

TEXT: Hosea 1:1-2

TITLE: "Understanding Hosea"

→ Five foundational truths help us understand the Book of Hosea.

→ QUOTE: "Hosea's marriage to an adulterous wife and the children she bore graphically demonstrated God's "marriage" to His spiritually adulterous people Israel, who must respond to His covenant love and repent or face severe judgment" (*Ultimate Bible Guide*, p. 232).

→ QUOTE: "To illustrate the heinousness of Israel's apostasy the metaphor of marital infidelity is employed throughout the book and in a particularly vivid way in the life of Hosea himself" (John K. Goodrich, *Moody Bible Commentary*, p. 1315).

1. God's Laws on Morality are G_____

- A. God's moral law is good for us.
- B. Believers should love God's law and not r_____ it.
→ Psalm 119:97.
- C. God's Law convicts us of s_____.
- D. Our culture is o_____ to Biblical morality.
→ Psalm 119:126
- E. God's Law gives a s_____ by which human behavior can be evaluated
→ Psalm 119:128

2. God's Moral Law is C_____

- A. Adultery is against God's D_____ for Marriage
→ Exodus 20:14
- B. Fornication is against God's S_____ of Holiness
→ 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
- C. Homosexuality is contrary to God's D_____, L_____ and H_____
→ Romans 1:26-27

3. The Old Testament Uses the Symbolism of Physical Adultery and H_____ for Spiritual Unfaithfulness and I_____

- A. The Nation of Israel Was M_____ to/Belonged to Jehovah
 - B. Israel Broke the C_____
 - 1. Through Taking up with False Gods
 - 2. Through Engaging in Idolatry
- **Exodus 34:12-16**—No other gods to be worshipped = playing the harlot
- **Leviticus 20:5**—worshipping Molech was committing spiritual Prostitution
- **Deuteronomy 31:16**—Israel would "play the harlot" and forsake the Lord after Moses' death

4. The New Testament Uses the Symbolism of Adultery for Spiritual U_____

→ James 4: 4

- A. When Christians follow the w_____, they commit spiritual adultery
- B. To commit spiritual adultery is to become an e_____ of God

5. There Is Forgiveness for Sexual Sins! Absolutely!

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- Ephesians 1:7
- 1 John 1:9
- John 4:17-18
- John 8:11

APPLICATION: