

Is the Honeymoon Over?

By Jim Golden

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful because he cannot be untrue to himself.

~2 Timothy 2:13 GWT

Over my thirty-five plus years as a "Christian", this verse has been an extremely great source of comfort and encouragement. There have been times in my walk that I didn't think it were possible to love Jesus any more than I did at the time and there have been times when I wondered if I ever really knew or loved him at all. Through the good times and the bad, I had this Scripture to comfort me. Jesus is faithful even when we are unfaithful. Jesus loves us and is a friend at all times. Of all the attributes of our God and Savior, I believe that faithfulness is, for me, the greatest.

I had five different fathers over the course of my life and went through four divorces as a child. Experts say that one divorce is possibly the most traumatic experience a child can go through. Think what four can do to foster dysfunction. Yet from the time I met and surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, there has always been this confidence created within me because of this verse—Jesus remains faithful because He cannot deny Himself. Whether I am "on fire or cold as ice" I can rest secure in the truth of His word and combat the torment of my false feelings! While the "honeymoon" may be over for now the "marriage" is strong and one day when mortality is clothed with immortality then the eternal honeymoon will begin. AMEN!

If this is true in our relationship with God, dare we hope that it can also be a reality in our human relationships? Unfortunately, this is not true in most of society today. Love is little more than a feeling. When that "loving" feeling is gone so is the relationship. This truth bears out when we see a divorce rate of more than 50% even among Christians. My wife and I had the good fortune of some solid Scriptural teaching concerning covenant before our wedding. We have been married since 1979 would both agree that our marriage has endured because of our understanding and embracing of covenant.

Love, true love, is not a feeling but the unselfish choice for the greater good of the other. When we live in an actual covenant marriage feelings are often the by-product of covenant love. That warm and "loving" feeling we all desire is more often than not the reward of true covenant love. I am so grateful that our God is a covenant God. I am so thankful that my wife and I are part of His family and all of our interactions between one another and God spring out of our understanding of this type of relationship. In a society and a time when we so easily trade in our old model for a newer model it is comforting to know that our love will stand the test of time.