

John Kozlowski

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Sent: Saturday, May 19, 2018 5:42 PM
To: 'Erika Leigh Sams'; 'Jack Cross'; 'Tirzah Kozlowski'; 'Julia Williams'; 'Isaac Owen Williams'
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Subject: 28 years of marriage. A message of encouragement

Family,

Today marks the 28th anniversary of the marriage of my wife and me. At that time we stood before a crowd at Christ Community Church in Greensboro, NC and pledged to each other, and to the Lord, for better or worse, to live as one for the rest of our days. The ceremony ended with the pronouncement of “man and wife”, but include “after the consummation...” which I won’t dwell on, but did occur that night.

At that time I had only been a follower of Christ for a few years and could not articulate well what was happening and how the Lord defined marriage. It was my simple assumption that my wife and I would keep our commitment. I have.

The last few years has given me the impetus to study the Scripture all the more to know the Lord more intimately and how the Lord, not the institutions, defines marriage. For your reference, please consider **Genesis 3, Matthew 5, 19, Mark 10, Luke 16, 1st Corinthians 6, 7, Ephesians 5, Titus 2, and 1st Peter 3**. That should give you a good start. I suggest if you let the Scripture speak and not try to read in a desired intent, it is very clear, marriage is defined by the act of sex and ends with death. That is simple and you don’t need an institution or ceremony for that. It is the Lord’s simple design and is easy to understand. Note that you find a marriage celebration, but not a marriage ceremony in Scripture. Note also that you do not read about pre-marital sex or a child out of wedlock in the Scripture, since both are logically impossible.

Also translating “apoluō” as “divorce” gives the idea that the Scripture’s meaning, “to set free or repudiate” is the same as a state issued divorce. With the state, as with the Quran, you are free to remarry. With the Scripture, you are not. Consider “**Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, Adultery, Mercy**” that can be found at <http://kozlowski.org/2017-10-14>. Can you point out an error from Scripture?

With that in mind I strive to make sure I live faithful to the Lord and committed to my wife alone. While no hope is given, I live in preparation for reconciliation. I also live without communications and must assume that my wife is a follower of a false Christ, hates me, is an adulteress, and I will never see her again. It is only the Lord’s grace that allows me to press on (<http://family.kozlowski.org/2017-02-25>).

In my now several decades of following the Lord, I have often asked others about some fundamental questions and found less than satisfying answers, or no answers at all. I have wondered why we know the Scripture is the Scripture. Sometimes people would point you to a book, or some form of “just believe”, but a real reasoned answer was hard to come by. I now have that answer and it does NOT include anything to do with the Roman Catholic Church. Would you like to discuss that?

I remember hearing it stated that the Lord instituted three institutions, the family, the church, and the state. I have asked for explanations on that, but got none. I remember once at Meadowview asking someone who had just spoke on the subject. I don’t remember who it was, I think a guest speaker, but I do remember we were standing near the piano when I asked. The response was something like it is in the Bible and you can find it. Well, I looked, and it isn’t in the Bible, but is the tradition of men. The Lord instituted the family, period.

The Lord regulates the state, such as Deu17, but also calls it a rejection of Him (1Sam8). It is easy to misuse Romans 13, but remember it is simply a continuation of Romans 12 which is well summarized in verse 10 with “*Outdo one another in showing honor.*” Please don’t make the mistake I did and look at 13:1’s “subject to” as meaning be a part of. That would be eisegesis. Consider the contrast with 1Co 5:12.

Consider “**Obedience to Christ or Social Security**” at <http://kozlowski.org/2018-02-01+1>. Again, can you point out an error from Scripture?

The word “ekklēsia”, where we get the word “church” is an assembly or a calling out and always refers to people, and never an institution or building. Note in Acts 20:20 that Paul would teach publicly, as in full view, and from house to house. Note when Paul sends greetings to a church (Rom 16:5, 1Co 16:19, Col 4:15) it is in someone’s house.

Note also that we are called to teach, but not be called teacher (Mat 23:8). Remember Rabbi, Rabboni, and teacher are the same word just in different languages (John 1:38, John 20:16). What do “Sunday School Teachers” have to say about this, or even more “Teaching Elders”?

Formerly I was a proponent of tithing to the local institutional church. I was wrong. There are multiple tithes described in Scripture, but like the Levitical role, the tithe, with the possible exception of the one described in Deu 14, is no longer applicable. Therefore promoting or demanding it is deception, or more formerly, theft. This would be consistent with the idea that the institutional church is a fraud. Care to review this?

Please note that all of the above does not tear down the Scripture, but shows the Scripture’s authority and not man’s. The Scripture is what it claims to be, God breathed (2Tim3:16) and you can back that up with fact, reason, and love. Interested?

I have often heard quoted Matthew 22:31 “*have you not read what was said to you by God*” noting that our reading is hearing the voice of the Lord, or as the Pulpit Commentary states “he intimates that it was the voice of God to all time, and providentially directed to disperse such errors as those now produced.” I suggest the Scripture is the voice of God to us today and we ignore or disobey it to our peril.

Given the above, it should be clear that contending from Scripture is an act of love. For example consider “**For your consideration response**” that is now public at <http://kozlowski.org/2016-05-27+1>. The real short “**I have something of yours**” (<http://kozlowski.org/2016-12-30>) I suggest shows a living out of the meaning of marriage. What a husband does to protect his wife is demonstrated with “**The person who loves you is not your dad it is me!**” (<http://kozlowski.org/2017-12-02+1>). And there is what seems to be the most popular and again short “**Happy Birthday My Lady - Broken Together**” (<http://kozlowski.org/2017-12-08+1>).

In Summary

In the last many years I have had little contact with my kids. However and many times, including several in recent months, queries have come revolved around money. Is it money that gives you reason to contact me, or little things like Exodus 20, or Ephesians 6? The family site is a huge effort to communicate with my family. Are you willing to discuss the weightier matters or just the trivial? Should we be discussing, or even living in love, rather than living for money (Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13)?

While it should be obvious that my desire is a reconciled family, most importantly between my wife and myself. However I also desire to set before my kids and others that there is a difference between being part of an institution and being a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. My common refrain is “the institution is not your friend”. The institution promotes and protects the institution. There is a real cost to being a part, as 1Sam8 enumerates.

Let me remind you again that the Lord does not offer worldly blessings if you follow Him. That idea is a scam. His promises are very clear in John 16:33, and 2Tim 3:12 and is not what would be considered “seeker friendly” or great

marketing. It is obedience that is our call. We are simply “*unworthy servants*” (Luke 17:10). Asking for more is pretentious.

Remember it is not us who decides who follows the Lord, but the Lord alone. Consider a serious reading of John 6. We offer no merit on our own or can bring any benefit to the Lord. He is not lonely and needs us, but is self-sufficient and for His glory alone He loves His elect.

The bottom line is that your call is to love the Lord and love others (Deu6, Lev19). You can't earn a place in heaven or can you do something so wrong you lose it. It is the Lord, and the Lord alone who has made that choice. So I address my family with the assumption that the Lord calls them individually. It is not your past or my past that means anything, but the Lord. If you are called by the Lord, **live like it.** Learn about the Lord and His ways. Be obedient to Him. **Love well.**

I love you all.

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Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13