

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

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## Husbands & Wives

*About half of all marriages now end in divorce. Why? What can we do to help keep our marriages healthy?*

By Gregory Dullum

Last month, my wife, Marie, and I celebrated 35 years of marriage. To some, that may seem like a long time. But compared to other couples in our church congregation, it hasn't been so long. This summer we celebrated the anniversaries of couples who have been married for 50, 60 and 65 years. In today's world, THAT is an *accomplishment!*

In honor of these long-lasting marriages, I want to share with you a radio script I wrote *before* Marie and I were married. It was a student-produced half-hour radio program on the Ambassador College radio station, KBAC, in about 1977.

The principles discussed in this radio production hold true today! I have edited the script slightly to make it more readable and to fit in this space. Throughout the script there are conversations between an imaginary married couple, Jeff and Jan.

**Jan:** I knew something was wrong when we'd try to have conversations. We just didn't have anything important to say to each other anymore; and we quickly got to the point where we didn't have anything at all to say to each other. I knew I wasn't happy being around him, but it hurt me more when I realized that he was keeping busy with other things to stay away from me.

**Jeff:** I couldn't tell you the number of trivial arguments we had that would have been solved if I'd had the chance to say, "I feel this way." But she wouldn't ever listen. It was like a personal affront to her, and I never meant it to be that way! It's just that there were so many times when I needed to express my real feelings to her, and get things off my chest. I thought it was the only way I could keep my head together! I wanted to say, "I feel depressed, I feel alone, I need to talk," but I never did.



photo by Sheldon Oien

Greg and Marie Dullum on their wedding day, Oct. 12, 1978.

**Music (Neil Diamond's "Husband and Wives"):**

*Two broken hearts, lonely, looking like houses*

*Where nobody lives*

*Two people each having so much pride inside*

*Neither side forgives*

*Angry words spoken in haste, such a waste of two lives*

*It's my belief pride is the chief cause in the decline in the number of husbands and wives...*

**Narrator:** Marriage is an old institution. It existed before the fig leaf became fashionable dress. It existed long before log walls and concrete caverns. Yet, in today's world of polyester suits and pantyhose, shiny steel skyscrapers and Arab-oil eating autos, something is happening to the institution of marriage. The seams are ripping....

The Family Service Association of America says, "Family breakdown is fast reaching epidemic proportions and now ranks as America's No. 1 social prob-

lem."...

What's causing the rip? What is the pressure that's crumbling the walls of this old, revered institution? Sociologists find that there is not one cause, but many.

**Voice 1:** One of the problems which weaken the marriage structure is that of money—or the lack of it. For instance, it was found that in 90 out of 100 divorce cases, the couple is so deep in debt, it would be a major excavation to dig them out.

**Voice 2:** Teenage marriages have played a major role in creating divorce statistics. Statistics show that divorce occurs six times more often in couples who marry under age 21 than those who marry over 21....

**Narrator:** The Institute of Family Relations in Los Angeles lists sexual maladjustment as the leading cause of marital discord. One study of 500 consecutive unsuccessful marriages found all but one placed the blame on sex.

**Voice 1:** Another reason is frustrated wives. An internationally conducted UNESCO poll revealed that 60 percent of American and European married women feel deceived, frustrated, unhappy and dissatisfied—mainly, they believe—because no one really understands them!

**Voice 2:** Dr. Lieberman was asked what marriage crises generally center on—money or sex. His response was this:

**Voice 3:** Or in-laws. Those three things are usually cited, and I don't know of any research that would tell us, or give us a weighting that we could be sure of. But in my own practice, I would put sex and intimacy generally—that is, COMMUNICATION—*first*. Problems involving relatives or family members and money would probably

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run close behind.

**Narrator:** We asked pastoral counselor Steve Martin how important communication was in marriage.

**Steve Martin:** I think that's probably the *most important* facet of a good marriage—communication. Communication is two people *talking* and *being together*. And that's what marriage is all about. If you have no communication, you have no relationship. A relationship is communication. It's probably the most important facet of a marriage, and interestingly enough, it is often the most violated facet of marriage; the most obvious reason for failure in marriage.

