – it does not buy happiness and it is a faulty fortress of security against all the unforeseen twists of life. Paul states, **1 Timothy 6:9–10** *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.* This is not to be understood in reference to working hard and improving one’s standard of living. For we are to be responsible to work to provide for ours and the needs of our households. To fail in this charge is to be held in reproach. (**1 Tim. 5:8**) But break-neck chasing after that illusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow destroys one’s soul. It wrecks one’s life for it exchanges virtue for fleeting, personal consumption.

Paul follows up this warning with those famous words, *Vs 10* *For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.* If you were to take an honest pole you would probably find that money is more a source of grief than it is a comfort. The lust for wealth is vain for as Solomon states, **Proverbs 23:4–5** *Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. <sup>5</sup>When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.* Anyone who lives and dies by the stock market will quickly tell you that the attainment of wealth is more elusive than attainable.

The Pharisees have no tolerance for sound wisdom regarding the dangers of money, especially coming from a poor rabbi whose followers were poor and lowly. To them, Jesus didn’t have a clue as to what was important. Their reaction toward Jesus was a sneering, ridicule and scorn.

Jesus proceeds to dismantle their value system along with their hypocrisy. *Vs 15* *And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.* The Pharisees built their reputation upon the ostentation (flashy showiness) of their wealth. Their lives were constructed upon symbolism rather than substance. They had convinced themselves and attempted to convince others that because they had money, because they appeared to be blessed in their state of abundance, they subsequently possessed a religious righteousness. Jesus blows this supposition out of the water. He clearly states that they were not in line with God for they idolized their standard of living more than adhering to the worship of a holy God.



He informs them that there exists 2 value systems – one of man and one of God and they are not compatible. *for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.* This is a truth which we must firmly embrace and allow to mentor us through life. God's standard concerns the purity of one's heart and not the superficialities of image. What the Pharisees and for that matter what any one of us holds dear to our hearts which isn't consistent with Kingdom of God values is categorically detestable before the Judge of all the earth. There is only 1 object worthy of our supreme reverence, adoration and affection and that is God, Himself. If we attempt to enthrone anything else in our hearts but Him, no matter what it is; money, education, reputation, family, spouse, anything, it amounts to idolatry and is found detestable in God's eyes. God designed and knows our souls, and He wants to occupy the place of 1<sup>st</sup> affection in our hearts. It is that which is best for us and foremost in the promotion of His glory.

Next comes a difficult verse to understand. *Vs 16 The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.* This notion of forcing one's way into the Kingdom of God is understood by some to mean that, in a good sense, there are those passionate about the Kingdom and subsequently were leaning hard, or forcefully pressing in to enter. They were giving their all to be on God's side. The problem with this point of view is the generally understood nature of the wording "to force". It suggests violence as a negative and adverse quality. Therefore, entrance into the Kingdom of God is accomplished by strong arming one's way into heaven.

The understanding of this verse, which perhaps more reasonably fits the context, is the notion that there exists violent opposition to the gospel and because of such, an alternate kingdom is being forcefully espoused as a replacement to what Christ was offering. That alternate kingdom was a kingdom of works, a kingdom privileged by wealth and a kingdom founded upon one's inflated, rank, superficial, self-justification.

Jesus sets the record straight by saying, *Vs 17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.* As the Law of God is true, immutable (unchangeable) and inviolable (unbreakable), man's forcefulness will fail to prevail upon God's design or His word. God has set the standard of righteousness and it would be easier to see all Creation to vanish than for God or His Law or His Gospel to be altered. It remains that entrance into God's Kingdom has been and continues to be based on faith in God and repentance of sin. This same message is found in both the Old and New Testaments, Though the wording of such precepts may be different under the Law vs. under grace.

Next comes the Lord Jesus' straightforward teaching regarding divorce and remarriage. Let me begin by stating, that I am fully aware that these subjects regarding divorce and remarriage touch us deeply in our lives and accordingly, clear, realistic and even sensitive thinking must be exercised to not only comprehend the Lord's words but to abide by His words as well. *Vs 18 Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.*

The 1<sup>st</sup> question to ask is what exactly did the Lord Jesus state? The 2<sup>nd</sup> question to ask is are we going to submit to His authority? The 3<sup>rd</sup> question to ask is are we going to construct our own position, differing from His? The probability is that a majority of us here today have either been divorced or married someone who has been divorced. And that probability is even greater with respect to those of us have been affected by divorce in our family heritage.



Now I want you to stay with me all the way to the end of this discourse for I have both negative and positive things to say. Firstly, how does the Lord look upon marriage? He regards it as He designed it to be – a holy, indissoluble covenant of love and faithfulness. *Matthew 19:4–6 ... “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,<sup>5</sup> and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?*<sup>6</sup> *“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”*

Anyone who has attended a few weddings has heard this truth. What is significant to realize is that marriage is the design of God’s genius and is constructed so as to last until the severance of the death of one of the spouses. It is a for-keeps proposition. This is why couples are warned not to enter into marriage in a casual or cavalier spirit. Marriage is created by God and those who are married are accountable to God to abide by His design, they are not at liberty to create their own personal construct of marriage. God knew what He was doing when He designed marriage and He will hold those responsible who violate His way.

Secondly, how does the Lord look upon divorce? Not favorably, to say the least. *Malachi 2:16 “For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”* God hates divorce for the violence which it does to marriage and the marriage partners. He counts it as treachery – destructive violation of trust, treason to the covenant of love. But does God hate all divorce – no, not in a categorical sense, for He compassionately allows for it, albeit under stringent strictures.

This brings us back to our text. *Vs 18 Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.* Let us couple this with *Matthew 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.* Now at this point our beliefs are tested – do we believe the Lord Jesus. And more emphatically, do we obey the Lord Jesus. The Lord is stating that there is a justifiable reason for divorce – that is, for the reason of unchastity, or sexual unfaithfulness. If one’s partner violates the marital covenant by having sexual relations with another, then the offended party is rightfully permitted to end the marriage due to such betrayal.

I must insert here that it is not required that the offended party divorce the offender. There is a strong case to be made for mercy, forgiveness, and restoration of the marriage. Many a couple have taken this course and saved their marriage. I would urge anyone considering a rightful divorce to think long and hard regarding mercy and forgiveness before going forward with divorce, it just may be the better of two options.

Returning to the Lord Jesus’ words; He counts only 1 reason for divorce and that is unchastity, sexual unfaithfulness. Paul adds to this discourse a verse that appears to add another category that may allow for divorce but it is not altogether clear. I cautiously include this verse as means of full disclosure. *1 Corinthians 7:15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.* This notion of averting bondage is easily covered by separation, which is my stance, but some see this as permission to remarry on the basis of abandonment. I find this verse weak to stand on its own regarding remarriage.



Based on the Lord's words, divorce is not allowed under any other circumstances than unchastity, not for any incompatibility, whether it be verbal abuse, sexual abstinence, monetary mishandling, disagreement over child rearing, in-law relations, world-view differences, even physical abuse. The list is endless. Now perhaps you jumped at that physical abuse category. Let me be clear on this. Physical abuse is intolerable as may be any other category. I am not promoting "staying in" a dangerous marriage. I am simply stating that any grounds for divorce other than sexual infidelity are impermissible.

So what is a woman to do if she is being beaten or what is either partner to do when any abuse comes unbearable? Paul answers this. *1 Corinthians 7:10-11 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband<sup>11</sup> (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.* In this situation it is urgent that the abused party (and probably the kids) move out, but the requirement of them is that they do not remarry. They are to remain married, albeit, estranged and separated until their marriage is restored or dissolved by the sexual involvement of the party whom they left.

It is imperative to note that the Lord Jesus states that to remarry outside of these restrictions is to commit adultery as well as to cause another who would marry one who is unbiblically divorced to commit adultery as well. For in the Lord's eye, unless a spouse is legitimately released from a spouse, to marry them (and by implication enter into a sexual relationship) is to enter into adultery.

At this point, let's ask the question – what am I to do if I have wrongfully divorced my spouse and married another? Or what am I to do if I have married one who is unbiblically divorced from their spouse? Here is the good news – there is grace. There is grace to be restored in right standing with the Lord. Yet one must recognize that they have violated the word of God and sinned. The recourse to this is to confess this as sin and to go forward and sin no more in this fashion as you trust and cling to the Lord's forgiveness. The great verses of comfort for you are: *Romans 8:1-2 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

#### SUMMARY

The word of the Lord is immutable (unchangeable) and inviolable (unbreakable).

As His creatures we are bound to keep it.

Marriage is the product of God's genius and when adhered to as He dictates, there is love, peace and joy.

To divorce for any reason other than unchastity or to marry another who is not properly divorced according to scripture is adultery.

If one finds themselves married outside of the Lord's words, their recourse is to confess this as sin, sin no more in this fashion and claim the freedom of forgiveness found under God's grace.