



## JULY 2020 GLEN AND SHAWN SOLBERG

*Serving Marriages in Central Arkansas  
with Marriage Revolution*

**marriage**  
**revolution**  
turn love around

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### ***From Focus on the Family: Did You Marry the Wrong Person?***

Movie star Mickey Rooney said, “Marriage is like batting in baseball; when the right one comes along, you don’t want to let it go by.” It sounds good, until you realize that Mickey was married eight times. He must have had a lot of “good pitches” to swing at! Not to be outdone, Glynn DeMoss Wolfe, the world record holder of 26 marriages at the time, made a similar comparison. “Marriage is like stamp collecting,” he said. “You keep looking to find that rare one.”

Both men held what might be called the “needle in a haystack” view of picking a mate. According to this perspective, there’s only one spouse with whom you could be happy. That person needs to be found even if it means discarding a spouse who no longer looks right for you.



Significant emotional pain lies in the wake of such a view. You won’t find a “wrong needle” clause in the Bible that gives you an “out” if you conclude that your spouse isn’t right for you. Instead you’ll find in Malachi 2:15, “Do not break faith with the wife of your youth.”

**Marriage is not primarily about finding the right spouse. It’s about being the right person.**

When you’re single, you experience a range of contentment from low to high. When you marry, that range has the potential to become even wider in both directions. Greater contentment—or discontentment—can take place than in your single years.

If you and your loved one were unhappy as singles and expected marriage to fulfill your lives, you probably were greatly disappointed as your level of contentment dropped even lower. But if you sensed meaning and purpose in your lives individually and wanted to share them in a lifetime commitment, you likely experienced an increase in contentment. You might call this the Mine Theory of Mate Selection. You either find the “land mine” or the “gold mine” in marriage.

If you entered marriage hoping to finally find happiness in your mate, you probably didn’t find it. Like a carpenter who may first have to remove the floorboards in order to shore up the joists underneath, you may first need to find contentment individually.

Keep reading by typing in this short link: [bit.ly/wrong-person](http://bit.ly/wrong-person) (link is case sensitive)

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## Question: Do I Really Love Jesus?

Shared by Pastor Bill Elliff: There are many things I do in my Christian life. But all of these pale in comparison to one central issue which can be captured in the ultimate question: *Do I love Jesus?*

Jesus speaks to the church at Ephesus, Chapter 2, applauding them for their "toil and perseverance" and their refusal to let evil men control their fellowship. These believers had "perseverance and had endured for (Christ's) name's sake and (had) not grown weary." But then He adds what, to me, is one of the most arresting statements in the Bible: **"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."** (Revelation 2:4) They had fallen out of love with Jesus.

If you are married, you realize this possibility. There are seasons where you are overwhelmed with love for your wife, but there are other times when you get consumed with busyness, or irritated at each other's faults, or in love with yourself more than your mate. And your affection grows cold. These are the dangerous moments in a marriage when you must decide if you will turn your attention afresh to your mate, rekindle the love you once had, and let the fires of love and passion burn again.

The same is true in our relationship with Christ. Our souls are made for love and if we are not passionate about Him we will go, as one man said, "in silent search for other lovers." I have experienced this in a cyclical way in me and in our church through the years. Times of great love that somehow, over time, degenerate into a dutiful religion, unfueled by passion.

During those times, there are so many good things happening that we can be carried by the routine. But do we love Jesus? Are we so overwhelmed by Him that He is our first thought in the morning and our last thought at night? Are our affections so strong that we cannot wait to talk with Him and so we carry on a conversation all day long (unceasing prayer)? Do we love Him so much that we gladly do everything He says when He asks it of us? Do we find ourselves worshiping Him in spirit and truth? Do songs about Him move us?

This is so central that it demands that we put this personally: Do you love Him as you once did? If not, it is time to turn from every competing affection and cry out with all you have that this love would be restored afresh. That you would fall in love with Jesus all over again.

*"Dear Jesus, forgive me for letting the love of other things seep into my soul. Forgive me for the love of myself; this self-centeredness that is so proud and vain that I want to satisfy my desires and fulfill my will and not yours. Pull me back, dear Jesus. Help me to fall in love with you again. Open my eyes to see what has taken first place in my heart and give me grace to throw it down with a vengeance, smashing every idol. Flood my heart with fresh, fervent love for you. Let me enthrone you once again as the absolute Lord and Master of my heart. And give me a ruthless vigilance against every god, including and especially the god of self, that would seek to gain entrance to my heart. O, Lover of my soul, restore to me the love I once knew so that my life would give you all that is your due and all that gives me life and joy and witness. Thrill me with Yourself, O matchless Savior, that I may delight in You alone."*

### July Verses:

I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Revelation 2:2-4

### Prayer Requests for July 2020: Thank you for your prayers!

**OUR NATION:** Please pray for our nation and its leadership. We know the only real answer for hatred against others that are not our race or creed is the life-transforming power of a relationship with Jesus. Let's be diligent to pray for revival in our nation – a great awakening not seen in this country in hundreds of years. Lord, bring revival!!

**OUR TEAM:** Please pray for our Team at Marriage Revolution – that we would be used by God daily to incarnate Christ to couples and individuals. Pray the the Word of God would do the transforming work of God in those couples He is bringing!

**OUR FAMILY IN 2020:** Our focus as a family in 2020 is on humility and gratitude. Please pray that all 6 of us would grow in our humility and gratitude in 2020 and those Christ-like qualities would flow into every relationship and every circumstance we encounter in 2020.

**FIRST LOVE:** We would never lose our "first love" for Jesus Christ and the pursuit of an active and growing relationship with Him. And that after Him, our priorities would be: Marriage second, Family third, and Ministry activities and everything else after that.