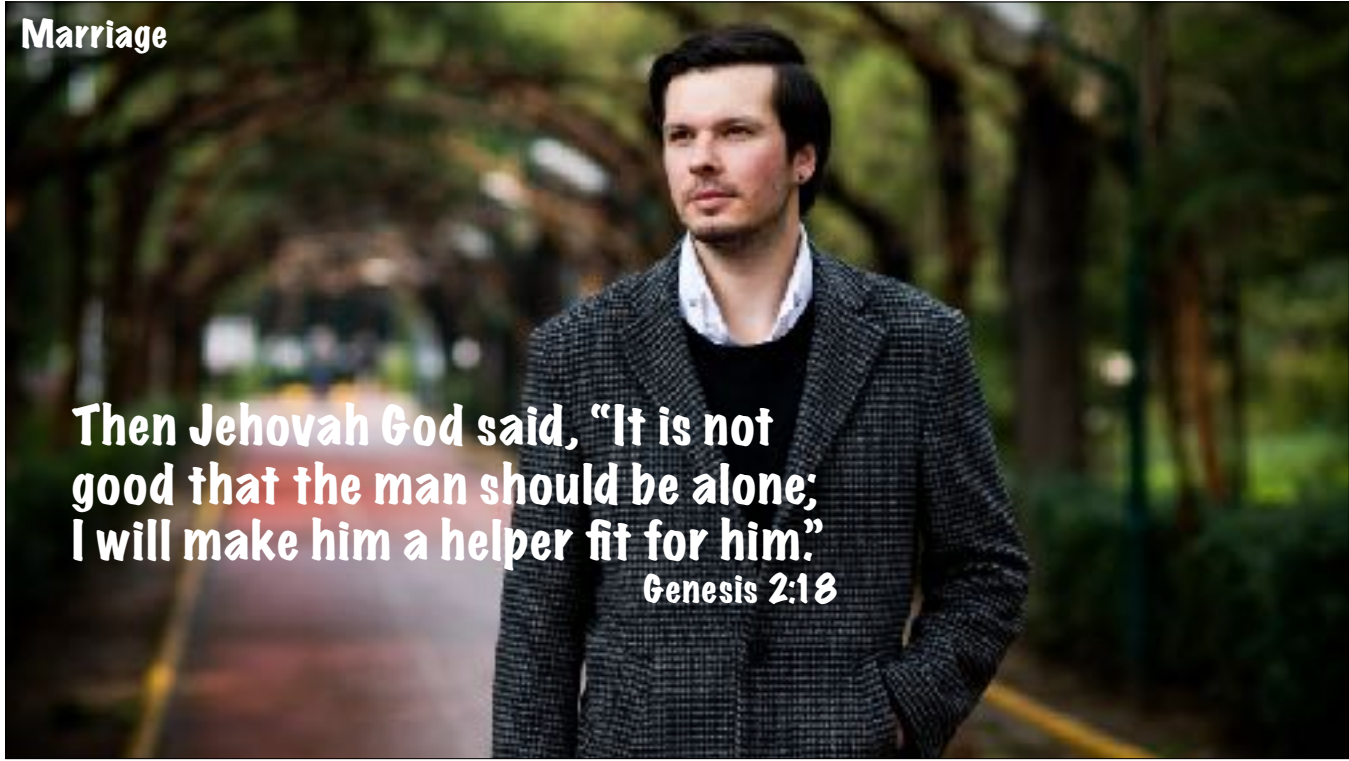




- Matthew 5:27-32

Marriage

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt, stands in a park with trees in the background. The image is used as a background for a quote.

**Then Jehovah God said, "It is not
good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper fit for him."
Genesis 2:18**

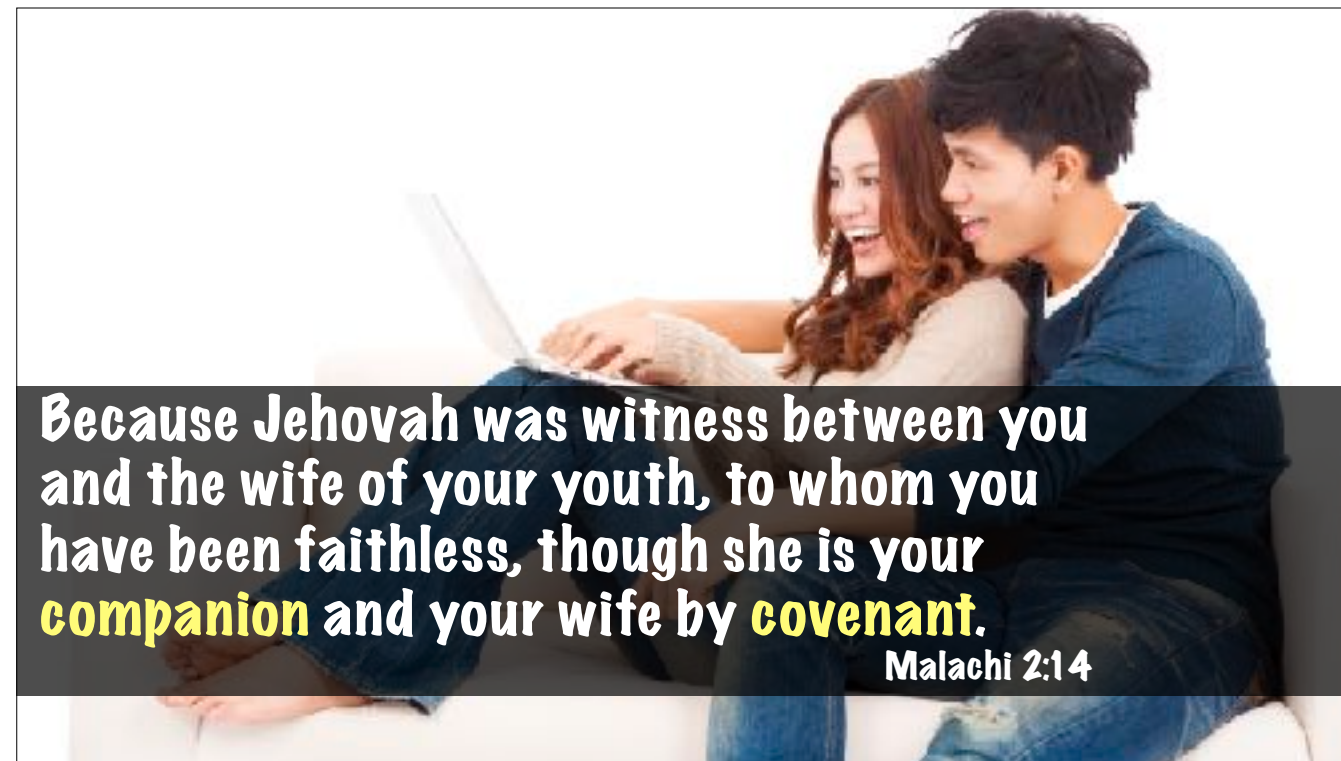
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Marriage