**Jan:** I know that the fact that we can't discuss our problems is hurting our marriage. But how can I discuss anything when he's not willing to listen?

**Jeff:** She doesn't think I pay much attention to her, but I do to a certain point. It's just that her views always seem so one-sided, and she's rarely ever open to constructive criticism.

**Jan:** Maybe I need to give him more time to say what's on his mind. If I could just be sure that he's listening to me when I talk! If I could go to him when I get down and be able to talk things out with him I know we'd both appreciate each other a lot more!

**Jeff:** It's not that I haven't wanted to talk to her, it's just that I've never felt comfortable in a situation where I have to do ALL the listening. I suppose I've been wrong in that area, but I think the more give-and-take we have in our discussions, the better off we'll be.

**Jan:** I want to be able to go to him when I'm angry or sad or confused, just as readily as when I have something good to tell him, and I want him to be just as understanding and compassionate.

**Jeff:** If we could discuss each other's shortcomings without our defenses getting in the way, then we'd have a great marriage. I know that it's going to take time, but I want to be able to get to this point.

**Narrator:** A breakdown in communication is a flashing red light. It is a warning bell that the marriage is about to crash on the rocks. This breakdown can be for any number of reasons. It could be that they just don't have anything to say anymore; they're not happy together anymore. Or both begin to live separate lives, and do not involve the other in their lives.

Take the couple we just heard from. She is complaining that her husband doesn't listen to her. Perhaps he is so

busy thinking about his work; the contracts he must sign, the reports due, the meetings he must schedule; or his hobbies—his bowling score has not been what it should, and that night is the cross-town competitor's game. Perhaps he must file his flight plan to San Diego, and the weatherman predicts heavy fog along the coast. All these thoughts could be running through his mind, crowding out what his wife is saying.

He's a very busy man. So busy, that he has scheduled a few minutes a day just for listening to his wife—and then she has the gall to claim he never listens to her! Of course he listens to her problems, and he *solves* them for her—except she *never* accepts *his* solutions. Then she complains of him never listening.

Let's look in on this couple as they interact after he returns from a long day's work.

**Jeff:** (off mic) Honey, I'm home!

**Jan:** It's about time. What took you so long?

**Jeff:** What do you mean? I'm no later than usual. (Pause) I guess I could have been home a little sooner, but I had to talk with McElroy before I left, and I didn't catch him until quarter to four. Hey, he and Nancy are going to Squaw Valley this weekend. Remember when you and I went up there last year? Boy, that was fun. What's for dinner?

**Jan:** Jeff, I have something to tell you.

**Jeff:** Can it wait until after dinner? I'm really hungry. I didn't get a chance for lunch today. Bill came in and we talked all hour about our flight to San Diego tomorrow night. Is dinner ready? I'm starved.

**Jan:** (angrily) Yes, it's ready. It's been ready for the last half hour.

**Jeff:** What are you upset about? I told you why I was late.

**Jan:** Forget it. It's nothing.

**Jeff:** Good. Let's eat.

**Sound:** (dishes, silverware on plates throughout conversation)

**Jeff:** The steak is a little dry.

**Jan:** (silence)

**Jeff:** What's the matter with you? All I said was the steak is a little dry. That's all. I'm not attacking you personally. I notice you're not exactly devouring it yourself.

**Jan:** (silence)

**Sound:** (set silverware down on plate)

**Jeff:** All right. What's eating you?

**Jan:** (quietly) Nothing.

**Jeff:** What do you mean, nothing? I can tell something's bugging you. Now what is it?

**Jan:** (quietly) Nothing.

**Jeff:** Look, Hon., I said I was sorry for coming home late. Now let's leave it at

that. Is that's what bothering you?

**Jan:** (silence)

**Jeff:** Well, is it?

**Jan:** No.

**Jeff:** Well, what is it?

**Jan:** Well, why should I tell you? You never listen to me.

**Jeff:** I never listen? You *never* talk! I've been listening the whole time! But all you ever say is "Nothing." "Nothing." You *never* have anything to say! So why should I listen?

