

**General Topics :: Hosea says God is married to the backslider****Hosea says God is married to the backslider - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/10/27 13:46**

Hosea says God is married to the backslider

I have heard this said a couple of times. It is always used to justify someone who is backslidden. They say that just because I am backslidden and living in willful sin, God is still married to me.

Now I know this is not true and have read the book of Hosea many times and understand it not a book that justifies backslidden people and willful sin and disobedience.

I can not find the verse that these people base this statement on and have never been able to get anyone to tell me the chapter and verse where they base this on.

Does anyone know what the verse is in Hosea that is used to justify the statement "God is married to the backslider"???

**Re: Hosea says God is married to the backslider - posted by death2self (), on: 2006/10/27 14:24**

I know of no such verse Patrick. I've never heard of such an interpretation before...

**Re: Hosea says God is married to the backslider - posted by enid, on: 2006/10/27 16:18**

For my part, I can't find such a verse.

However, the book of Hosea does deal with backslidden, adulterous Israel, and not the church of Jesus Christ.

Either you are backslid, or you are not, there is no middle ground.

God bless.

**Re: Hosea says God is married to the backslider - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/10/27 17:06**

Maybe you will have to challenge them the next time you hear it by asking them for a chapter and verse to substantiate it. Otherwise, you will have to relegate it to the 'they say' file.

ginnyrose

**Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/10/27 17:32**

I have only heard it a few times and I have asked for chapter and verse but they don't seem to know. They are just repeating something some pastor or teacher told them. So I immediately turn to Hebrews 10:26-31 and Hebrews 12:14.

I just heard that this passed weekend and thought it would be nice to know the chapter and verse even if they don't - then I could explain the verse in context.

**Re: Hosea - God's picture book - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/10/27 17:38**

In a sense this is correct, Hosea did marry an adulterous woman. But perhaps the one who spoke it to you did not correctly understand the prophetic implication. The book of Hosea is a picture story. Hosea's marriage to an adulterous woman was a picture of redemption - God rejecting adulterous Israel, sending her away to go after other men, and then redeeming her.

According to divine law, a divorced woman could not return to her husband. And yet, God's mercy overruled the law. God himself redeems his own beloved, though she rightfully is unredeemable. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

It is a tender story, one that causes us to weep because of the goodness of our Lord.

It is a picture of redemption - God snatching the sinner from the bondage of sin, and restoring a covenant relationship

with her - even after a time of judgment.

“... I will speak tenderly to her...”

In that day, declares the Lord,  
“you will call me “my husband...”’

...and they will say,  
You are my God.  
Hos. 2:16, 23

Diane

**Re:, on: 2006/10/29 12:49**

sorry this was a repeat

**Re:, on: 2006/10/29 12:53**

excellent reply roadsign... if you want an excellent sermon about this, Ravi Zacharias has one entitled The Prophet Marries The Prostitute... Now days i am not really inclined to listen to the man anymore, due to his potentially politically-toned lectures but his old sermons are Spirit-filled and Spirit-reviving... Check him out if you have never heard of it... i think web site is [www.rzim.com](http://www.rzim.com) ...

i would like to also say two more things about the guy... a) He is a bit in the intellectual side so sometimes what he says might be a bit entangled b) Get the old messages... the old messages are more of direct sermons than the recent ones which are usually lectures about secularism and other isms and skisms... the guy seems to have actually borrowed/learned a lot from Ravenhill though very little does he give credit to him... of all the 50some messages, i have only heard him give credit to ravenhill in one message

One more thing: Christising, next time they tell you God is still married to the backslidden according to Hosea, ask him/her, what were the children's name between the prophet and the prostitute?

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2006/10/29 13:14**

Two things to post on this.

Hosea 1:2 When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD."

God ordered Hosea to take a prostitute as a wife so that he could understand the heart of God towards his people Israel. This is however so that he could preach that Israel should repent. I mean, what better lesson is there to teach a prophet about the anguish of God than to give the same anguish in his relationships.

This is not an excuse to get into a relationship with a backslider... that would be taking the wrong lesson out of this book. The message is that WE ARE THE PROSTITUTE. God needed his prophet to marry a prostitute to teach him that... but thankfully he wrote a book about it so that God doesn't have to teach each and every one of us that lesson. We know not to put our hand on the stove because we've been told otherwise.

The fact of the matter is that God's people were corrupt, he has a covenant with them that he will not betray, just like a vow of marriage between a man and woman. Israel has been unfaithful, but God will remain to be faithful... That's why God tells Hosea to go back to his wife after she leaves him because he wants him to understand his heart of forgiveness.

This is not permission to backslide! It is so that we can know the heart of God about backsliding and backsliders.

Secondly I wanted to comment on Ravi Zacharias. It's amazing to me that some of the best theologians and men of God are coming out of India. Recently I've been reading a lot of KP Yohannan and listening to Ravi and Zac Poonen. These men are very fresh, and if you want to hear something comparable to Leonard Ravenhill who is still walking around and teaching, then I'd highly recommend these men.

KP Yohannan is the closest to Leonard Ravenhill, he really anguishes over souls, and isn't afraid to say things that seem controversial to American Christians. It's a breath of fresh air!

