

## Soul Ties

The relationship which Christians have with their heavenly Father is a beautiful one which impacts their lives in precious ways bringing joy in difficulties, peace and a spiritual union with God who loves them. Loving friendships between individual Christians introduces the effects of their relationships with God into the friendship between them and, again, a precious spiritual union develops which is unique to those in the Christian faith. Such relationships can broadly be described as “godly unions” or “soul ties”. Whilst the term “soul ties” is not found in scripture, it is good description of the kinds of spiritual unions we discuss in this article. Soul ties are like covenants which bind people together in either a godly or an ungodly way.

Sadly, not all relationships entered into bring that unique end result. Some people coming for ministry have been troubled by the effects of relationships which have brought anything but love, joy and peace. Even though they are Christians, they still find that they suffer adverse effects from such relationships. In some cases a relationship may have ended long before asking for ministry but the adverse effects still linger on. Whilst godly soul ties need to be strengthened and encouraged, ungodly soul ties need to be broken and discouraged.

In this article we look at godly and ungodly soul ties in turn and discuss, in particular, what can be done to break ungodly soul ties. Scriptures are taken from the NIV.

### Godly Soul Ties

#### 1 In Heaven

Whilst we do not normally think in terms of soul ties as such within the Trinity, the Trinity is nevertheless a spiritual union. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. They work together and are a complete unity always in harmony. We see it in scriptures such as John 14:10 where we read:-

Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Also we read in John 15:26 that the Holy Spirit testifies of the Lord Jesus.

"When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me".

Such scriptures serve to show the unity which exists within the Trinity.

#### 2 Between God and His Children

In 2 Cor 5:17 we read:-

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”

Also, in John 14:20 when Jesus spoke of His resurrection he said:-

“On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

And in Romans 8:8-9 we read:-

“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

So we see that there is not just a special bond between God and His Children but that He actually dwells in them. That is a very special spiritual union.

### **3 Between Christians.**

In His prayer for believers, Jesus prayed:-

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” John:17 22-23.

Also, unity is referred to by Paul in Gal 3:28 where we read:-

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”.

God knows the importance of unity between Christians and Paul emphasizes it in 1 Cor 1:10 saying:-

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

The Christian faith is more than a “Just good friends” type of relationship between believers. It is a spiritual union. Paul talks about maintaining the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace in Eph 4:3.

Also the church is made up of many members and in Eph 4:16 we read:-

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”

We can see, then, that God intended there to be a real spiritual union tying Christian believers together.

### **4 Between Husbands and Wives**

In the marriage covenant, God has designed a man and a woman to be joined together in a very special way. That is brought out in Ephesians 5:31 where Paul writes ““For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Sexual intercourse between a man and his wife creates that one flesh relationship which is so real that scripture teaches if a man loves his wife he loves himself. The Lord said in Matt 19:4-6:-

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

It is God who does the joining and so the act of sexual intercourse is a physical act having a godly spiritual dimension designed by God from the beginning and creating a very strong soul tie. There is a sense in which the man and woman give part of themselves to each other in the forging of that one flesh union. It shows that God's hand of favour is upon the marriage union and that He has designed sex and the pleasure it brings to husbands and wives. It is sad when husbands and wives reach the point where the sexual relationship becomes boring or unsatisfying. It was never the way God designed it to be and there's certainly a case for seeking help if the sexual side of a marriage is not bringing the satisfaction it should.

## **5 Between Family Members**

In the story of Joseph in Genesis, Joseph's brother Judah pleads before an Egyptian high official to be kept prisoner in Egypt in place of his brother Benjamin who was the apple of the eye of his father Jacob. In his plea, Judah says an interesting thing. He says that Benjamin must be allowed to go back home because "if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life, sees that the boy isn't there, he will die." Genesis 44: 30-31. That is a good illustration of a soul tie between a parent and child.

A similar soul tie can exist between brothers and sisters. In Prov 18:24 we read:-

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

The implication is that brothers stick close together and the scripture points towards there being a soul tie between them.

## **6 Between Close Friends and In-Laws**

David and Jonathan were close friends and 1 Sam 18:1 illustrates a soul tie between the two.

"After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself."

The story of Ruth provides another example where she pleads with Naomi:-

"But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." Ruth 1:16-17.

Ruth was Naomi's daughter in law and the above passage serves to illustrate the existence of a soul tie between them.

Within a Christian fellowship, lovely friendships can develop between people leading to the forging of godly soul ties and it's good for leaders to encourage it.

The above examples of soul ties are the kind which God loves and will bless. They are, by their very nature, unions he has designed for us to enjoy.

However, Satan and his evil spiritual hosts seek to spoil what God has designed for our good. They operate in many areas including the area of soul ties. Therefore, it should not be surprising to find ungodly counterparts to the examples mentioned above. Some of those counterparts are set out below.

