The Christian
COURIER

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CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Probably the most controversial subject before the church today is divorce. There has been more written on this subject, more discussions, more hard feelings among brethren and even families than any other one.

ONE IN THREE

Since about one in three marriages today end in a divorce we can see it is a serious matter indeed. The people as a whole are so immoral that the sacredness of marriage means nothing to them. They have told me that they enter marriage with the idea, "if it doesn't work, we'll just get a divorce". Others try living together for a few months to see if it will work out, and without even bothering to marry.

With this type of attitude, it is no wonder that marriage is no longer sacred and divorce is so prevalent. Since it is impossible to stop divorce in the world, how about divorce in the church? I feel if we would spend less time on arguing and discussing and writing on the terrible sin of divorce and preach more on the main cause of divorce, we would be much better off. If we would teach our young folk what the Bible teaches on marriage, there would be no need to teach on divorce for there would be none in the church.

CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER ?

Amos 3: 3, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" How can anyone expect to get along if they don't agree? And there is more disagreement over religion than any other subject. So the Lord tells us through Paul in 2 Cor 6: 14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ

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with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

You may say he is talking about business relations and I will agree that this is covered, but what closer yoke is there than marriage? "For two saith he shall be one flesh." 1 Cor 6: 15 "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of an harlot? God Forbid!"

1 Cor 7: 39 tells us that a widow can marry again but"only in the lord." Does this just refer to widows or to all single people? Is God a respector of persons putting a restraint on one and not on another? Of course not! Refer again to 2 Cor 6; 14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together," etc.

ELIMINATE THE CAUSE

All divorces in the church would have to be because one or the other partner was not a Christian, for if Christians marry Christians as the Lord commands, the husband would treat his wife as he is commanded, and the wife would treat her husband as the Lord commands and there would be no grounds, reason, or desire for divorce. Therefore, brethren, let us eliminate the sin of divorce by eliminating the cause. Let us teach, preach and exhort for members of Christ to marry "in the Lord."

TO FATHERS AND MOTHERS

1 Tim 5: 8, "But if any provide not for his own, etc.---he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." Is Paul just speaking of food and raiment, shelter and education, or does this also cover providing them with the opportunity to meet and associate with other Christian boys and girls so they can marry"in the Lord"? and not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers ?

WHERE CHRISTIANS ARE

Do we spend so much time providing them with the ne-necessities of life that we don't have time to take them where other Christians are ? Then when they marry outside the Lord and the marriage ends in divorce, or in choosing between their companion or the Lord they leave the church, do we cry "Sin, Sin, Sin ?

But whose is the greater, theirs or ours ?

HAVE WE DENIED THE FAITH ?

Written in love, Howard McCay

A CHALLENGE

The article which appears on pages 1 & 2 by Bro McCay should be a challenge to each and every one of us to reach for higher ground in our approach to the subject of Christian Marriage (and all other subjects of Bible-importance). There has been far too much importance given to the negative aspects of divorce, and far, far too little importance to the subject of Christian Marriage. What ablut it, Brethren ? Will you respond ? Write some constructive articles and send them in. The Bible has much to say on the subject of Christian marriage. Yours in Christ,J D Logan

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HIGHER GROUND

The higher ground faithful, earnest Christians are all striving for is the one the Saviour prayed for in Jno 17: 20-21, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; as thou, Father are are in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

On this higher ground, Paul says in Gal 6: 1-2, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Here also, we will be "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplications for all saints."

HINDER ?

What can hinder us from attaining this higher ground? Party attitudes over men for one thing. 1 Cor 1: 10-13, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement.-----Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I am of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided ? or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

There should be no respect of persons in the Church of Christ. We are all Brethren. We have all been bap-

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tized into Christ. Jas 2: 9, "But if you have reapect of persons, ye commit sin---". Gal 3: 27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

ROOTS OF BITTERNESS

Another hinderance that prevents our living above the world is the plague of roots of bitterness. Heb12: 15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." A root of bitterness among the brethren would be something that was bitter and produced more bitterness. What could be more bitter, or produce more bitterness than plain faultfinding and gossip ? Gal 5: 15, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Lev 19: 16, "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people." Prov 11: 13, "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter." Prov 26: 20, "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." With the sword of the spirit let us all work to eradicate these roots of bitterness wherever we come into contact with them.

WORLDLINESS

Then there is the hinderance of worldliness. Gal 5: 16-17, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one against the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." 1 Jno 2: 15-17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

WE MUST DIE TO SIN

To leave this world physically, one must die physically. To live above the lust and sins of this fleshly life we must die to sin, but be alive to God. Rom 6: 11-13, "Likewise reckon ye also your selves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

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Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Rom 8: 1, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit."

2 Pet 1: 3-8, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; Whereby are given unto us exeeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperence; and to temperence patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Pet 2: 20-21, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

GOD'S LONGSUFFERING---OUR SALVATION

WHEREFORE, BELOVED, SEEING THAT YE LOOK FOR SUCH things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without having spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you."

