

Empire Church of the Brethren
Sunday Service Sermons

14 June 2026

The Recovery of Family Life

Text: "The Lord said to me, 'Go, show your love to your wife again, through she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, through they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.'" *Hosea 3:1*

Talk about loving someone who is hard to love.

In watching movies from the 30's and 40's there is a theme of being true to your wedding vows even if things do not go well in the marriage.

Today many couples get married with the attitude that if it does not work out they can always get a divorce and try again.

There are many problems with this attitude but one of them is that you are never the same after a failed marriage.

No you should not tolerate an abusive mate.

But we exit marriages way to easily now days.

God kept trying with Israel.

As an example of his love for Israel he had Hosea marry an unfaithful woman and keep trying to bring her into a loving relationship with himself.

Many of the problems that face our nation can be traced to one root: the destruction of wholesome family life.

With this deterioration, we see lack of values, the renunciation of basic virtues, distrust of others, and rebellion against authority and regulation.

Many of these things can be traced to the lack of family strength and discipline.

In the book, "The Recovery of Family Life, it is stated that "the withering away of the family" has occurred because "we have done by neglect much that the Marxists have done by social planning."

For this message we will focus on the Recovery of Family Life based on a Bible family that was destroyed then later recovered through love.

Hosea was a prophet of God.

He married a wife named Gomer who was unfaithful to him.

After the birth of three children, each of whom had a symbolic name, she left him and actually became a prostitute.

Possibly Gomer never believed God.

She may have worshiped Baal or one of the Canaanite fertility cults that practiced sacred prostitution as a part of their worship.

At any rate, she later sank to such depths of immorality that she was sold as a slave.

Prompted by God's Spirit and displaying a love like God's, Hosea brought her.

He restored her to a place of love and usefulness.

He recovered his family.

Hosea used his tragic domestic experience as a vehicle for teaching about God's love.

He likened Israel's rebellion against God and their departure from him to his experience of his wife going into adultery and forsaking him.

He loved his wife and brought her back.

God loves his people and will bring them back to him if they respond.
Look at this story from the vantage point of the recovery of family life.
From Hosea's tragic experience we can find some helpful priorities for our lives.
Trueblood says that just as a physician can't diagnose an illness until he has a vision of what a well body is, so we can't work toward the recovery of family life until we first have a model of wholesome Christian family life.
We must focus on persons.
In the family, each individual is important.
Hosea loved Gomer as a person.
He loved her so much that he was willing to relinquish his pride and purchase her as a slave so that she could be a wife again.
In some families causes or appearances are so important that persons are obscured.
A family begins with the love of two persons.
The family's life can never be healthy if that original love is not healthy.
Guard the personhood of each family member.
Family life experts tell us never to attack the personhood of a child when correcting that child.
You could say "I don't like children to lie," not "I don't like children who lie."
That safeguards the personhood of the child while expressing displeasure at the Child's action.
We must find our priorities.
What is our top priority?
The recovery of family life must become a top priority for us just as it did for Hosea.
Can you imagine the shame he must have felt at Gomer's behavior?
Can you imagine the jests and jeers he received from his friends at her actions?
But he was willing to forgo all that because he had a priority: the recovery of his family life.
No other success can compensate for failure in the home.
How do we achieve this priority?
It must be an internal matter rather than an external matter.
It will not come by changes in the structures of society as much as by the intent of the individual.
When you choose the family as a top priority and begin to work toward the recovery of family life as a goal, it can be achieved.
We must consider our pride.
We must forget our personal pride.
Hosea forgot his personal pride to purchase his wife in the slave market.
Pride often stands at the base of family problems.
We are too proud to reconsider a position, too proud to admit guilt, too proud to allow someone else to have an opinion, too proud to say those important but difficult words "I'm sorry, I was wrong."

We must foster family pride.
Individual family members should be able to take pride in being a part of the family to which they belong.
Religious life and witness should be a normal part of family life.
Children want to admire their parents, and parents should conscientiously shape their children's lives by living as godly examples.
We must pay the price.
We have paid the price for fractured family life.
The price for fractured family life has been costly.
What it has cost in the lives of persons has been very dear when you consider the hurt, the

maladjustments, and the pain.

We must be willing to pay the price for recovered family life.

It cost Hosea something to recover his family life.

The money that it cost to purchase Gomer was incidental.

The real price was the personal cost to Hosea.

It will cost us something too.

The place to begin is in personal surrender to God and commitment of the family to him.

The key to the book of Hosea is the intensity of his love for Gomer, his wife.

God loves us even more intensely.

He wants us to be in fellowship with him.

When we are right with God, we can be right with our families as well.

And that is where we begin the recovery of family life.

Is it worth it?

There is nothing worth more when it comes to family life.

Put God first in your life and in your home and follow His lead by surrendering all to him.

It is amazing what God can do when we give it all to him and become obedient to His will and way.