**Jan:** You *never* listen!

**Jeff:** Okay, I'm listening. Right now, I'm listening. Talk.

**Jan:** I tried to tell you before dinner, but you wouldn't listen...

**Jeff:** Well, if you had just come home from...

**Jan:** See! You're NOT listening!

**Jeff:** Go ahead.

**Jan:** I tried to tell you. I'm not feeling well. I hurt right here, in my side. I'm not sure what it is.

**Jeff:** What did you have for lunch? It might be something you ate. Did you check with the doctor? You better call him tomorrow if it keeps up.

**Jan:** I wasn't asking for advice, Jeff. I just wanted you to listen to me. Why can't you just listen to me? I'm afraid to talk to you, because you *always* have to give your advice. You can't just *listen* to me. Why do I have to go to Martin or Helen if I want someone to listen to me? Why can't you listen?

**Narrator:** That Jan must go to people outside of her marriage to finally find a listener is sad. But too often, this is the case. If only they would follow the advice of this following bit of prose, titled, "To Husband and Wife."

**Voice 1:** Preserve sacredly the privacies of your own house, your married state and your heart. Let no one ever presume

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to come between you or share the joys or sorrows that belong to you two alone. With mutual help, build your quiet world, not allowing your dearest earthly friend to be the confidant of aught that concerns your domestic peace. Let moments of alienation, if they occur, be healed at once. Never, never speak of it outside: but to each other confess, and all will come out right. Never let tomorrow's sun still find you at variance. Renew and renew your vow. It will do you good: and thereby your minds will grow together contented in that love which is stronger than death. And you will be truly one.

**Narrator:** It's true that there needs to be more conversation between the husband and the wife—alone. One study found that the average couple, after a year of marriage, spends about 37 minutes a week in exclusive conversation with each other. That's a very low figure. And yet, it's believable.

**Voice 3:** And it's important to note that all communication does not have to be deep and intense. Some of it ought to be, of course. But there is a place for amiable chat too. However, if it's an amiable chat, and one party is dissatisfied, then that dissatisfied party has to be able to go beyond and say, "I'm feeling this way," and get into it.

**Voice 2:** We asked Steve Martin what he thought was the major problem in marriage communication.

**Steve Martin:** It seems to be that the wife is not always totally honest about how she feels about the relationship... the spinoff from that, is that the wife, who is in subjection to her husband, holds back on total honesty, and total communication, thinking that is what is required, and over the years this type of build-up creates tension and pressure and eventually creates an explosion whereas people who are talking throughout their marriage, and working out the little problems so they don't become a huge mass explosion, have a happier marriage."

**Voice 2:** Mr. Martin said that in his counseling the most common problem is that the wife does not express her true feelings to her husband. We asked if the man ever feels the same way.

**Steve Martin:** No he doesn't. In fact, the husband is often totally shocked when he realizes the true feelings of the wife. It shocks him that the wife has not been honest with him all these years. That her deep, innermost feelings have not been exposed. Then all of a sudden, the pressure builds like the steam in a pressure cooker, unless you have that little valve on top to let it out, and it explodes everywhere, and when the husband realizes how deeply the wife has felt about certain



Photo by Bob Grove

Greg and Marie Dullum celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary Oct. 12, 2013.

issues, in my experience, the husband is shocked, and immediately tries to mediate the situation, and tries to make it better. But by that time, it's pretty serious, and takes a lot of rebuilding. Although it is very possible to do it, it's not an easy thing to do at this point.

**Narrator:** Even when two people communicate on the surface, often there is still a mystery, still unmentioned thoughts and feelings. This is expressed by the poem, "Together We Are a Mystery."

**Jan:** I swim by your side in warm, clear water.

I wait for you to appear in the doorway under the wisteria.

You say "Good morning" to me. And I know your dreams,

Your first thoughts on the fringes of sleep—

And yet you are a mystery.

**Jeff:** We talk:

Your voice and your thoughts,

And the words you use to express them are the most familiar in the world to me.

Each of us can end a sentence begun by the other. And you are—

**Jan:** And we are

**Jeff:** A mystery....

**Voice 1:** If it is one of the functions of the modern marriage to share one's hurts, worries, and dreams with another person—a large number of couples fail to find such fulfillments. Moreover, breaks in the marriage dialogue are not always a matter of preference. They often result from abortive attempts at communication; attempts frustrated by what is felt to be a mate's lack of interest or unsatisfactory response.

