

**Series:** Before And After You Say "I Do"  
**Message:** When You Encounter A StaleMate, Part 3  
**Speaker:** Randy Pope  
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## 1. Three Truths Essential To Understand And To Embrace.

### 1.1 Divorce Without Biblical Grounds Is Not A Beneficial Option.

#### **Matthew 5:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> *"It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE';*

<sup>32</sup> *but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

#### **Matthew 19:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."*

<sup>10</sup> *The disciples said\* to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."*

#### **1 Corinthians 7:15**

<sup>15</sup> *Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.*

### 1.2 Contentment Is A Very Real Option

***Philippians 4:11-13***

*<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*

*<sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*

*<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

***Linda Dillow, Calm My Anxious Heart***

Contentment is accepting God's sovereign control over all of life's circumstances.

***J.I. Packer***

Contentment is essentially a matter of accepting from God's hand what He sends because we know that His is good and therefore it is good.

***Carolyn James, When Life And Beliefs Collide***

There are moments in life when God's goodness and love seem to come under a blackout. No matter how we strain our eyes, we cannot see any good, not a trace of God's love. These moments – and we all have them – remind us of the urgency of becoming better theologians.

***Isaiah 46:9-10***

*<sup>9</sup> "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,*

*<sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';*

***Psalms 139:16***

*<sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.*

***Carolyn James, When Life And Beliefs Collide***

God has planned our race, and He is carrying out His plan – a plan that guarantees our good and His glory. Nothing – not principalities or powers, not the devil himself, not even me – can throw God off His plan or prevent Him from accomplishing His good purposes. We run a planned race.

***Carolyn James, When Life And Beliefs Collide***

If God is sovereign, then every day of our lives has meaning and purpose because God has planned it. We are not left in the wake of God's plan for someone else... Those who believe that God has a plan for them sometimes encounter another problem – the conviction that they have lost God's best plan for them. They believe that they have missed or fallen off the plan, or that something has happened to destroy it. Somewhere along the line, we zigged when we should have zagged, and now we're hopelessly stuck with plan B. It only takes a foolish youthful decision, a missed opportunity, the interference of someone else in our lives, or our sinfulness, and plan A is gone forever. But if God is sovereign, then plan B is a myth. No matter how dark things look to us, or how big the mess we're in, we're in plan A. God's plan for us is intact, proceeding exactly as He intended, neither behind nor ahead but right on schedule. Nothing – not our sins, failures, disappointments, bad decision, nor the sins of others against us – can deter a sovereign God from accomplishing His purposes.

***Author Unknown***

There is nothing...no circumstance, no trouble, no testing, that can ever touch me until first of all it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose which I may not understand at the moment; but as I refuse to become panicky, as I lift up mine eyes to Him and accept it as coming from the throne of grace for some great purpose of blessing to my own heart, no sorrow will ever disturb me; no circumstance will cause me to fret; for I shall rest in the joy of Who my Lord is. That is the rest of victory.

***Carolyn James, When Life And Beliefs Collide***

When faith cannot find something tangible to grasp, we are compelled to fly back to the ark of God's unchanging, unfailing character. But faith will not find much of a foothold here if God is a stranger to us. Faith, in the final analysis, is trusting someone you know, even when you don't always understand what He is doing.

**Romans 8:35-39**

*35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

*37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

*38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

*39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Acts 2:23**

*23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

**Romans 8:32**

*32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

1.3 Renewal Is Always A Possibility For Your Marriage.

**Matthew 19:26**

*26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*