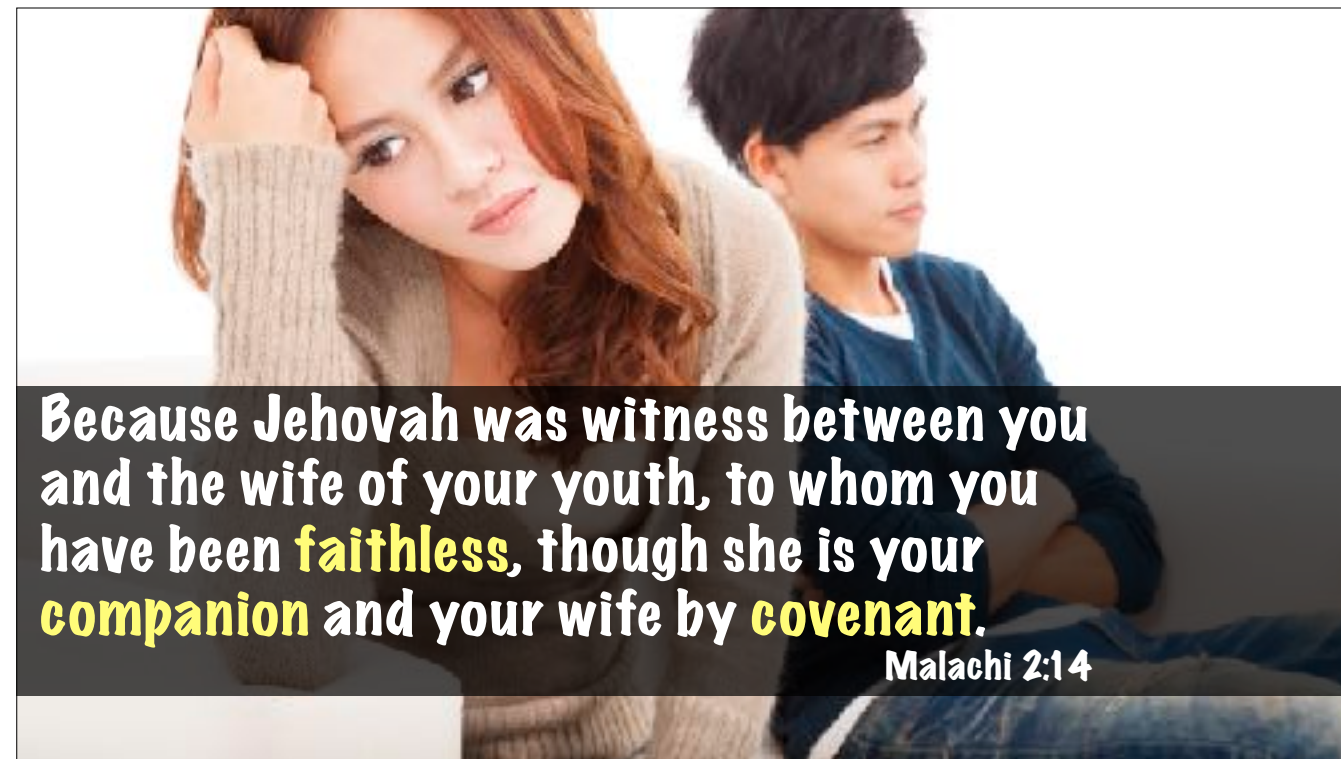
Therefore a man shall leave his
father and his mother and hold fast
to his wife, and they shall become
one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

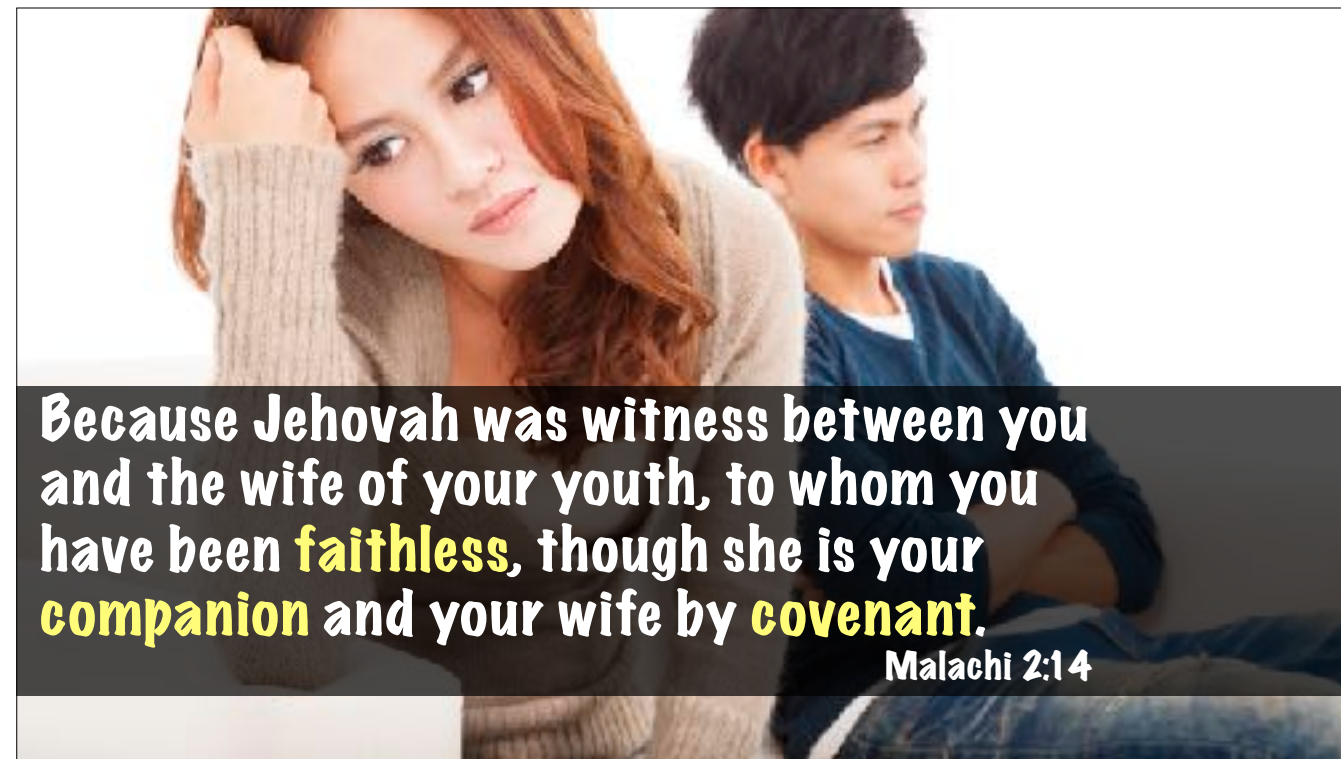
- Genesis 2:24: Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



