

connected to my man." She thinks, "I only reacted to him -- why did he become so afraid of me? Why was he so hurt? And when I went to help him, why did he shut me out more? Am I incompetent? Why can't I win my man back?" At this point, the wife is growing a sense of ugliness (my man does not want me – I am not beautiful enough to fight for) or dangerousness (I am too emotional or too passionate



for my man) and helplessness (my attempts to get him back are futile). She feels alone and desolate.

Unfortunately, the last part of the process has the ability to cement the first four. At this juncture, the husband's gaze is outside the marriage and the wife is feeling barren. So evil steps in to solidify these feelings and goes after the kill by focusing on the wife. Evil has no mercy and will always exploit

those who are most vulnerable. For instance, true religion is defined as caring for the widow and the orphan. (James 1:27). The Gospel is working when the most vulnerable are cared for, not exploited. In Genesis, when God cursed the serpent, He said, "From now on you and the woman will be enemies" (Genesis 3:15). The intensity of spiritual warfare for women is heightened because evil wants to mock God's creation by attacking women. In God's design, a man is physically stronger to aid in his ability to protect and nourish women. However, evil thinks, "Husbands won't look to their God to fight me. They won't step in between their wives and me. I will sink wives down in despair and husbands will walk away choosing never to fight again. I will push them towards cowardice through their wives' anguish. It will cause them to question themselves and their God."

As the evil one has women in his web, he begins to whisper to them, "See the women in the magazines, the models on TV and how beautiful they are? See, they are connected – look men desire them." Or, "See so and so's house or life – that is why they are connected. They have what you don't. Your God is holding out on you!" Wives sink lower. Then a wife's flesh (the betrayer inside of them) kicks in. It says, "You didn't try hard enough," or "You should be nice and tamer when your husband is around. You and only you have the power to make this better!" The wife listens to the lies of the flesh and tries harder, but when that doesn't work (self-reliance never will), the wife moves farther away from her beauty and deeper into despair. As husband and wife celebrate the lies of evil (by listening to them) the battle increases in the spiritual realm. Evil is mocking God's design. A woman feels alone and her husband leaves her there. Sin and evil has turned God's plan upside down and chaos rules the day. Yet, the Lord loves to lead us out of chaos into shalom. But that is for next quarter. For now, let's prayerfully consider to where we listen and follow this lie and seek for Mercy.

BY GORDON BALS

SUNDAY  
A P R I L  
23

**The First Ever  
Daymark Picnic  
& Prayer Walk**

*Heardmont Park*

1:00 pm

You can learn how to participate in the Daymark Picnic and Prayer Walk by attending either the luncheon or dessert noted below (invitations and directions are forthcoming).

SUNDAY  
M A R C H  
12

**Kickoff Luncheon**  
*Oak Mountain Presbyterian*

1:00 pm

TUESDAY  
M A R C H  
7

**Kickoff Dessert**  
*Alan & Virginia Kilgore*  
*3526 Lenox Road*

7:00 pm

**ABOUT DAYMARK**

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## every wife feels ALONE *and Every Husband Leaves Her There*

**I**n the last two newsletters, I attempted to explain a lie I have watched weigh down marriages. I named the lie "Every husband feels like a jerk and every wife agrees." I reflected on ways this falsehood grows and discussed truths to counteract it. In the next two newsletters, I will deal with another untruth I see damage marriages. I would express it this way, "Every wife feels alone and every husband leaves her there." Evil goes after a man's sense of impact, trying to get him to believe he does not have what it takes to persevere in a way that will meaningfully impact his family and world. Instead of going after a sense of impact, evil aspires to tear down a woman's sense of connectedness.

He wants women to live in despair over their relationships. Underneath, evil wants women to believe they are too ugly, dangerous, or helpless to have life-giving relationships in this world. Notice what the Lord says to Eve when he pronounces His curse on women in Genesis 3:16. "You will bear children with intense pain and suffering. And though your desire will be for your husband, he will be your master." The woman's curse occurred in the domain of relationships. At the core, the Lord said to women, "You will long to have a rich relational world, but I will frustrate it so you will remain dependent on My care for life and will never be able to rest completely in the fullness of your earthly relationships."

A woman's sense of alienation grows when a husband and wife do not experience a growing freedom from the curse. A husband will never satisfy his wife through his performance alone. He cannot master the brokenness of this world in such a way that his wife will rest only in him. In essence, futility causes husbands to say, "Since I cannot please you through my per-

formance, I will stop trying. I will find a safer place to live my life." Or he says, "You will applaud me. You will pretend I am better than I can actually achieve. You must celebrate me whether or not you want to." A husband's retreat from or frustration with the curse is the first part of a woman's sense of alienation. Instead of being drawn back to God's loving care through the curse and becoming more of a man who can impact his wife, a husband turns to hiding and blaming, and the wife is estranged through the chaos of the husband's unbelief.

Correspondingly, when a wife is weak in the Gospel, she does not see her husband's frustration as something primarily between him and God. She takes it personally. This pushes a man farther away from her. The husband is already being owned by futility, and the wife throws coal on the fire when she acts like he should be able to get it right and in that 'spirit' says, "I can't believe you don't love me enough to do better. Now I see what has always been true. I am not worth fighting for!" This increases the marital distance and

exacerbates a wife's sense of aloneness. She feels a man's aggravation at the curse (he often blames her), and she takes it personally. A man thinks, "I am trying so hard to get this right (he often will not see his retreat or recognize that he takes his frustration out on his wife) and she doesn't respect me." He concludes, "She is not worth it." Then the wife tries to reel him back in by running after him in desperation or scolding him like a mother (she turns to self-reliance instead of waiting in loneliness). This pushes the husband even farther away.

What does the wife feel now? "I have done something wrong or more fittingly, "I am someone wrong. I am too ugly, emotional, or dangerous to remain

**"I only reacted to him -- why did he become so afraid of me? Why was he so hurt? And when I went to help him, why did he ..?"**