



## Lesson 9 – “So Long as We Both Shall Love”

### Satan’s Attacks on Family

Satan hates God’s gifts, and the more wonderful a gift is the harder Satan will try to destroy it. Of all God’s gifts, few are as beautiful and as precious as marriage and the family. In this lesson we will be focusing specifically on the “fiery darts” that come from the wrong way of thinking of the world around us.

#### The Fiery Dart of Hook-Up Culture

The sexual revolution told people sexual pleasure could be unhinged from marriage. Satan promised freedom and pleasure (2 Pet 2:18-20), but Satan is a liar. God’s Word warns that immorality is foolish and costly (Prov 7:25-27) and will be judged by God (Heb 13:4).

#### The Fiery Dart of Cohabitation

Cohabitation is the fancy term for living together before marriage. What used to be shameful is now considered, not only acceptable, but *wise*. But once again, God’s Word is very clear on the subject. Hebrews 13:4 states that marriage is honorable, but whoremongers and adulterers He will judge.

#### The Fiery Dart of Divorce

People’s thinking on divorce has likewise shifted dramatically in the past generation. What was once viewed as a tragedy came to be viewed as neutral, and now is viewed as mandatory if someone is



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People’s thinking on divorce has likewise shifted dramatically in the past generation. What was once viewed as a tragedy came to be viewed as neutral, and now is viewed as mandatory if someone is

unhappy. In fact, some weddings have begun replacing “As long as we both shall live...” to “As long as we both shall love...” Jesus’s position on divorce is laid out in Matthew 19:1-12 and Mark 10:1-12. While the Pharisees were debating finer points about when it was and was not okay to get a divorce, Jesus went back to creation and argued it was never God’s plan to break up a marriage.

### **The Fiery Dart of Childlessness**

We live in a culture where children are viewed as a burden and an impediment on someone’s lifestyle. God could not be any more explicit: children are a very good thing. God’s first command is to “Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish [fill] the earth” (Genesis 1:28). And He views children as a gift and a blessing (Psalm 127:3-5).

### **The Fiery Dart of Polyamory**

The latest step in the ever-spiraling deterioration of our culture is something that has been called “polyamory.” Today’s culture openly advocates for relationships with multiple people under the guise of “polyamory” or “open relationships.” This is a question that is beginning to be asked by courts and will soon be an issue that Christians need to be ready to have an answer for.

### **The Fiery Dart of Homosexual “Marriage”**

Finally, we have the perversion of marriage that says men can marry men and women can marry women. The Bible clearly condemns homosexuality as a sin, as we will look at more closely in our next lesson. The world today has come to believe that gay marriage not only needs to be accepted, but celebrated. For Christians to take a stand for what the Bible says is going to require greater and greater levels of courage and wisdom, but we must be ready to take such a stand for God.

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