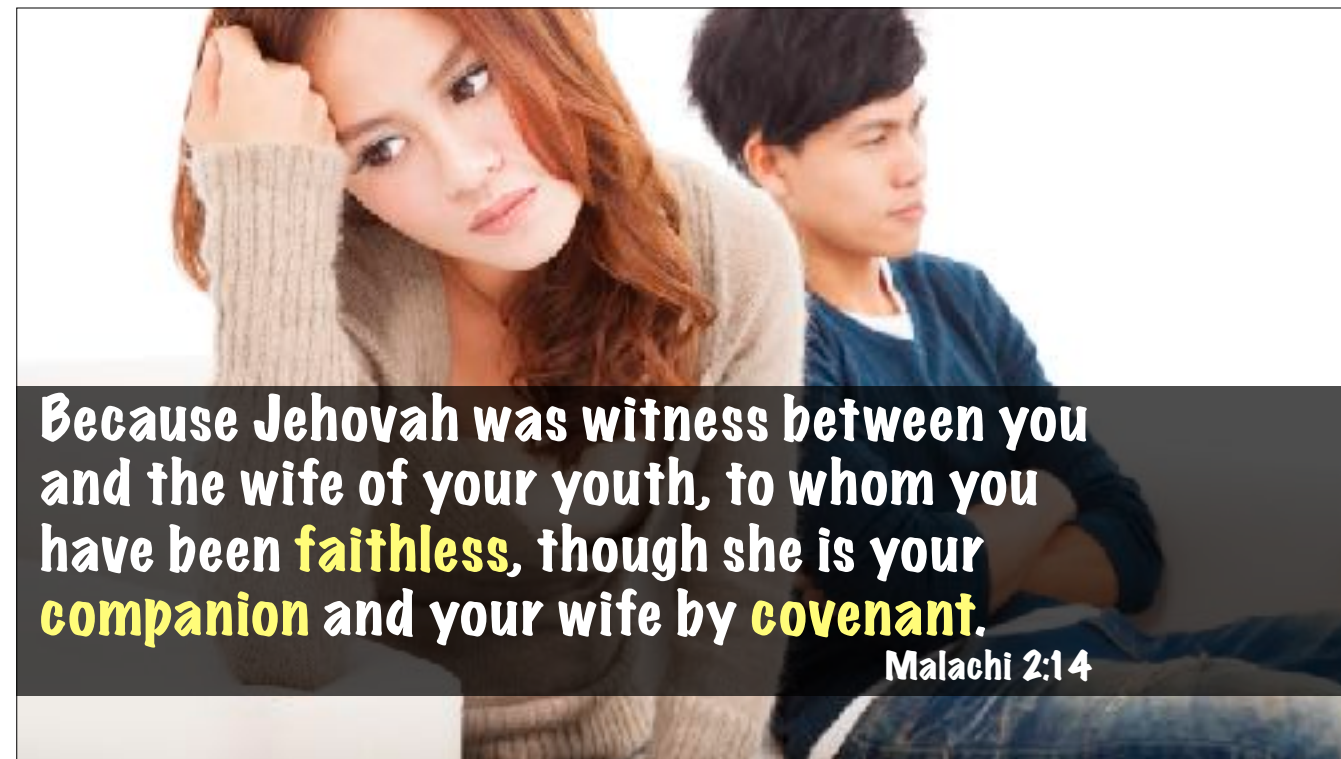
- Malachi 2:14-16 (ESV) 14 But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”



- Faithless:
- BDB: to act treacherously, deceitfully, deal treacherously
- (CWSB Dictionary) H898. בָּגַד bāgaḏ: A verb meaning to deal treacherously with, to be traitorous, to act unfaithfully, to betray. The verb connotes unfaithfulness in relationships like marriage (Ex. 21:8; Jer. 3:20; Mal. 2:14); Israel's covenant with the Lord (Ps. 78:57; 119:158); friendships (Job 6:15; Jer. 3:20; Mal. 2:10); leadership (Judg. 9:23).



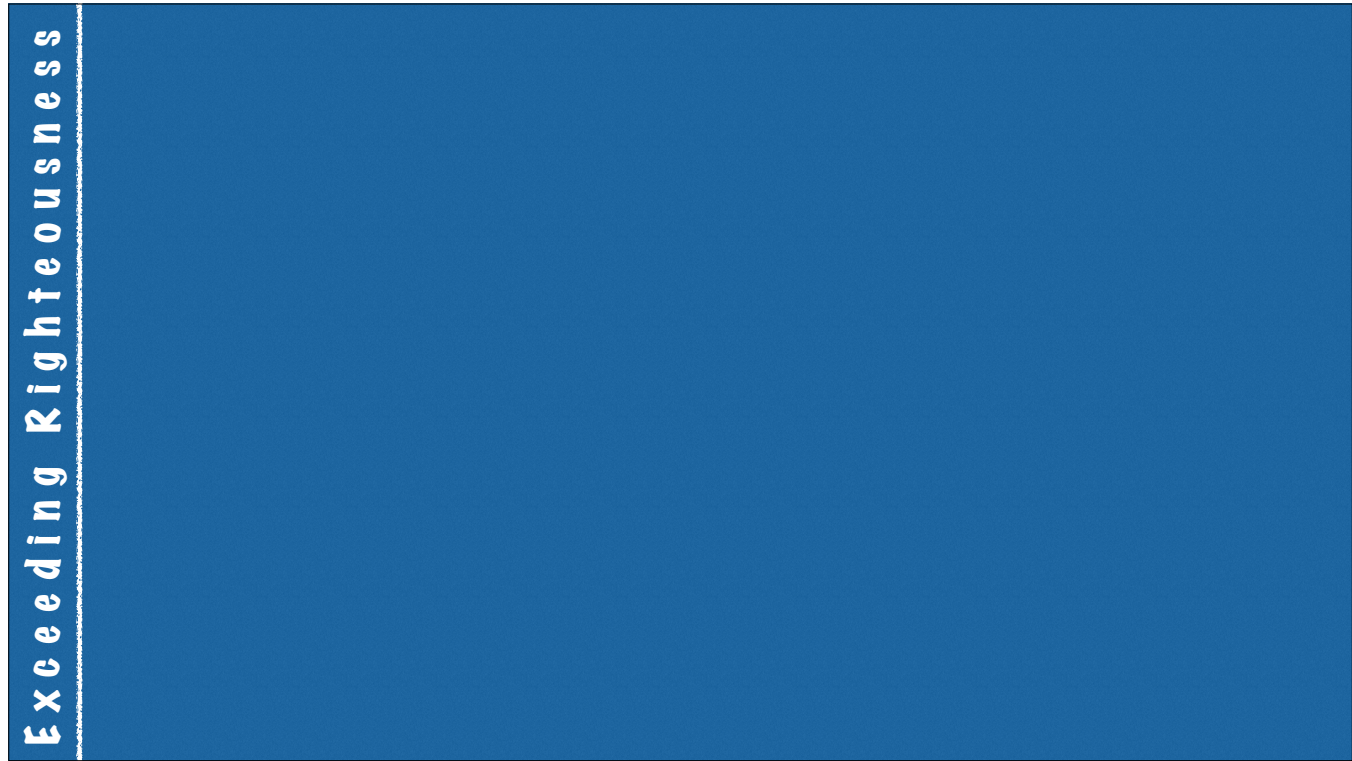
- Faithless:
 - (TWOT) to describe the one who deals treacherously. He is one who does not honor an agreement