**Voice 2:** We saw an example of this with Jan and Jeff earlier in the show. Jan felt frustrated trying to tell Jeff what was wrong. He was giving the wrong responses. But why is communication between

men and women so hard?

**Narrator:** Part of the reason is because of different conditioning in men and women. Although this is dealing with generalities, it holds some water: Men tend to be less talkative than women. According to Anne Anastasi, girls tend to talk more, and begin talking earlier than boys. And not only that, they talk about different things. Girls are encouraged to talk about people and relationships between them. Boys, on the other hand, are encouraged to talk about mechanical and spatial things. This difference in conditioning causes problems later in life.

**Voice 3:** It is said, that when women get together, they talk about things that interest women, like men, clothes, and other women. When men get together, they talk about things that interest men, like sports, business, and women. But when men and women are together, they talk about things that don't interest either one of them.

**Narrator:** Language differs from the time of courting to marriage. This is best shown by Anne Cambell's poem titled, "Before and After Marriage."

**Jan:** We used to talk of so many things, Roses and summer and golden rings,

Music and dances and books and plays, Venice and moonlight and future days.

**Jeff:** Now our chief subjects are food and bills,

Genevieve's measles and Johnny's ills; New shoes for Betty, a hat for Jane, Taxes, insurance, the mail and rain!

**Jan:** We used to say that romance would stay.

We'd talk together a magic way!

Though we don't talk as in days of yore,

Strange is it not, that I love you more?

**Narrator:** One woman in a *McCall's* group of wives had this to say: "During our courtship, what we used to talk about all the time, was our feelings. I saw marriage as an endless investigation of the way we felt about each other, toward everything. I was really that naive. And that is what women are complaining about when they say their husbands are silent. They don't express their feelings. You know, I'm convinced he still loves me, but I can't tell you why I think it. I certainly don't hear it from him."

**Voice 1:** A lot of this boils down to the need for security in communication. One who is made anxious for any reason will not—and probably cannot—communicate as he should. You see, feelings and daydreams are very *fragile* things. And once ridiculed or punished for them, their

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# JOHN THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED

*John sleeps while Christ prays; he watches Judas betray Christ; and flees but returns to see Peter deny Christ.*

By Gregory Dullum  
Part 14

## Jesus Continues His Discourse

Jesus led John and his other disciples from the upper room, where they had celebrated Passover, into the city streets of Jerusalem, out through a gate, and to the Kidron River across from the Garden of Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives.

Under the big full moon and surrounded by plants, Jesus continued his long discourse. “I am the vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.... Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:1-2, 4-5).

Jesus told his disciples plainly that the way to love God was to keep his commandments: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love” (v. 10).

Jesus repeated his desire that they love each other as He had loved them—and that included being willing to be martyred (vv. 12-13).

The disciples were warned that the world would hate them, just as it had hated Christ. They would be put out of the synagogues and killed (vv. 18-25, 16:1-4).

Jesus then told them He was going to return to the Father, but would send the power of the holy spirit to them. It would lead them into all truth (vv. 5-15).

Jesus told his disciples about his death and resurrection but they didn’t understand his words. He told them they would be sorrowful when He “went away” but would rejoice when they saw Him again (vv. 16-24).

Jesus prophesied again that all his disciples would be scattered and would leave Him helpless in the hands of his tormentors (v. 32). He then spoke some encouraging words: “These things I have spoken to you, that you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Jesus then prayed for his disciples. He lifted up his eyes to heaven and prayed,

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify You.... I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do....

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world [the disciples]. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.... For I have given them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given Me.... Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are” (John 17:1, 4, 6, 8-9, 11).

The true followers of Jesus have been *kept through God’s name* for 2,000 years. The church Jesus was about to start with these men *had God’s name!* It was called the “CHURCH OF GOD” in the New Testament and the true church *still bears that name* TODAY (1 Cor. 1:2)! The apostles (and the true church throughout the ages) have *believed* the WORD OF GOD—the Bible—and *obeyed* it. They have *believed* that Christ was the SON OF GOD.

As Christ prayed, He was revealing things about his disciples and the church that He would build upon their foundation. The ultimate goal of this church? To make believers *one with God and Christ* (John 17:20-21)!

## At Gethsemane

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered” (John 18:1).

“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, ‘Sit here while I go and pray over there.’ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee [James and John], and he began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed” (Mat. 26:36).

John listened intently to Jesus’ words: “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

John, his brother James, and their friend, Peter, waited at that spot while Christ went a little further and prayed.

They sat down and listened to the sound of Jesus’ voice as He prayed. It was about midnight, and the disciples’ eyelids grew heavy as they listened to Christ’s low voice drone on and on. Before long, John and the other two fell asleep (vv. 37-40).

John suddenly awoke when he heard Christ loudly ask Peter, “What, could you not watch with Me one hour?” Jesus had finished his prayer, and now was standing over his three sleeping disciples. “Watch and pray,” He told them all, “lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (vv. 40-41).

John, James and Peter got on their knees and began praying. But the hour was late, their thoughts drifted, and soon they dozed off mumbling “sleepy-time prayers.”

Meanwhile, Christ was praying intensely a short way off, saying, “O My Father, if this cup [crucifixion] cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” After praying a second hour, Jesus returned to his three favorite disciples. They were sound asleep. He let them sleep while He prayed a third hour, repeating much of what He had said the first two hours (vv. 42-44).

About 3 a.m., John, James and Peter were awakened from their sleep by Christ. John heard Him say, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, he who betrays Me is at hand” (vv. 45-46).

## Judas Appears

John looked through the trees and saw the light of torches. He heard the clanging of swords. He heard the voices of a large group approaching. As they got closer, John recognized the leader of the group—it was Judas Iscariot! Behind him was a great multitude of chief priests and elders of the people, carrying swords and clubs (Mat. 26:47).

Jesus went forth and approached the group. “Whom are you seeking?” He asked.

“Jesus of Nazareth” came the reply.

“I am,” Jesus replied (John 18:4-5).

The word “He” in the King James is in italics, indicating it was not in the original text. Christ saying “I am” had double meaning. It indicated that He was the one

for whom they were looking. It also was the name of the Old Testament God—I AM (Ex. 3:14). At the sound of God's name—I AM, the Jewish leaders "drew back and fell to the ground" (v. 6).

Jesus asked them again whom they were seeking. "Jesus of Nazareth" they replied again. Jesus then said, "I have told you that I am. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way" (vv. 7-8).

Although Jesus had identified Himself, the chief priests and elders wanted to be sure they were arresting the right man. Judas had promised to positively identify Jesus with a kiss.

John watched as Judas sprang forth from the group, went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him on the cheek (Mat. 26:49). At that instant, Christ asked him, "Judas, are you betraying Me with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48).

Judas backed away, staring at Christ. Jesus asked Him, "Friend, Why have you come?" Then the Jewish leaders came and laid hands on Jesus (Mat. 26:50).

### Peter Defends Christ; All Flee

Things were unraveling fast! Peter and another disciple—perhaps John—remembered the swords they had been instructed to bring (Mat. 26:38). They wrapped their fingers around the hilts and asked Jesus, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" (Luke 22:49).

Before Christ could answer, Peter whipped out his sword and swung at the head of Malchus, the high priest's servant, hoping to lop it off. The servant saw a flash of steel in the firelight and ducked his head to the side. The sword swished through the air, striking the side of the man's head. It sliced off his ear, which probably fell to the ground (John 18:10).

John watched the blood run down the side of Malchus' face as he heard Christ say to Peter, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the scripture be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" (Mat. 26:52-54).

John was astonished at what happened next. Jesus turned to the Jewish leaders and said, "Permit even this." He picked up the ear from the ground and miraculously reattached it to the man's head. The bleeding stopped and Malchus was healed.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and elders who had come out against Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you

daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and power of darkness" (Luke 22:53).

"Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was the high priest that year" (John 18:13).

What did the disciples do? All of them fled, scattering in all directions so they would not be arrested too (Mat. 26:56, Mark 14:50).