2 Peter 3: 17-18,"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

Rev 2: 7 & 10, "To him that overcometh I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.--Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev 21: 7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Your Brother in Christ, Ken Harper

THE MIND OF CHRIST

We read in the New Testament of the "reprobate mind", Rom 1: 28; of the "carnal mind", Rom 8: 7; and of the "fleshly mind", Col 2: 18. But in this article we want to consider briefly "the mind of Christ" which is revealed to us in the bible.

TO BE SAVED

If we are to be saved, we must have the mind of Christ. Phil 2: 2-5, "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD

But God hath revealed them to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, even the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things which are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but whichthe Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

A PROPHESY QUOTED

In Heb 8: 10 a prophesy is quoted concerning the Christian Age: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." This was fulfilled on Pentecost. Acts 2: 3-4, "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to

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speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

BY READING OUR BIBLES

Today we keep our hearts and minds filled with the mind of Christ by reading our bibles. Titus 2: 11-14, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

2 Tim 1: 7, "For God hath not given the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." The mind of Christ, as revealed to us in our bibles.

Thus: Phil 1: 27, "--that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Phil 2: 2, "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." 2 Cor 13: 11, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." 1 Pet 3: 8, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous; (V. 9) "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing." This will be the beautiful and harmonious picture of the saints of God all "Renewing their minds" (Rom 12: 2) filling them with the mind of Christ.

Yours, in Christ, Curtis C McCluskey

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A WORD OF THANKS

It is not very often that we are able to write the above words, but it certainly is a pleasure to do so now.

We received several good articles from brethren at several congregations. They are good articles and should be thought-provoking to all. Some of these articles are by brethren who have never written before, and we wish to express our appreciation and offer encouragement for more of the same.

We renew our invitation to all of the brethren who for any reason have remained silent to write good articles and we will be more than pleased to publish them.

The Courier Staff

NOT SLACK

2 Peter 3: 9-11. We find the Lord is not slack concerning his promises as some count slackness, but is wanting all to come to repentance. We find that people are slack on most of their promises, and especially on the promise to God. They make a promise in religion and then forget what kind of people it takes to make a Christian.

CONTINUE THEREIN

James 1: 21-23. We ought to consider what James said, "look into and continue therein".

But some go fishing and some work on Sunday; some have headaches and some a cold; some say it is too hot and some say it is too cold; some have company and can't come to church; but the bible, (Rev 22: 14) says they who do the commands will have a right, not those that draw back, (Heb 10: 39) or do not add to their faith, (2 Pet 1: 5-11).

The commandment is to NOT forsake the assembly, (Heb 10: 25) as the manner of some is. That is to be on the first day of the week (1 Cor 16: 1-2) (Acts 20: 7) We are to depart from iniquity; quit like men; be strong; teach and exhort, study and divide God's Word rightly. By this we know we love the children of God when we love God and keep his commandment. 1 Jno 5: 2.

THINK !

Therefore, whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ (which is his commandments) hath not God. This is a serious condition to be in. THINK, THINK, THINK; IS THIS YOU ?

In love of the truth, Lloyd Treat.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN CHURCH WORSHIP

We read in Ezekiel 13: 1-7, "Woe unto the foolish prophets that say 'Thus saith the Lord' and I have not spoken. We read in Isaiah 28: 17 how God said, "I will lay righteousness to the plummet." This righteousness of God is revealed to us in the Gospel, Romans 1: 17. So the Gospel of Christ is the perfect law of liberty, James 1: 25.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. He said, "--they that worship God must worship him in spirit and

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in truth. Is instrumental music truth ? The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth. It is the perfect law of liberty. It shows us everything that God accepts for worship. And it does not teach to use man made musical instruments in church worship (we know that to do so is not according to truth). The Lord has not commanded us to use man made musical instruments in church worship. Shall we add to the perfect law of Christ that is laid to the plummet and use them in church worship ?

Rev 22: 18-19 warns, Whosoever will add or leave off from the words of the book of this prophesy (that is, this perfect law of liberty) which is laid to the plummet, his name is taken out of the book of life.

FRUIT OF OUR LIPS

As we know we can not come to God in prayer with any man-made instruments. (Ask, and it shall be given, Matt 7: 7) Neither will God accept any man made musical instruments to offer the sacrifice of praise. It must be the fruit of the lips, same as prayer. "By him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. (Heb 13: 15) "In the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee, (Heb 2: 12) Also, Col 3: 16 and Eph 5: 19.

HARPS IN HEAVEN

The Revelation speaks of harps but that is in heaven, and the New Testament Church is on earth. "So speak, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (James 2: 12)

So do is so worship also. Jesus said we MUST worship in spirit and in truth. We learn from Eph 5: 27 that the church must be a glorious church, not having a spot or wrinkle.

By Brother Heino Stolnake
Yakima, Washington.