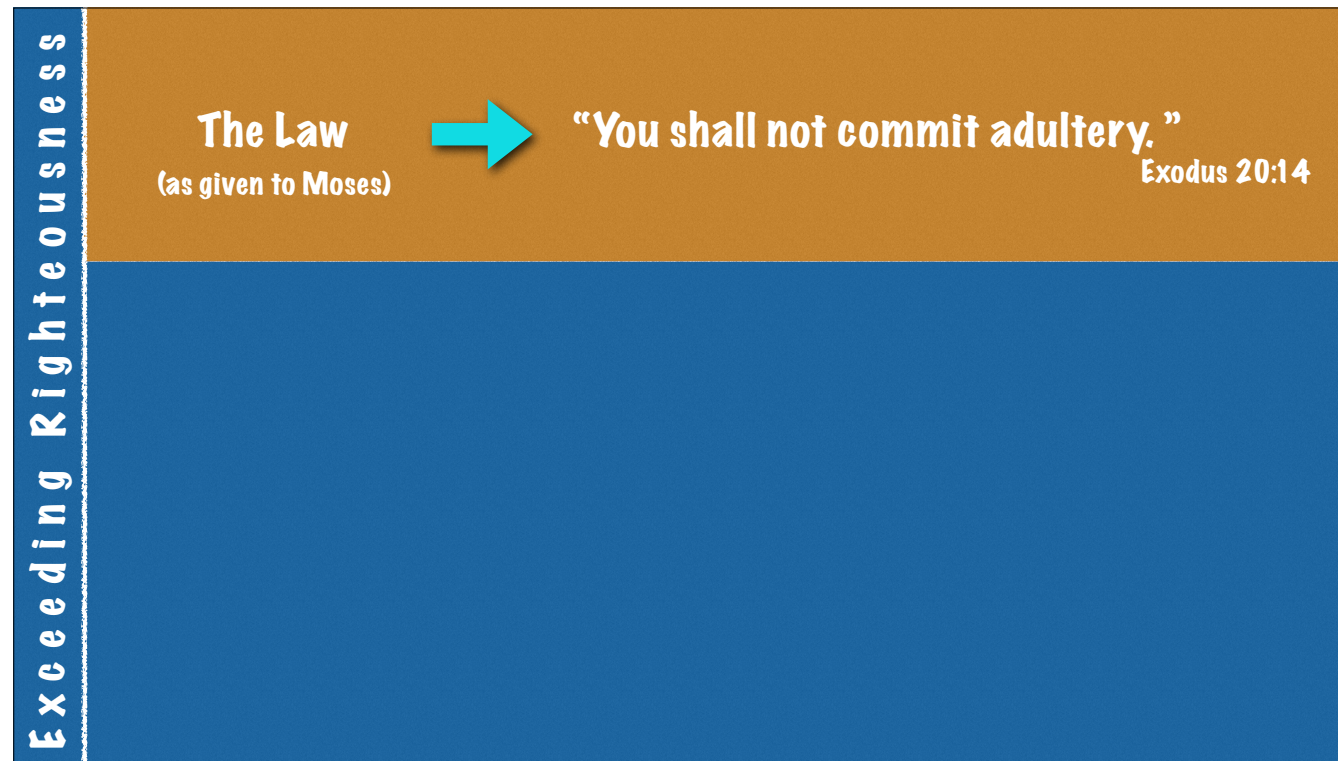
Because Jehovah was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been **faithless, though she is your **companion** and your wife by **covenant**.**

Malachi 2:14

- There was a time when adultery and divorce were things of shame, spoken of in whispers.
- But we've accepted
 - fornication (sex outside marriage) is encouraged, propagated
 - adultery is normal and expected
 - divorce is inevitable; promises made to be broken
 - Life-long marriage is unreasonable, unnatural
- We've taught our children that unfaithfulness is okay



- Jesus' second example of true righteousness.
- Mt. 5:27-32



- Seems so very clear.
- How could this possibly be misconstrued and misunderstood by the S&P?
- How had the S&P **relaxed** this commandment?



- okay to look at menu, as long as don't eat.
 - looks (991) to see, discern; to turn eyes to anything, to look at, look upon, gaze at.
 - lust (1937) prop. to keep the thumos turned upon a thing, hence to have a desire for, long for; to lust after
 - look ≠ lust (consumes, desires; in imagination attacks and rapes.



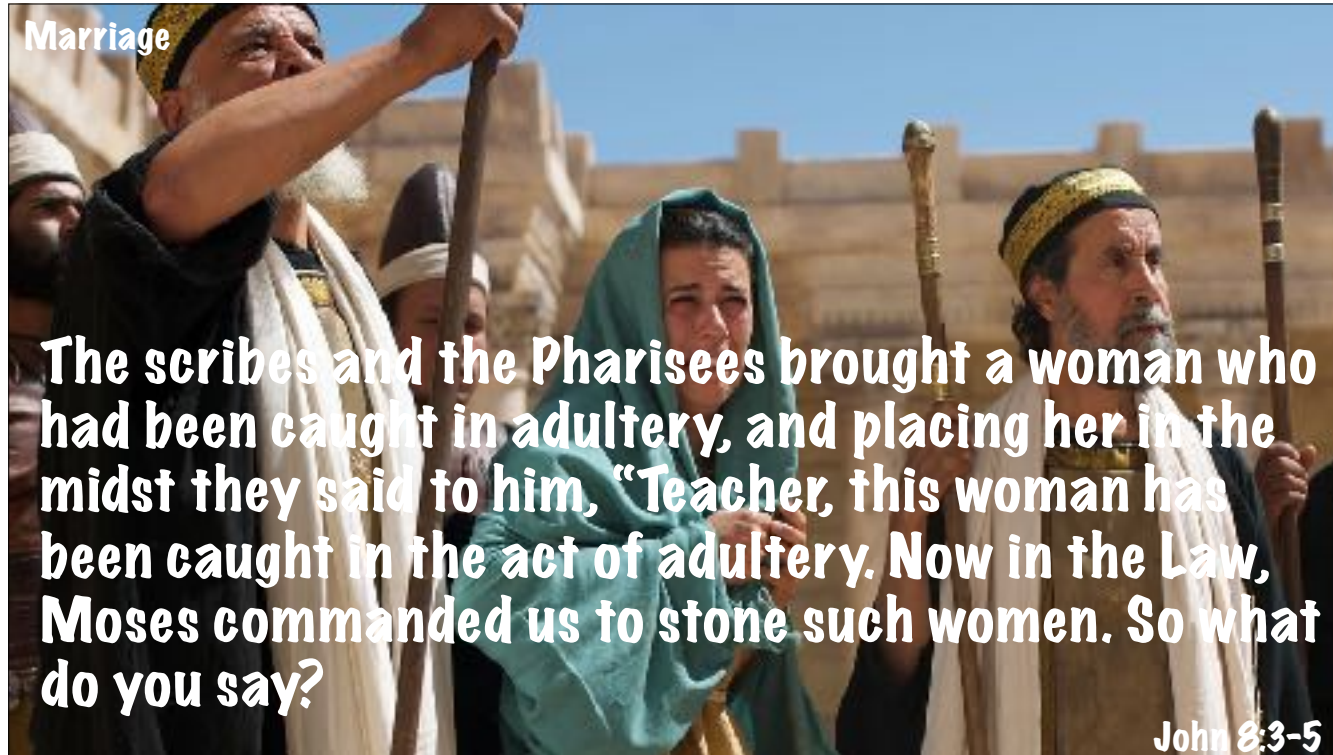
- Essentially approved of sinfulness: calling evil good!
 - Isaiah 5:20: Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Marriage

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men ... adulterers

Luke 18:11

- Luke 18:11: The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.



- John 8:3-11 (ESV) 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”]]

Marriage

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- Jesus clearly points out the hypocrisy of the S&P concerning adultery.
- Condemned it, yet didn't help people to avoid it, overcome it; restore to God



- Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - This explanation of Jesus is what helps us to see that Jesus is clearing trying to help us get to the deeper meaning of the law.



- Jesus underscores the purity to which the law points us
 - Pharisees gave a conveniently narrow definition of sexual sin and a conveniently broad definition of sexual purity.
 - Highly respectable men and women, never commit adultery; but do look and enjoy sinning with the mind/imagination.
 - Which one of us is not guilty of adultery?