### John & Peter Return

After running a short distance, Peter and John stopped behind a tree and waited. No one was running after them. They turned around and headed secretly back into Jerusalem. They caught up to Jesus at the house of Caiaphas, the high priest.

John was known by the high priest and was invited into the courtyard with Jesus. Peter was not known, so he remained outside. Then John spoke to the woman at the door and she let Peter into the courtyard. She studied Peter's face and asked him, "You are not also one of this man's disciples are you?" Peter, afraid of being discovered, replied, "I am not." He went and stood by a fire to keep warm (John 18:15-18).

John listened as false witnesses were brought before Caiaphas to accuse Christ of blasphemy (Mat. 26:57-66). Some began to spit in his face, slap Him, and mock Him, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" (vv. 67-68).

Peter was still by the fire, warming himself, when some of the servants and officers standing by the fire asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples are you?" (John 18:25). The man next to Peter said, "Surely you also are one of them, because your speech betrays you" (Mat. 27:73). Peter replied, "I am not!" (John 18:25).

A relative of Malchus, whose ear had been cut off by Peter, spoke up. "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" (v. 26).

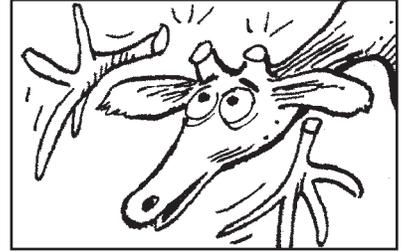
Peter, afraid of getting caught, was growing tired of these continual accusations. His anger flared up. "Then he began to curse and swear, saying, 'I do not know the Man!' And immediately a rooster crowed" (Mat. 26:74).

"And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.' Then Peter went out and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:61).

Meanwhile, it is likely that John remained in the courtyard of Caiaphas to watch events continue to unfold.

*(To be continued!)*

## Fun Fact



*Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS*

Deer lose their antlers each winter and grow new ones during spring and summer.

## Witerature

*Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.*

*Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand, Signet, 1996, pp. 931-932.

### Carnal Mind Rejects Law

" 'You who prattle that morality is social and that man would need no morality on a desert island—it is on a desert island that he would need it most. Let him try to claim, when there are no victims to pay for it, that a rock is a house, that sand is clothing, that food will drop into his mouth without cause or effort, that he will collect a harvest tomorrow by devouring his stock seed today—and reality will wipe him out, as he deserves; reality will show him that life is a value to be bought and that thinking is the only coin noble enough to buy it.

" 'If I were to speak your kind of language, I would say that man's only moral commandment is: Thou shalt think. But a "moral commandment" is a contradiction in terms. The moral is the chosen, not the forced; the understood, not the obeyed. The moral is the rational, and reason accepts no commandment.' "

**Rom. 8:7, Prov. 14:12**

## Quotable Quotes

"The quickest way to correct the other fellow's attitude is to correct your own."  
—King Vidor

## Memory Scripture

"Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble."  
—Prov. 119:165

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owner may never reveal them again. This doesn't mean he's stopped having feelings or daydreams. It just means he's stopped talking about them. SECURITY, therefore, may be *the most important aspect* of communication.

**Voice 2:** Security in communication has TWO aspects. The first is, as we have seen before, the responsibility on the part of the LISTENER to provide the permissive *acceptance* that will encourage the speaker to express openly, with as little fear as possible, his genuine thoughts and beliefs.

But there is another aspect which is just as important. The SPEAKER has a responsibility to make his ideas and dreams *palatable* for the listener. It is the problem of balancing honesty of expression versus sensitivity to the feelings of others....

**Narrator:** In summary, we see the need for good communication for a growing marriage. Some men—and some women—do not need a lot of talking, but prefer to escape the noisy world into a quiet home. Others need to talk, and reassure those values that make life worth living. When both partners' needs are met, love flourishes.

**Voice 1:** Communication can lead to understanding, and understanding to acceptance, and acceptance to adjustment in marriage. Not ALL couples who communicate at ANY level have the *best* marriages, but this is certain: Those couples who can't or won't communicate have little hope of improving—or even maintaining their relationship.

