



The Common Thread

*"Hosea: Choosing the Unfaithful and
Becoming the Faithful"*

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CHOOSING THE UNFAITHFUL

Hosea 1:2 NLT—"When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods."

It was their unfaithful hearts to Him that precipitated their acts of idolatry and hypocrisy. It is our unfaithful hearts that do the same—the same sin that affected them has affected us, and seeks to overcome us. It's a cycle.

Not only has He forgiven all of my sins past, present, and future, but He has also forgiven all the sins past, present, and future that other believers have committed against me. At this point, when I pass along sin (judgment, anger, vengeance) to others or upon myself (worry, fear, anxiety, self-condemnation), I am being unnecessarily unfaithful to the One who loves me the most.

BECOMING THE FAITHFUL

Romans 3:9-12 ESV—"What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Without a true belief that my “sin” (the state I am in and the actions I perpetuate) has dealt a painful death blow to the heart (and physical body of Christ), then I will can’t fully “know” exactly how much He loves me.

Romans 5:7-9 ESV—“For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God doesn’t want good behavior; He wants us to love Him above all else. He knows that we can’t do this because that kind of love was dead within us, so He committed to us before we could reciprocate and then paid the price to resurrect us. If we will accept His love on the one condition that we have no life without it (not in shame, but in humility), then we can begin to actually live.

Full, mutual humility leads to full mutual intimacy.