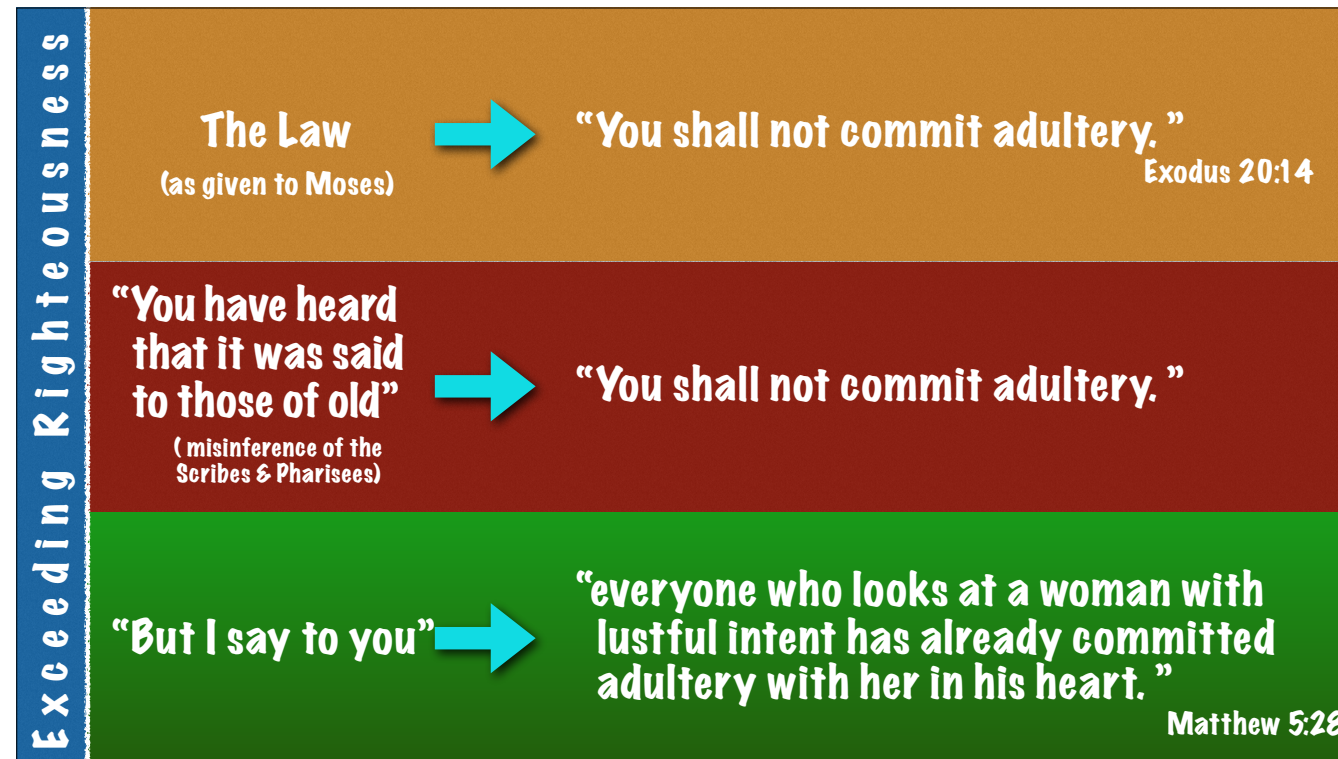
- Job 31:1: (ESV) 1 “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?”



- How can this be applied spiritually?
 - Hosea 2:2; 4:10-13
 - Looking at the gods of the other nations and wishing we could do as they do
 - Allowed to sin as they sin?
 - Norse gods: fighting, killing, drinking, sexual immorality
- Key thought: Faithfulness!



- If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.
 - For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
- And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.
 - For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.



- ESVSB: Even things of great value should be given up if they are leading a person to sin.
- Not encouraging self-mutilation: a blind man can lust; a one handed man can still touch.
- Problem, ultimately, is in our heart.



- not literal (left eye, left hand still there): ridicule
 - hyperbole: to indicate the extremity/importance of how we deal with sin
- the real and horrible nature of sin; the terrible danger in which sin involves us
 - the importance of the soul and it's destiny
 - Mt. 16.25: what profit if gain world, lose life?



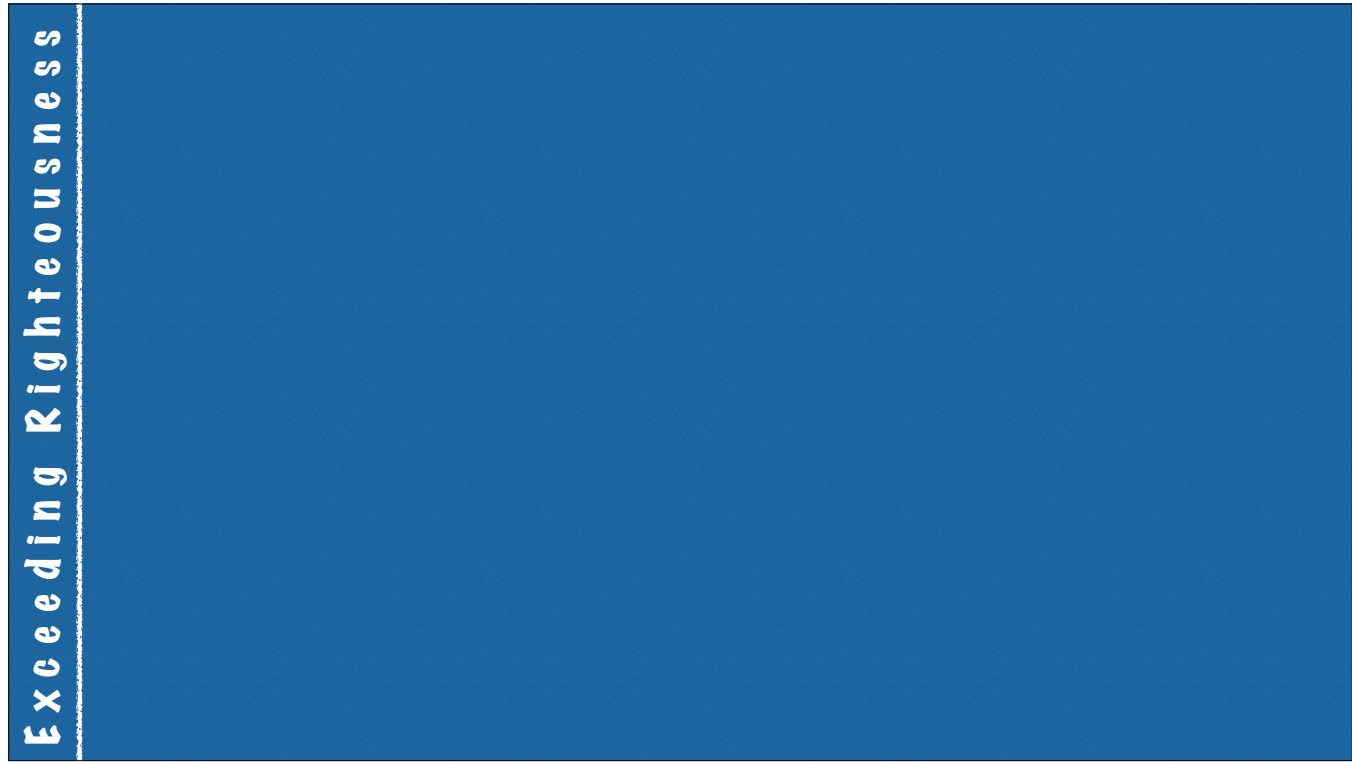
- importance of dealing with sin and getting rid of it
 - we are to deal drastically with sin
 - not pamper it, flirt with it, etc.
 - hate it, crush it, dig it out