## **Ungodly Soul Ties**

### **1 In Heavenly Places**

There is an ungodly union between Satan and his hosts of fallen angels and demons which work together as our enemy to destroy what is godly. Their work is summed up well in John 10:10 where the Lord Jesus says:-

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”.

The union under this heading is described by Paul in Eph 6:12 where he writes:-

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Paul appears to describe there a unified echelon of evil powers determined to battle against Christians.

The enemy will take advantage of opportunities which arise to mount an attack and has no love or compassion for anyone. Hence the enemy will take advantage of babies as well as adults and will ruin the beautiful if given a chance. Where any person uses his or her free will to enter into an ungodly union of any kind, the enemy will see that as an opportunity to invade and we now look at situations where enemy invasion can be expected.

### **2 With Occult Forces**

Just as Christians have a godly union with Christ resulting from a decision to repent of sin and commit their lives to Him, an ungodly tie will be forged between a person who becomes involved with some occult practice and demons behind that practice. God sees involvement by a person with the occult as a joining together of the person and demons behind the occult practice in the same way that Israel joined themselves to the demonic powers behind idols in Old Testament times. In Deuteronomy 32:16-17 we read:-

They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons, which are not God-- gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear.

In Ps 106:28 we read:-

“They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods.”

Also, in Hosea 4:16-17 we read:-

“The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer. How then can the LORD pasture them like lambs in a meadow? Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone!”

By joining oneself to the demons behind the occult practice, it gives the enemy an open door to invade any area of the person's life. Getting involved innocently is no defence against enemy invasion. Should the person subsequently become a Christian, the demons may not just walk out and an on-going battle is likely to ensue until the demons are ordered to leave in the Name of Jesus as discussed later.

### **3 Between Sexual Partners Outside Marriage**

Sexual intercourse brings about a one flesh union between a man and a woman whether they are married or not. Paul makes that clear in his first letter to the church in Corinth where we read in 1 Cor 6:15-16:-

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh’”.

God does not countenance sex outside marriage. Therefore, those who engage in sexual intercourse before marriage engage in an act having an ungodly spiritual dimension which can be exploited by the enemy. An ungodly soul tie forged between the persons involved effectively invites demonic invasion and transference of demon spirits between the persons involved. Again there will be that sense in which the man and woman give part of themselves to each other as the one flesh relationship forms. Where either of the persons has had other sexual partners, the ungodly one-flesh unions with the others can create a complex pattern of soul ties and other problems with different demons entering at the point of each spiritual union having a combined adverse effect on the persons concerned. The effect can certainly spoil the sexual pleasure that such a person should have with a husband/wife in an eventual marriage. Where such persons become Christians, the demons may not just leave but, instead, a battle may ensue until the ungodly soul ties are broken and the demons are told to leave in the Name of Jesus.

The question of one-flesh relationships between homosexual couples is also an issue. As sexual acts involved in a homosexual relationship are outside God's design as set out in scripture, and as scripture speaks clearly against them (for example see Romans 1:20-24), any one flesh union which results will be an ungodly one and ungodly soul ties will be created providing a channel for demonic transference between the couple.

### **4 Between Family Members**

In family relationships, godly soul ties should prevail. However, they can become ungodly, and particularly so where one family member begins to dominate, manipulate or control other members. Here are some examples:-

i) Where parent(s) won't let their child go and the child remains “tied to his/her mother's apron strings”. Examples of that are where a parent insists on choosing a child's career, the child's friends or even the child's spouse. It can have a serious impact on a marriage where, for example, a father sees his son in law as an enemy who has stolen his little girl. In the case of a mother it has been likened to the mother never having cut the umbilical cord of the child and the godly soul tie between mother and child had become an ungodly one.

ii) An ungodly soul tie can develop between a person and someone from the past that he or she now wishes they had married instead of the person to whom they are married now. The soul tie will be strong where the wish becomes an ongoing fantasy.

- iii) An incestuous relationship, for example between a brother and sister or father and daughter, will create an ungodly soul tie.
- iv) In the case of a still-born child, a godly soul tie is created but can become ungodly if the mother becomes afraid of bonding with a subsequent child in case she loses that one too. In such a case, the former soul tie needs to be broken.

## 5 Other Examples

An ungodly soul tie can be forged as a result of sexual abuse as all sexual relationships have a spiritual dimension creating a path, by means of which, demons can transfer from the abuser to the victim. Ungodly soul ties can be created between people and animals and even between a person and an inanimate thing such as organization which has become that person's reason for living - idolatory.

There are others but those listed will suffice for the current article.

## Breaking Ungodly Soul Ties

As mentioned above, the enemy will see an ungodly soul tie as an opportunity to invade the person concerned. In reality, the soul tie will create a form of bondage which the enemy can exploit with a view to spoiling the person's walk with God until the tie is confronted and broken.