**Voice 2:** Those who have good verbal communication may need to improve their listening ability. Listen for *meaning*, as well as just the words.

And there must be security in marriage—a freedom to discuss ideas without fear of rejection.

**Voice 3:** It's a big responsibility. But it's worth it. We will conclude tonight's program with "A Hymn of Marriage."

**Narrator:** The question is asked, "Is there anything more beautiful in life than a boy and a girl clasping clean hands and clean hearts in the path of marriage?" And the answer is given, "Yes, there is a more beautiful thing; It is the spectacle of an old man and an old woman finishing their journey together on that path. Their hands are gnarled but still clasped; their faces are seamed but still radiant; their hearts are tired and bowed, but still strong. They have proved the happiness of marriage and have vindicated it from the jeers of cynics."



### North Korea Appears to Restart Reactor

"New satellite photographs showing steam emerging from a newly reconstructed nuclear reactor in North Korea suggests that the country may be making good on its promise to resume the production of plutonium for its small nuclear arsenal, six years after it reached an agreement with the Bush administration to dismantle the facility....

"If the source of the steam proves to be the restarting of the reactor, it would enable the North, after a year or more, to begin to add to its arsenal of plutonium weapons. It would also underscore the failure of efforts by four American presidents to stop the North Korean program; so far, the North has conducted three nuclear tests, including two during the Obama administration.

"The possible restart of the reactor comes just months after one of the worst crises in years on the divided peninsula, as the North conducted a third nuclear test, then lashed out with threats of nuclear attacks after additional international sanctions were imposed" ("North Korea Appears to Restart Plutonium Reactor" by David E. Sanger, William J. Broad and Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*, NYTimes.com, Sept. 11, 2013, p. 1).

Meanwhile, the U.S. is helping Japan to rearm: "The United States and Japan agreed on Thursday [Oct. 3] to broaden their security alliance, expanding Tokyo's role while trying to show American determination to remain a dominant presence in the region.

"The agreement, which will position surveillance drones in Japan for the first time, underscored the two countries' efforts to respond to growing challenges from China and North Korea at a time of budget constraints. It also included some of the clearest signals yet that the United States backs Japan's increasing though still limited moves to strengthen its military..." ("U.S. and Japan Agree to Broaden Military Alliance" by Jennifer Steinhauer and Martin Fickler, *The New York Times*, NYTimes.com, Oct. 3, 2013, p. 1).

At the time of Christ's return, there

appears to be three major power blocs centered around Jerusalem. The king of the North will be a European Union consisting of 10 "kings." The king of the South may well be an Islamic union that includes Egypt and other North African and Mideast nations (Dan. 11:40). The third power bloc will be "kings from the east" (v. 44; Rev. 16:12-16). It is likely that a nuclear-armed North Korea and China, along with other Oriental nations such as Japan, will part of the "kings from the east."

### Moose Attacks Runners

"A bull moose was shot to death by an Anchorage police officer Tuesday evening [Sept. 24] at Kincaid Park during a middle school cross-country race with hundreds of kids participating, including the cop's daughter....

"He [the moose] was just laying there, watching things, when a blur of runners, a pack of five to eight girls, came through in a group and kinda got him going," said Andy Duenow, a parent who witnessed the charge and the shooting. "He jumped up and charged toward the trail, and the officer was very professional; he pulled off three quick shots" ("Officer shoots aggressive moose at youth race" by Beth Bragg, *Anchorage Daily News*, Sept. 26, 2013, p. 1A).

As our nation continues to reject God and we near the time of the end, we will see more incidences of wild animals attacking people (Lev. 26:21-22, Deut. 32:24, Ezek. 14:21).

### Quake Hits Philippines

"The death toll from a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the central Philippine island of Bohol reached 110 Wednesday [Oct. 16] with only three people pulled alive from rubble" ("Death toll in Philippines earthquake reaches 110" by Bullit Marquez, Associated Press, *Southeast Missourian*, Oct. 16, 2013, p. 11A).

Jesus Christ prophesied that earthquakes in various places would be one of the signs that we are approaching the time of the end (Mat. 24:3, 7).