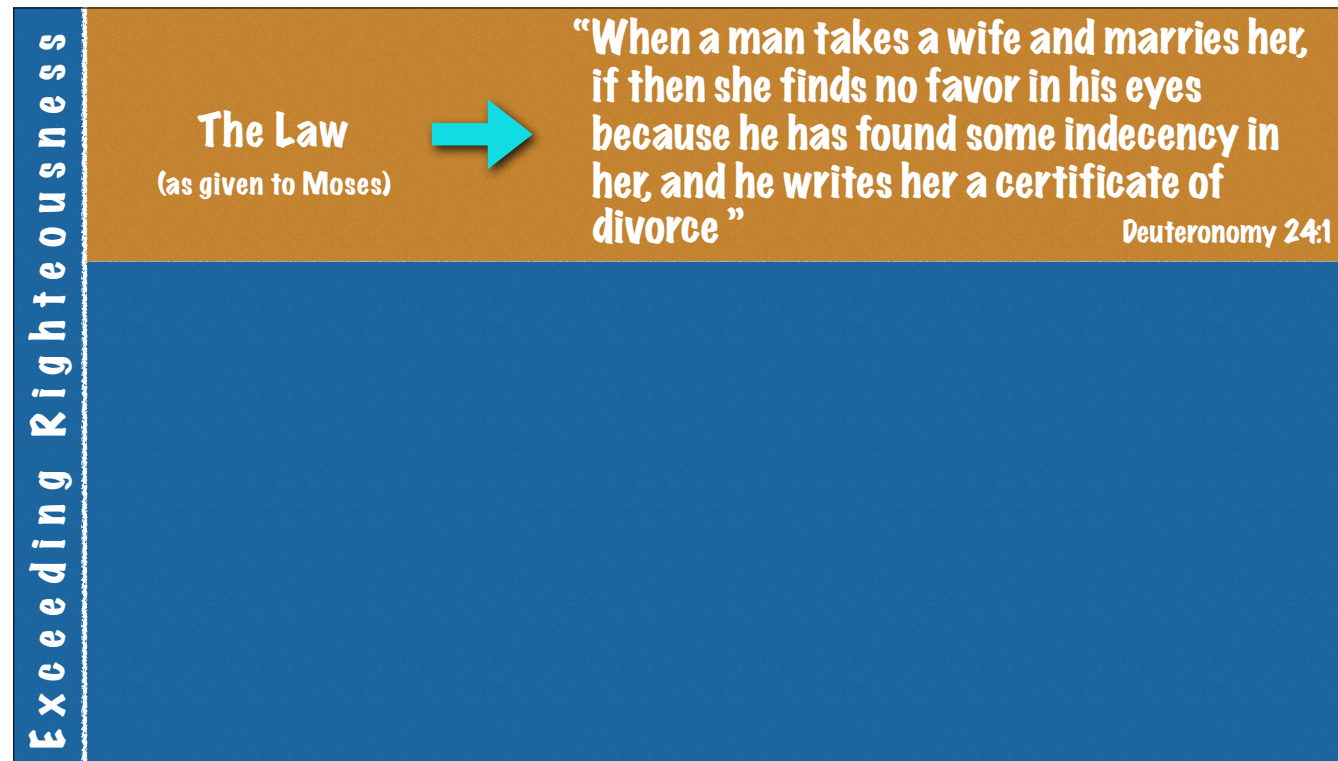
- "Put to death" (Col. 3.5)
- If you live ... by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Rom. 8.13)
- 1 Corinthians 9:27: But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- don't let flesh rule over spirit



- Must eliminate certain things from our lives that, while innocent in themselves, either are or could easily become sources of temptation.
 - if most precious thing in life tempts you to sin: get rid of it
 - never feed the flesh; deliberately restrain it;
 - remember price paid on the cross



- An another aspect of lust, adultery is seen in our proclivity for divorce.



- Deuteronomy 24:1-4: "When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the Lord. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

➔

**“When a man takes a wife and marries her,
if then she finds no favor in his eyes
because he has found some indecency in
her, and he writes her a certificate of
divorce”**

Deuteronomy 24:1

- Indecency:
 - BDB: nakedness, nudity, shame, pudenda (implying shameful exposure); nakedness of a thing, indecency, improper behavior
 - CWSB: an idiom for indecent or improper behavior (Deut. 23:14[15]; 24:1).