Zac Poonen has an uncanny ability to put the most difficult things to grasp in Christianity into very plain English. If you want to know more about the love of God, and be able to understand the truths of the bible more deeply, listen to Zac Poonen. On a tangent, Zac Poonen has a very soothing voice, and if you notice, he very rarely pauses, he really knows and shows that he cares about what he is talking about with the amount of composure he has on the subject. Most simply put, you can tell that he has a great love for the word of God. He is very engaging!

Whereas KP Yohannan is most like John the Baptist in my mind for his strong call of repentance and sacrifice, Ravi Zacharias really gives me an impression of Apostle Paul when he taught in Athens. He is an intellectual to intellectuals. His ministry is focused at college campuses and atheists. Ravi Zacharias is an apologist, KP is a missionary reaching out to the poorest and most broken people. They have different missions but that doesn't mean that either of them is going to be better blessed in heaven.

If you listen to Ravi you will realize that he is actually a very humble man, I highly recommend his message 'I Isaac take you Rebekah,' in it he is very open about the need for kindness and love in relationships... but he also recounts a time that he was reaching out to a priest in Cambodia in the early seventies during the Vietnam era. As much as he is now an intellectual theologian debating 'isms' with atheists, he was first a missionary and a prayer warrior.

I've also got to give a shout out to Ravi Zacharias because he said about Leonard Ravenhill's book Why Revival Tarries, 'No other book has influenced me as much as this book.'

I strongly suggest you take time to listen to all three of them and be challenged!

One thing that occurred to me while listening to them is that God is colorless, and nationless... When some of the most devoted men of God are coming from India, it really makes me wonder if America can even call itself a 'christian nation.'

#### **GOD IS MARRIED TO THE BACKSLIDER..JEREMIAH 3 V 14 - posted by GOLDIE39, on: 2012/2/14 14:28**

Turn, O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one from a city, and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion: JEREMIAH 3 V 14

#### **JEREMIAH 3 V 14. GOD IS MARRIED TO THE BACKSLIDER - posted by GOLDIE39, on: 2012/2/14 14:29**

Turn, O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one from a city, and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

#### **Re: Hosea says God is married to the backslider, on: 2012/2/15 11:26**

I humbly submit that as yet no one is married to God or Christ. Those who are faithful and dressed in readiness will become and are in God's eternal purpose the Bride of Christ. Even now or certainly in the very near future Christ will complete the preparations which will result in the marriage feast of the Lamb. As for backsliders they belong to God as much as the most righteous of servants. Grace upon Grace. Not the LAW.

If our covenant with God rests solely on the finished work of the Cross, then we will be adjudged faithful unto eternal life, even though we may stumble many times. If we confess our sins He is just and righteous to forgive our sins. If we walk in the light the blood of Christ will wash away our sins. John said, 'he who is born again cannot sin'. And 'we sin daily'. This seeming difficulty is spiritually discerned. It's not one or the other, backsliding or walking faithfully; it's all Christ crucified for sin.

I once resisted to the point of making my brethren stumble to share that salvation is broader and more time consuming than is the receiving of eternal life by faith. It is true however that we have this treasure (eternal life) in earthen vessels. We are saved if we truly believe. God has saved us with an everlasting salvation; so Paul writes in the letter to the Hebrews. In another place we read 'the gifts and the calling of God are without repentance. Which is to say God does not change His mind. Nor will He take back that which was so precious purchased by the shedding of blood, even the blood of the Lamb.

Backsliding is unnecessary and would be avoided if we knew the certainty of God's election and calling. I have the responsibility to keep my brother and he, me. No one is called to walk alone. Backsliding is a term used to excuse men of their failings to keep one another in the faith by prayer and our own faithfulness to love one another. I believe the term is heinous and misleading because it covers the real problem.

Please forgive me my straightforwardness. I mean no offence whatsoever. But your post is difficult. Some believers fear to speak out of their own personal experience. Thinking that somehow this has no merit. Yet how can we speak if we have not experienced. Revelation alone will not save a man from his Adamic nature. Any more than an excessive Adamic nature will destroy the work and purposes of God. All is God. All is Christ. All is His righteousness and nothing is ours.

Even so Scripture does warn clearly about falling away from faithful walking and wilful disobedience. This has to do with the marriage feast of the Lamb and the coming kingdom. It has nothing to do with the new heavens and the new earth. 'And those whose names were not written in the book of life' etc. God is a faithful God. He cannot lie. And he does not mock men. Neither does he take delight in the destruction of the creature. Either your name is written in the book of life or it is not. This is a matter which belongs to God alone.

**Re: - posted by Nemo2006, on: 2012/2/15 12:10**

This is a great debate among many Christian circles. One great preacher said if you're not raptured everyday you will not be raptured in that day... bh clendennen

**Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/2/15 12:35**

They could be thinking of this verse:

Hos 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

But this verse is not saying that God condones backsliding and wants us to stay in this state.

This healing from the Lord is contingent on turning back to Him.