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CHURCH NEWS

GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Brother Harper has asked me to write and let you know how the congregation here is doing. We have not had anyone obey the Gospel, as you know how hard it is to get people to come to hear the truth preached, but we are still holding true to the one faith of the

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Gospel. We had the pleasure of having Brother and Sister Robert Morris and their daughter Brenda, and also Brother and Sister Buddy Davis from the Somerton, Ariz. Congregation. They were with us from the Fifth of July through the Twelfth. Both Brethren presented some good lessons while they were here. We were happy that they came, and hope they can come again.

At that time we were sorry that Brother and Sister McClusky were unable to be with us as they were sick. They were certainly missed.

Your Brother in Christ,
Lawrence C Starnes,
Grass Valley, California.

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A WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Howard and Nell McCay announce the engagement of their daughter, Sammy, to Brother Dan Ross. The wedding is intended for Sept 12th at 2 pm.

Any of the brethren who might be in this area are invited to come.

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Congratulations, Dan and Sammy, on your forthcoming marriage. It couldn't happen to two finer young ones ! May your years together be many and filled with happiness and prosperity in all things pleasing to the Lord.

Remember the Lord first in all things you do, and you will be blessed abundantly.

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

Just a short letter here to let you know that we moved to Arkansas. We are now meeting with the church at Goshen.

Please change the address for the Courier and send it to my brother, Charles Jared, 1001 Eastbrook Dr., Valparaiso, Indiana. 46383.

Yours in Christ, J L Jared

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We're happy to hear that the Jareds are meeting with the Faithful Church at Goshen. We hope that, with perhaps some time on their hands, we might hear regularly from the brethren at Goshen. Also, some good articles ??

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I will write a few lines and give the news from here. We are as usual here at Broken Bow. Sister Clements is in Talhania and we desire the prayers of the brethren for her. We have just closed a good meeting here with Brother Jim Brown doing some good preaching. Also, we went to Barron Church and held the meeting there, several confessing faults in that meeting.

Sister Watson here was in the hospital, but is home and doing very well at this time. All the rest are as well as can be expected and by the will of the Lord, maybe we can grow a little in the future, I hope soon anyway.

The weather is hot here and it is dry at Broken Bow. Hope we can get some rain before long; we sure do need it.

Also, the wife and I went up to Stilwell, Oklahoma, and heard Brother Dye, of Yuma, Arizona one night and also Bro Jack Morse one time. Sure was good to see them again. Keep up the good work.

In Christian Love,
Lloyd Treat and Wife,
For the Church at Broken Bow, Okla.

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FILLMORE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

We have moved to Fillmore, California. Would you send the Christian Courier to us at this address. 4320 East Guiberson Rd., Fillmore, Calif. 93015. We enjoy the paper. We have church in our home.

We have two other couples meeting with us. Bro and Sis Gary Melander and Bro and Sis Dan Lyons. Any Christians over this way who would like to drop by, we'd be happy to see them.

Your Bro in Christ,
Gene Edwards.

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Lots of news from Yuma since we have missed a paper or two, Sister Sally Holmes has attended services with her daughter, Sister Ann Lytle. Brother Melvin Lytle has a dandy new bus so every one can ride in from Tacna.

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Recent visitors were Sis Barbara Huddy and family, and Sis Willie Mae Davis and Jeff. Bro Gary Melander was baptised near Vidal, Calif. He is attending with the Gene Edwards family.

Bro and Sis V E Staggs went to Tucson for the wedding of their son, Gary. We are glad Bro and Sis Ernest Prinke are able to be back in church. He was in the hospital a long week. Everyone sympathizes with Sis Doris Morris since the loss of her father.

Bro and Sis Harry Dye, Carol and Dan, report a rewarding trip to Oklahoma.

Yuma congregation went to Somerton last Sunday evening where Sis Berneice Fanning was baptised.

We all enjoy the chance to visit God's people in other congregations too.

In Christian love from the Church that meets in Yuma, Arizona.

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SOMERTON, ARIZONA

Well, it is vacation time. Bro and Sis Robert Morris and Brenda and Bro and Sis Bud Davis are with the Ken Harpers in Grass Valley, Calif.

Sis Hester Renick passed away May 30th. She had been very ill since last fall. She had been a member of the church many years.

Steve Broadway and his Sister Lynn have been here visiting with their grandparents, the Earl Broadways.

Tom and Charlene have been back in Reydon, Oklahoma where Tom held a meeting recently. Nice to have them here--Tom grew up in this area.

Bro Don Dabbs and family were here over a weekend and brought some very good lessons.

Bro Harry Dye and family returned recently from Oklahoma where he held a meeting at Stillwell.

Bro W A Nelson for the Church of Christ at Somerton, Arizona.

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA.

Some news good, and some not so good. Brother Bert Weakley has not been feeling well recently, and their daughter, June Paioni underwent surgery on her back recently. How about sending some cards. Address: 413 Rowland, Modesto, Calif. 95351.

Bro and Sis Renzo Stephens both able to attend part of the time. Bro F H Logan: hospitalized by a heart attack. Sis Mae Johnson doing poorly.

One baptism: Bro Oscar Arnett. We rejoice with him.