



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

eBulletin weekly issue No. 41 • January 18, 2021

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LASTING COMMITMENT

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 5:31-32
"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Apparently, misunderstanding about divorce was common enough in Jesus' day that He felt constrained to correct faulty thinking on the matter. His remarks are vital for us today also.

In his rebuke of "casual divorce," Jesus addresses a fundamental issue of commitment and trustworthiness. The initial Old Testament guidance to

give a certificate of divorce was intended to protect women who could be exploited in a culture where their husbands could cease to take care of them, but give them no proof that he had broken their marriage covenant. The certificate of divorce was legal proof that she was unattached and could therefore seek refuge. It appears that people began to regard the issuance of this certificate as all that was required for a divorce. They were missing the deeper issue that divorces should not be lightly considered nor carelessly embraced. Jesus, in effect, says that the issuance of a certificate does not legitimize a divorce. To the contrary, marriages have limited grounds on which they can justifiably be ended through divorce.

While acknowledging that there are often deep and painful issues that contribute to the decision to terminate one of life's deepest relationships, we want to affirm the idea of the beauty of a lasting commitment in marriage. While marriages will be imperfect because the partners are imperfect, there is worth and beauty in a relationship that has a last-

ing commitment as its foundation. The commitment is more than just to stay in the marriage. The commitment is to be (become) the kind of spouse God has called one to be (Ephesians 5:18-33), and to not make a spouse's shortcomings excuses for hasty separation.

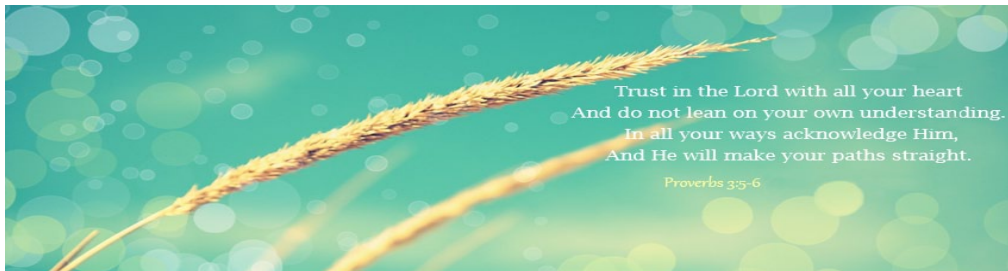
God wants us to treat our marriages as lasting commitments that can only be sundered by the deepest of betrayal and infidelity (Matthew 5:32).

In our day and age when divorce is so common and easy to access, Christians must choose by God's grace to commit to building solid relationships that can endure the inevitable stresses that are part of so intimate a relationship between two flawed people. If we do that, we have the opportunity of experiencing God's sustaining grace in ways we would be unable to otherwise.

God bless you,

Pastor James

CHOOSING GOD'S WAY IS BEST



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

January 19

Join us via Zoom video
 Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM

February 21

Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

January 24

In-person service and livestream.
 Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.

ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM

February 11 & 12

Sign up at the information center or online to join.

email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log on details.

YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM

January 22

Youth meetings are in-person at church.

VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM

January 24

Kidzone is available every Sunday.
 Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Support the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos' Baby Bottle Fundraiser! Take a baby bottle and fill it with coins, cash, or a check and return it to Lori by Feb 14
- Online Growth Groups begin the week of February 7th. Please sign up at the Information Center or online to join a group.
- 2020 Year-End Giving Statements are available, please check the Information Center.
- 2021 Church Directory will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website under **ABOUT** at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- Bible reading plans for 2021 are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!