Pilgrim

**Re: JEREMIAH 3 V 14. GOD IS MARRIED TO THE BACKSLIDER - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/2/15 12:42**

Quote:  
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Turn, O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one from a city, and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion:  
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If Jer 3:14 in NASB reads like this:-  
'Return, O faithless sons,' declares the LORD;  
'For I am a master to you,  
and I will take you one from a city and two from a family,  
and I will bring you to Zion.'

The word married or Master both can be considered as, God is addressing to Israel as the one who has authority over them. Like how husband has authority over his wife and master over his slave.

But the very important word here is Return. Which means turn away from your sinful life and repent and come towards me. Like how the prodigal son did, he first hated Pigs food and then turned towards his father.

So when one is in a backslid-den state (flowing his flesh instead of Spirit) he has to repent then only he can enter the Kingdom of God. But what if there is no time to repent? What if he dies in Backslidden state? What if the door to kingdom of God is shut (Jesus returns)? So instead of quoting such verses to Justify one's backslid-den state, a person has to repent when there is time.

**Re: Hosea- God is married to the backslider - posted by lindi1208 (), on: 2012/2/15 12:55**

Amen Sree Repentance isn't a one time occasion but a continual process of our walk with the Lord.

Lindi

**Re: JEREMIAH 3 V 14. GOD IS MARRIED TO THE BACKSLIDER, on: 2012/2/15 13:17**

Are you Israel according to the flesh. Under stone tablets, according to Law Or a wild vine grafted in, under the blood according to Christ. Under grace. As you choose so shall you be judged. Don't be deceived on this point. Your very presence in the Day of The Lord depends on it.

**Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/2/15 13:27**

hi, years ago in my ministry,i was married to a women who left me and entered into sin and i sought God and He asked me "do you love Me?" i said yes Lord... He said to forgive her and let her come back.this happened three times and was humbling.He forgives and forgets. we forgive.... she left me the last time and got a divorce and God released me from my covenant with her.she tried weakly to come back after the divorce. Gods mercies are new every morning.jimp

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/2/15 14:51**

Quote:  
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years ago in my ministry,i was married to a women who left me and entered into sin and i sought God and He asked me "do you love Me?" i said yes Lord... He said to forgive her and let her come back.this happened three times and was humbling.He forgives and forgets.  
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Though we don't agree on most of the subjects, I have to say I am moved by your testimony till this part (that I have quoted). I believe it will surely be humbling experience and a test that God gives for mature disciples and not babes. I agree that we should extend the same mercy that God showed to us. Jesus was emphasizing the same point in his Parable on forgiveness in Matt 18:23. if we understand how much our Lord has forgiven us then forgiving those who hate us or attack us will not be an issue. Also forgiving those who do not accept our doctrine will also not be an issue!!

Regarding rest of your testimony neither do I agree nor disagree, because I do not have enough light on that particular subject.

**Re - posted by lylewise, on: 2012/2/15 17:58**

Amrkelly. I do agree that there is great strength generated between the common walk we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Maybe that is why God has placed such emphasis on such relationship/fellowship.

Regarding the abuse of the term backsliden, it seems to me that one of the greatest abuses comes by the cloaking of those who have some semblance of being joined to the body, but who have never truly come to the feet of Christ. It is with that consideration that the term takes on both a broader definition as well as a broader application that it was never meant to have. I find there is much confusion and abuse when this term is used, not unlike when the term prodigal is used. A great concern is the many that rest in a counterfeit rest found under such broad application. No doubt God is faithful, patient, and longsuffering bearing our short falls, but what is being allowed to root in such deficiency will in no way be considered barterable when the farmer goes to market.

**Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/2/15 21:21**

hi, i am not looking for anyones approval except the Lords.

**Re: The term Backsliding, on: 2012/2/16 3:19**

LyleWise: Yes I think you have the balance. There can be no doubt that prodigal carries more of God's heart as it were and backsliding is a translation issue. (My emphasis) I was speaking from a great pain of remembrance when I wrote my points. When I first came to know the reality of God I was in prison. It pleased the Father to reveal Himself, and I was saved. The same evening having asked the Father concerning the Lord Jesus I found myself translated to Christ and was sitting on His knee like a little child. He was stroking my head very gently but at the same time I was not permitted to look at His face. I saw the white of His garment. After this I was asleep.

When I left prison 10 months later I began to fellowship and though I loved the brethren I was always deeply troubled in my spirit. At the time I couldn't understand why. This went on for some time and after 3 or 4 months I was worn down down by the troubling in my spirit. I know now 27 years later why I was troubled. May God have mercy on those elders who were responsible.

Fact is. I turned to the flesh of my former life. Drinking etc, and I was deemed backsliden. For 6 months every night I fell on my face and cried out to the Lord. Often with tears. (After the carousing had ended for that day you understand). No one helped me to understand, and Satan took full advantage of the circumstances to molest me continuously even physically causing me to be thrown into the air in my sleep.

In the end the Lord restored me in an instant. I have always known from that day how careful I must be when I meet one of those who take the name of Christ, who have a testimony, but no walk and no fruit. This was my heart in my original post. I would to God that someone had come to me and spoken about the prodigal son. I would have been far less hurt. Peace be with you.