

THE THIRD PARTY

Marriage is a Divine Institution designed by God to be **monogamous** for exclusive intimacy relationship.

Paul used this to illustrate the uniqueness of the spiritual relationship between Christ and the Church.

(Eph.5:31-32) “For this reason a man **shall leave** his father and mother **and shall be joined** to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church.**”

Whenever a third party is enters, permitted or not, into the monogamous intimacy this Divine Institution it will find itself under attack by satan’s ‘worldly thinking’. (Cosmos Diabolicus) (Luke 22:31; Gen.3).

- The world tries to justify it by labeling it as an “affair” or “promiscuous” rather than **adultery and sin**.
- The world says it is no big thing. Sex is as natural as eating and drinking.
- God says sex before marriage is **fornication (1 Cor.6:15-7:2)**.
- Sex outside of marriage is **adultery**.

(Heb.13:4) “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

The **ONLY** Third Party permissible in a monogamous relationship is the Lord Jesus Christ!
(1 Cor.9:5; 2 Cor.6:14-18).

<p>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of the attack upon the divine institution of marriage by a Third Party brought into the monogamous relationship of marriage.</p>

1. Remember prior to Sarah suggesting bringing a third party (Hagar) into their marriage, Abraham had suggested a third party (Pharaoh) take Sarah in Gen 12

This shows an enormous problem in their monogamous marital intimacy. “You know two can play this game.” Two carnal wrongs don’t make a spiritual right. This is never a good idea no matter how one tries to justify it.

They were not running around on each with others. They didn’t think they were putting their marriage at risk nor being unfaithful to one another because they were in some form of agreement (Ananias and Sapphira of (Acts 5:3) “You have not lied to men but to God.”.

However they were running around on each other in their hearts.

(Matt.5:17-28) “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed **adultery with her in his heart.**”
(2 Cor.10:5)

2. Their real problem was that they became unfaithful to the Lord and His word before the Hagar incident.

The cause and reason doesn't justify carnal and disobedient behavior to directive will of God.

Hagar was a "house gift", as a maid from Pharaoh, and was not to be a "gift" of a wife nor as a surrogate mother. Hagar was a reminder to Abraham of his failure in his marital responsibility.

(Gen.16:6) "But Abram said to Sarai, 'Behold, **your maid** is in **your power**; do to her what is good in **your sight**.' So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence."

Hagar was an innocent party and an unacceptable solution to a spiritual problem in their marriage and plan of God. Yet they are about to drag her into the middle of it by an abuse of authority in the Divine Chain of Command (1 Cor.11:3).

3. Abraham chose to be a follower when he should have been a leader in his marriage. When this occurs, role reversal will soon follow.

- Sarah over Abraham Authority conflict in marriage (DI).
- Hagar over Sarah Authority conflict in employment (DI).
- Abraham over the Lord Authority conflict in freedom (DI).

One of the tragedies of this story is that none of them were willing to say NO! Now we have a mess. How would they know that Hagar would have a son? Did they believe God would give a son with an Egyptian unbeliever? Did they believe God would throw away His Plan for their plan?

You can never solve spiritual problems by carnality and sin.

The Lord will have to intervene in this chaos and deal with each person in order to return to Divine order in the Plan of God.

(1 Cor.14:33) "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

(Matt.13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the **evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart**. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road." [Explanation in Parable of Sower] (Heb.4:2-3)

4. Abraham and Sarah concluded falsely that any heir could be an acceptable substituted in the plan of God.

They also **concluded falsely that an heir from either parent with a third party** could be an acceptable substitute in the plan of God. This is secondary negative volition.

When God called Abraham and Sarah, He told them **they would parent** the seed of Christ (Gen.12:1-3). Circumstances do not dictate fulfillment of the Word of God. We don't walk by sight but faith (2 Cor.5:7)

God restated His covenant with them in (Gen.17:15-22). God reaffirmed that **Sarah** would be the birth-mother (Gen.17:15-22). Even after God restated the Covenant in details, Abraham pushed back on it.

(Gen.17:18-19) "And Abraham said to God, 'Oh that Ishmael might live before You!' **But God said, 'No**, but **Sarah** your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendents after him."

Putting off Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) [Worldly] thinking and putting on New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking can be difficult, painful, and time consuming in certain areas of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2) [Will require **transformation**].