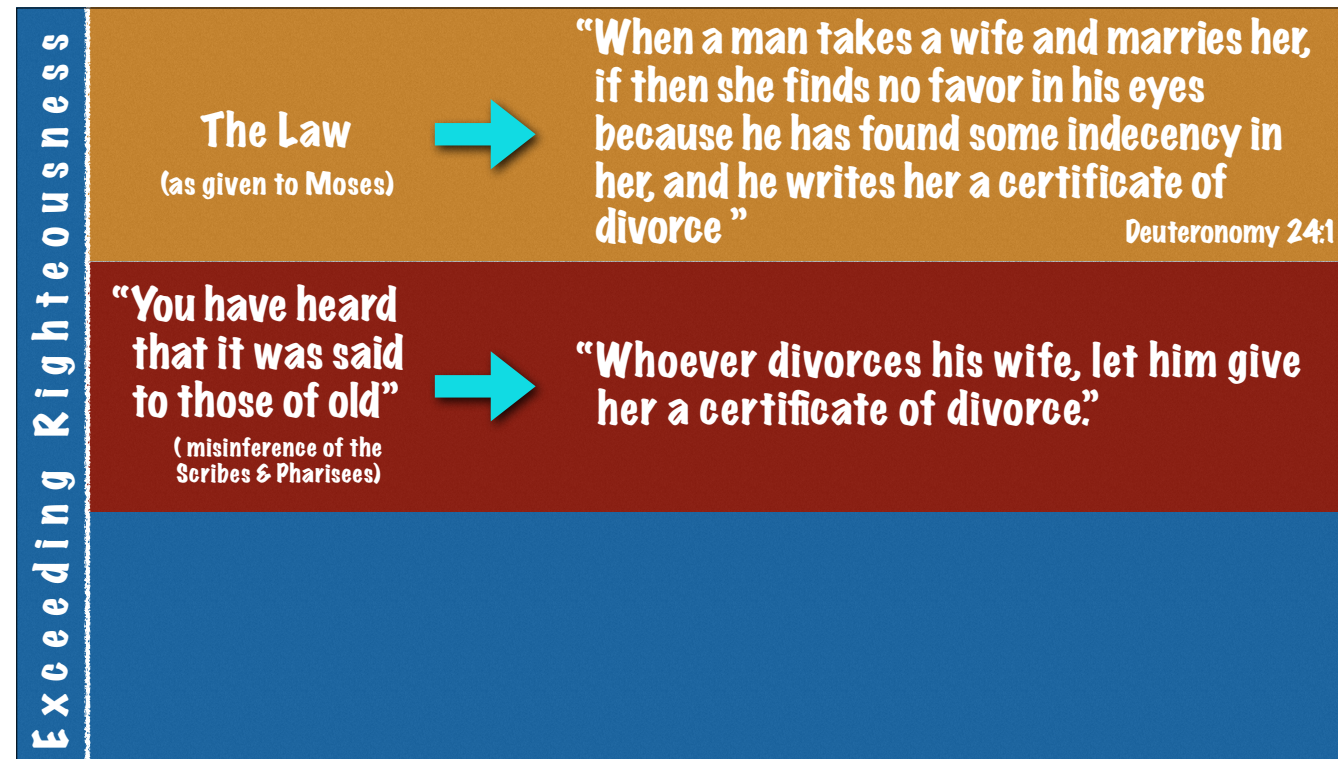
Exceeding Righteousness

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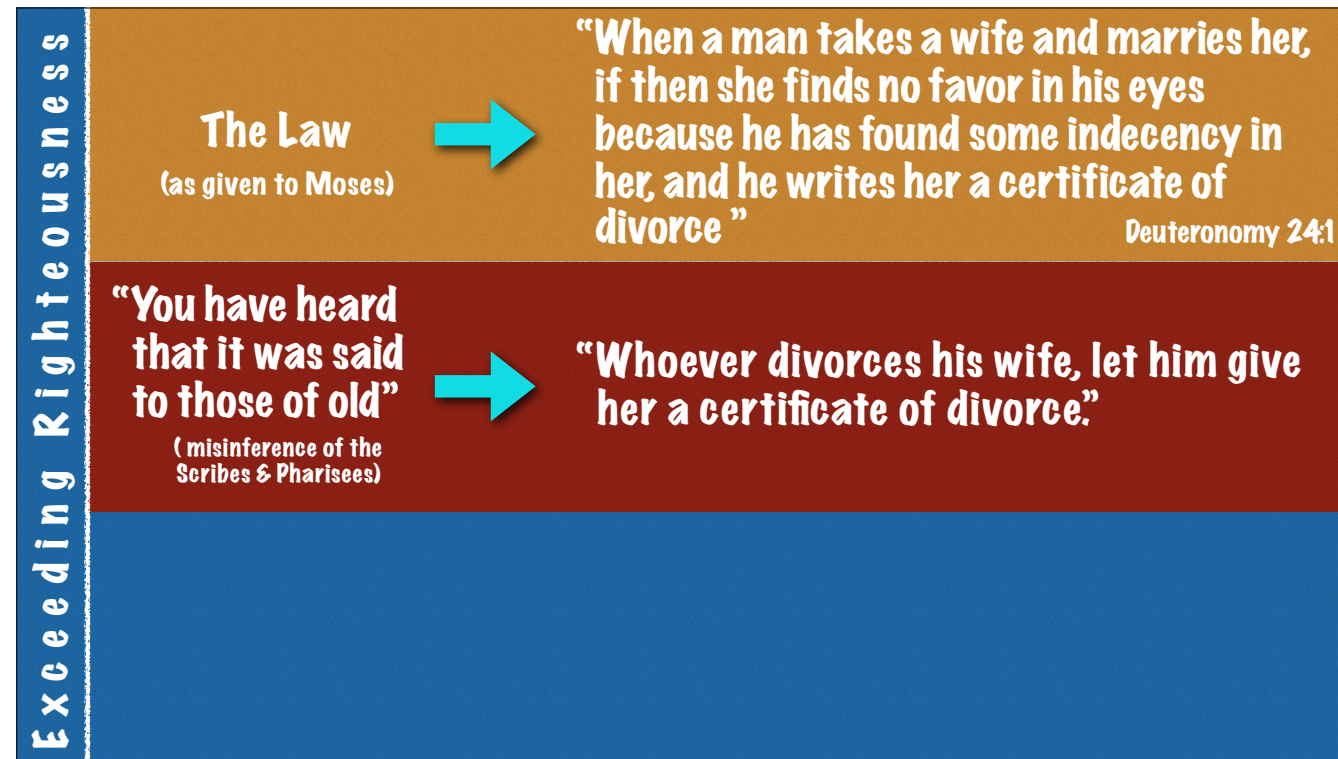
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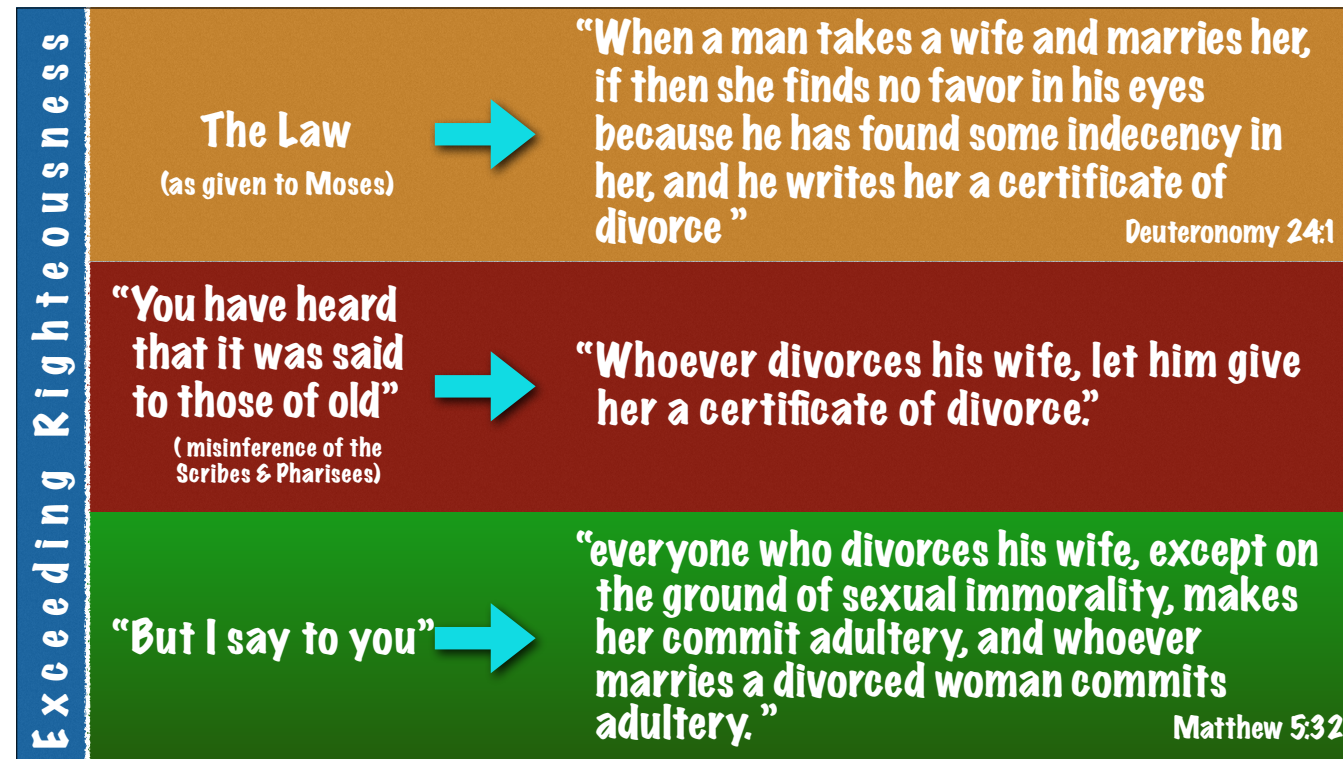
- MED: Leviticus 18 uses the term 32x as an expression for “sexual relationships” (e.g., 32:6, 7; 20:11).
- MED: The contemporary cliché “caught with your pants down” captures the sense of this term when it is used to denote one’s shame.



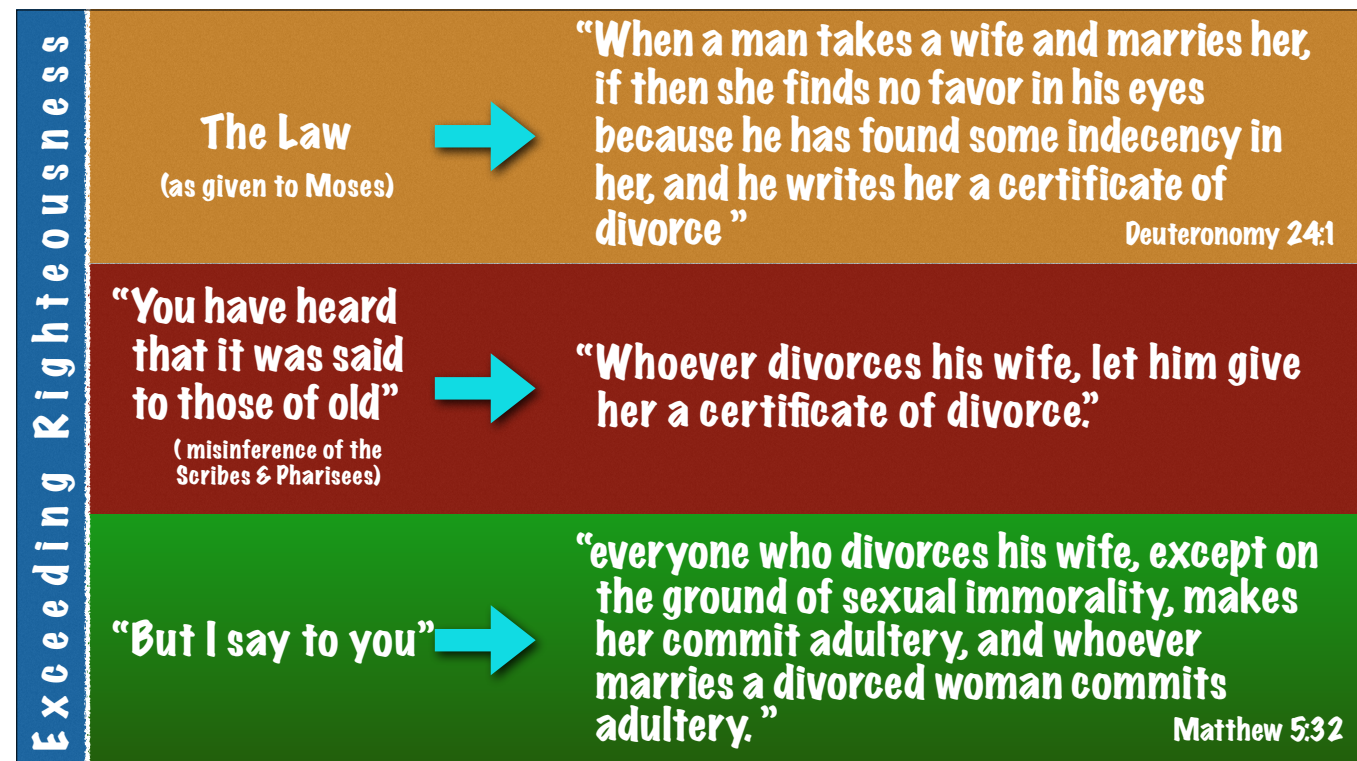
- Note the omission of "some indecency"
- Indecency was redefined to mean just about anything that the husband didn't like: how she cooked meals, etc.



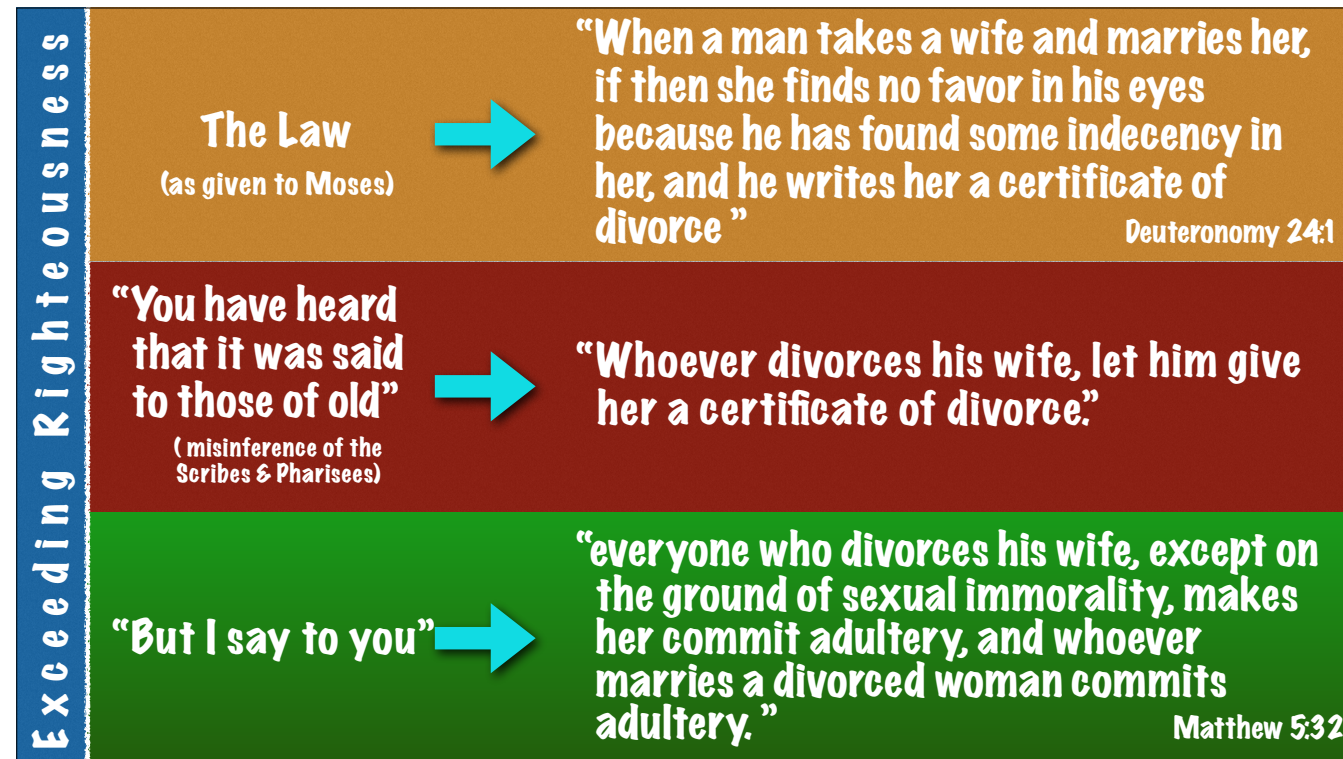
- Pharisees, most important aspect of divorce is writing certificate:
 - Whatever reason, give the certificate.
 - misapplication of Deut. 24.
 - exception existed because of hardness of heart (Mt. 19.8)
- Divorce was made easy, simple



- divorce is an insidious form of adultery
- Pharisees guilty of adultery in two ways (lust, divorce) thought they were righteous
 - important: permanence of marriage Avoid divorce
 - If divorce for reason other than fornication: adultery (lust)



- Why the exception?
 - 1 Corinthians 6:13: The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:16: Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."



- 1 Corinthians 6:18: Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.



- If all that we learn from this is that
 - 1) we should not commit adultery
 - 2) we shouldn't lust
 - 3) we shouldn't divorce
 - 4) we should take drastic measures to help us avoid sin/lust.
- We are as blind / deceived as S&P!
- What underlying principle is God teaching us about Himself?



- God is faithful: 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:18
- Exodus 34:6: Jehovah passed before him and proclaimed, "Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,
- Deuteronomy 32:4: "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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God Is Faithful! (Part 1)

Matthew 5:27-32

Synopsis: Jesus' second example of true righteousness is exemplified by the prohibition of adultery and divorce, both of which the Scribes and Pharisees had relaxed, failing to understand that the problem was in the heart. True righteousness understands that this is really about faithfulness. In marriage we covenant to be one flesh, adultery violently violates that relationship, as does divorce. In this less we also consider ways that we can actively demonstrate our faithfulness to our spouse and to our God.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."