

“Do I Stay or Do I Go; Biblical Reasons to Love Them or Leave Them.”

When God wants to bless you he uses people and when the devil wants to destroy you he also does same.

When Victory was young, our founding Pastors had a phrase they would use regularly when people would be at odds with one another. They would say “strife goes or the person goes.”

I used to think it was harsh and uncaring, but, I grew up to realize that it was biblical.

James 3:16 (KJV) *For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

Biblical reasons to love them or leave them

1. Ascertain the purpose of the relationship

The purpose of marriage was defined in the beginning in Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:24

- To be in His image and likeness, to have dominion on the earth, and to be fruitful and multiply.
- If you don't understand your purpose, storms can derail you and make you leave or mishandle / abuse your access to the person or the relationship.

When God puts two people together (for marriage), He does it with the intention of using them to advance His Kingdom on the earth and to be an example of Christ and the church (Eph.5:22-33).

Ruth ~ Naomi vs. Orpha ~ Naomi

The difference between the two was purpose in the future. Both were daughter-in-laws. Both lost their husbands. Ruth's future purpose was connected to Naomi; Orpha's was not.

Ruth 1 (NLT) *1 In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. 2 The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there. 3 Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. 4 The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, 5 both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.*

Naomi and Ruth Return

6 Then Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. 7 With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah. 8 But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. 9 May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept. 10 “No,” they said. “We want to go with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi replied, “Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? 12 No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry

again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? 13 Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me.” 14 And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. 15 “Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.” 16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17 Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!” 18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

2. Behavior Modification

Is the relationship drawing you closer to Christ and to your core values or is it changing you / corrupting you?

1 Corinthians 15:33 (KJV) *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

Proverbs 22:24-25 (KJV) *Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.*

2 Timothy 2:16-17 (KJV) *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

Romans 16:17-18 (KJV) *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple*

Proverbs 13:20 (KJV) *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

3. They are deliberately sabotaging your God-given assignment

Nehemiah 4

Sanballat and Tobiah undermining Nehemiah building the wall of Jerusalem

- They threatened them, caused strife and division
- Attacked them with physical truth that was contrary to God’s truth - told them they were too feeble to work.
- They prayed some dangerous prayers (kill them, don’t hide them from their iniquity...) - God gave them a mind to work
- Nehemiah beat the odds, built the wall with his army praying, defending and building in 52 days.