

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Ken Roosa is recovering well from an infection in his wrist and arm that previously had surgery on.

Iris Hash fell, broke her hip, and had to have a hip replacement. She is currently in rehab in Union hospital in Terre Haute and doing well.

Ray Sturgill is in rehab at St. Francus hospital after treatment for blood clots in his lungs and leg.

Sean Mathews continues to struggle with GI issues.

Mike Parnell's sister-in-law, Ethel Parnell, is suffering from dementia.

Jesse Riddle is on hospice care but is often able to attend Sunday AM service.

Connie Davis is recovering well after surgery to replace her left hip.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles had a nerve stimulator inserted in her knee to help with pain.

Linda Jones had surgery to remove a malignant growth and is doing well.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

**Morgan County Fair Booth:**

Our booth in the merchants building at the county fair began July 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. We are inviting people to services, handing out tracts and enrolling people in a correspondence course. Workers are still needed each evening. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the back of the auditorium. We are trying to get at least two workers per shift. Please sign-up if you can help.

**Benevolent Opportunity:**

During the month of July, we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly for the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville food pantry.

**2024 Fall Gospel Meeting:**

A fall gospel meeting will be held September 6-8 with brother Tom House of the Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton, MS.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in we will have a service in song at 1:00 PM.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**God's Plan For Our Salvation**

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

July 7, 2024

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

**Radio Program:**

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## IF BIBLE RULES (LAWS) ARE NOT POPULAR, CHANGE THEM

Marvin Weir

The ungodly LGBTQ+ movement has put tremendous pressure on denominational churches to capitulate to their sinful demands.

Chaos would prevail if every man were accountable only to his own set of rules. There would be little peace or accord without standard laws and guidelines to which all men are amenable. Yet, in the religious realm, rules mean very little to most denominations. Rules may be here today and gone tomorrow because of pressure exerted on the “powers that be.” The ungodly LGBTQ+ movement has put tremendous pressure on denominational churches to capitulate to their sinful demands. And, many denominations are more than happy to listen to the voice of the ungodly rather than listen to the voice of God —God speaking through His inspired Word.

In this study let’s consider marriage, divorce, and remarriage. An article in the January 26, 2000 Dallas Morning News revealed that the Church of England was considering approving remarriage for divorcees. Recommendations were “published by a group of bishops.” It was stated that they could be “adopted by the church’s governing General Synod in 2002.” The article revealed that England had “one of the highest divorce rates in Europe. Roughly one-third of Anglican priests already remarry divorcees, and the church says 10 percent of its marriages now involve divorcees.” Among the proposed conditions: “Divorced people should be honest about the reasons for the failure of their previous marriage, adequate provision should be made for supporting children, the new relationship should not be the cause of breaking up the previous marriage, and ‘a reasonable time’ should have passed since the divorce.” “Bishops also recommended that remarriage should normally not be permitted for people who have been involved in more than one divorce. The decision in each case would be made by the local priest in consultation with the bishop.”

The Church of England has had man-made rules regulating marriage for years. Why cast them aside for another set of man-made rules? How long will it be before human pressure again dictates that the rules be changed? According to God’s Word, the decision regarding one’s remarriage is not “made by the local priest in consultation with the bishop.” One will search the Scriptures in vain to find such an implication or statement. To most, it does not matter that God has set forth in Scripture the only binding rules regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage. Once one ignores what God’s Word clearly states regarding M-D-R and other matters, it becomes easier to not be able to correctly identify whether one is a man or a woman. As ludicrous as this may sound, we now have a person serving on our Supreme Court who does not know the definition of a woman.

In the beginning, God created one woman for one man (Gen. 2:18-25). They were instructed by God to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Gen. 1:28) —something that two homosexual couples cannot do! Man chose to practice polygamy, and Moses tolerated such under the old law. Shortly before the establishment of the church, the Pharisees seeking to trap Jesus, asked, “Is it lawful

for a man to put away his wife for every cause” (Matt. 19:3)? In giving His answer Jesus goes back to the beginning of creation (Matt. 19:4-6). After establishing the concept of one man for one woman, Jesus says regarding divorce, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery” (Matt. 19:9).

If the Lord’s rule regarding divorce and remarriage is respected, there will be no need for the proposed recommendations by the bishops of the Church of England. Fornication is the only reason for which the innocent one can Scripturally put away the guilty mate and remarry. The guilty party is put away, and may not (with God’s blessings) remarry. The innocent party (the one doing the legitimate putting away) has the God-given right to remarry one eligible to be married.

Without the exception that Christ gave, God’s rule for marriage reads, “...the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man” (Rom. 7:2-3).

The rule for marriage under the New Covenant is that it is binding until the death of either the husband or the wife. To divorce and remarry makes one an adulterer. Christ does not, however, expect one to tolerate immorality; thus He gives the only exception to the rule of marriage. It matters not that there are many reasons given by men for divorce and remarriage. There is only one reason that God will recognize.

Where God has not recognized a Scriptural putting away of one’s mate, the couple is not loosed from their marriage vows. To divorce and remarry without a Scriptural reason is to live in adultery. Since such a union is an adulterous relationship, it is called a marriage only in an accommodative sense. Unless people repent (sever the adulterous union), they will be lost (1 Cor. 6:9).

Denominations have long made up their own rules and changed them at will. Now many congregations of the Lord’s church are copying the denominations. The number of unscripturally divorced people continues to grow. But it matters not if 90 percent of husbands and wives have unscripturally divorced and remarried, God’s rule for marriage and divorce will not change (Matt. 24:35; Psa. 119:89). Man has never been given the right to add to or subtract from God’s Word (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19)!