Peter was sleeping between two soldiers "bound with two chains" (See Acts 12:6-8). However when an angel came, the chains fell off Peter's wrists. That is an obvious example of a person in physical bondage that God set free. God likewise operates in the spirit realm to free people of spiritual bondages.

At the beginning of His ministry, the Lord Jesus read from the book of Isaiah in the Synagogue in Nazareth. He read these words:-

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."  
Luke 4:18-19

The verses are also found in Isaiah 61.

One of the prime ministries of the Lord Jesus as He walked the earth was to set people free. A good example of that is found in Luke 13 where we read in verses 10-12:-

"On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

The Lord Jesus then went on to say that the woman had been bound by Satan and should be set free.

That aspect of the Lord's ministry has not changed and the Lord still wants to free people from things which bind them. It is the writer's view that an ungodly soul tie would be included amongst such things. God is in the business of restoring souls and He will put things in order which have been put out of order, once He is invited to do so.

The Lord said in John 14:12:-

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

As Christians are to continue the Lord’s ministry here, how do we go about setting people free from the effects of an ungodly soul tie?

## **Practical Steps**

The ungodly soul tie will have been forged as a result of some sin committed by someone. Therefore, renouncement/repentance/forgiveness will invariably be involved.

If it is the sin of the person receiving ministry which created the soul tie, he or she will need to repent of the sin

If it is the sin of another against the person receiving ministry which created the soul, the person will need to forgive the one who committed the sin.

After the person has prayed a prayer of renouncement, repentance or forgiveness, someone from the ministry team should then pray a prayer somewhat as follows:-

### **1 Where there is a soul tie created by sexual intercourse outside marriage**

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we break the soul tie between you and ..... We sever that link supernaturally and in the name of Jesus, we send back to ..... everything that you received from ..... and take back from .....all that belongs to you. We also order every demon (if a particular one has been discerned it can be referred to by name) that has taken advantage of that tie to leave this person now in the name of Jesus.

A different approach favoured by Chester and Betsy Kylstra of Proclaiming His Word Ministries is to have the person seeking ministry to break the soul tie in the presence of the ministry team. A prayer along the following lines could be used with that approach where the person prays:-

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I now break the soul tie between me an..... I send back everything I received from.....and take back from.....all that belongs to me. And I renounce every demon which has taken advantage of the tie.

The ministry team should then order any demon which has been discerned to leave the person in the name of Jesus.

In his book *Healing Through Deliverance*, Peter Horrobin sets out a prayer in which he refers to breaking the “spirit, soul and body tie between you and.....”.

It is really down to the ministry team to use a form of prayer which is appropriate at that point in the ministry. As the Holy Spirit will be working through the team at the time, the team can expect to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit as they pray.

**Note.** If possible, avoid praying an all-embracing prayer in an attempt to cut numerous soul ties at all in one go formed between the person seeking ministry and numerous sexual partners. Each soul tie was formed individually. Therefore, break each soul tie individually

mentioning each partner by name where the names are known. The process can take a long time when many partners are involved. Don't be surprised if, in some cases, you are breaking soul ties created by sexual unions with numerous partners. Similarly, don't encourage the person seeking ministry to pray an all embracing prayer of repentance but encourage individual prayers of repentance relating to each sexual partner. In such cases the ministry prayers can move along the following lines.

The person seeking ministry prays: - "Lord I sincerely repent of engaging in sex outside of marriage with Lucy and I ask that you forgive me for what I did and cleanse me from that sin in the Name of Jesus".

The ministry team then pray using a prayer along the lines of those set out above. When the team is satisfied that it is time to move on, the person receiving ministry then continues:-

"Lord I sincerely repent of engaging in sex outside of marriage with Annette and I ask that you forgive me for what I did and cleanse me from that sin in the Name of Jesus".

The ministry team then pray again and so on until all the soul ties are broken between the person receiving ministry and all sexual partners.

## **2 Where there is a soul tie created without sexual involvement**

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we break the soul tie between you and ..... We sever that link supernaturally and in the name of Jesus, we order every demon (if a particular one has been discerned it can be referred to by name) that has taken advantage of that tie to leave this person now in the name of Jesus.

After prayer, the team may need to prayer for healing of the memories of events associated with the soul ties but, as with other aspects of ministry, reliance on the direction of the Holy Spirit should be sought.

### **No Going Back**

The person who has received ministry must be made aware of the need to avoid becoming entangled again with the activity which gave rise to the ungodly soul tie being created in the first place. It can be helpful to consider with the person verses from scripture relevant to the activity so that he or she has Bible chapter and verse guidance for the future.

**Recommended further reading:** Frank Hammond

*Soul Ties*

Peter Horrobin

*Healing Through Deliverance*

C & B Kylstra

*Restoring the Foundations*