



Not Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

July 11, 2021 Message Notes
HOSEA 13:14; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

What do you do when you find yourself in a relationship with someone whose choices, behavior and life are a dead end, yet you care deeply for them? This is the hellish place where we find God in the book of Hosea. Every couple has troubles, hardships, obstacles and conflicts. Counselors say deeper intimacy waits just the other side of conflict, but we have to learn how to get there.

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NOTES

"Hell is other people." – Jean Paul Sartre

Betrayal, abuse of trust, disrespect and disloyalty in a relationship can be reasons to find a new relationship or get out of the hellish one.

"The first place to look for Christ is in hell."

Trains, Jesus and Murder: The Gospel According to Johnny Cash

What do you do when you find yourself in a relationship with someone whose choices, behavior and life are a dead end, yet you care deeply for them?

This is the hellish place where we find God in the book of Hosea.

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt...I cared for you in the desert...I fed them..."

HOSEA 13:4-6

Every couple has troubles, hardships, obstacles and conflicts. Counselors say deeper intimacy waits just the other side of conflict, but we have to learn how to get there.

"Find a good spouse, you find a good life – even more: the favor of God."

PROVERBS 18:22, The Message

Harvard Medical School: Health Advantages of Marriage (2016)

- Live longer
- Fewer heart attacks and strokes
- Lower chance of depression
- Survive major operations
- Less likely to have advanced cancer at time of diagnosis and longer post-cancer survival

"Those who rated their marriage as 'very happy' or 'pretty happy' had 20% lower odds of dying early than people who said their marriages were 'not too happy'." – Time Magazine report (2018) from Health Psychology

Barna (October 2020) - 95% of American working couples believe they can:

- maintain their individual careers
- come together to raise a healthy family
- all while staying in love



God tries over and over to turn Israel's heart back to Him, but they refuse to respond.

"Now they sin more and more; they make idols for themselves...they offer human sacrifice..."
HOSEA 13:2

"Pains, as of a woman in childbirth, come to him..."
HOSEA 13:13

God is torn again between justice against the sin and his desire to not give Israel up.

"You are destroyed, O Israel, because you are against me, against your helper."
HOSEA 13:9

"The guilt of Ephraim is stored up, his sins are kept on record."
HOSEA 13:12

"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for things done while in the body, whether good or bad."
2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

"...each person was judged according to what they had done."
REVELATION 20:13

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?"
HOSEA 13:14

The Apostle Paul shows us what Christ rising from the dead means for us.

"For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."
1 CORINTHIANS 15:53

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."
1 CORINTHIANS 15:54

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
1 CORINTHIANS 15:55

God's grace is deeper and bigger than a nation's history, a culture's rebellion and sin, and greater than the grave.

God in Christ has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. Trusting in Christ delivers us from death, and frees us from the threat of eternal destruction.



“Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

God doesn't judge the way humans do. God is pure and absolutely true. His holy light exposes every sin and shadow.

“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

JOHN 3:19

God loves you. He calls again and again. He uses his Word, the Bible. But sometimes we don't listen, so He's been known to speak through pain.

The same stubbornness that hurts in our families, the same pride that hurts our marriages, causes us to turn to our own way and go astray from God.

If you hear God calling you, don't harden your heart. Don't think, there's always tomorrow.

Not breaking up is hard to do. God didn't want to break up with his people, Israel, and He doesn't want to break up with you.

When you find yourself saying in a relationship, your marriage, or your family – looks like it's over and done – could God be saying, not yet?

Is it time for some self-assessment? Have you let God save you?

Is it time for a fresh cleansing from sin and filling with a new hope in life?

