

Waiting Periods

(A Word of Instruction)

Waiting periods are a time when the couple is waiting for their relationship to be approved by our Father and us. It has to seem good to them and agree with the Holy Spirit. In case one of them wants to call it off it's okay — they can just say, “I don't want this,” and they can call it off. They don't have to check with the elders or anyone else if it seems good to them. They are free to call it off at any time. If it is not our Father's will, it's the best thing they can do. Should they call it off or get married? It's better to call it off than to be unsure.

Make sure we ask them about their waiting period — do your part in the Body. Don't be a slob — someone who doesn't care whether they get married or not. That's what it seems like if you don't ever talk to them. You can start having an “Amen” building up right now if you see them and they seem to be doing okay.

The worst thing you can do is give your *Amen* when our Father isn't giving them one. It is your obligation to judge their relationship. You are the one who is cursed if you allow someone to get married when you really don't have an *Amen*. When they come together to ask the Body for their approval you muster up an *Amen* when you are unsure just because everyone else does. Then years later when they are having problems in their marriage you say, “I knew it; I didn't really have an *Amen*.” You might as well leave the Body if you are like that. When you say *Amen* it's a prayer to our Father saying, “Let it be.” You're saying that the Holy Spirit agrees with this relationship on earth.

If you are part of the Body you will talk to them; if you aren't, you won't. If you have faith about their relationship you will know it. So let's be faithful to do these things.

The best judge for calling it off is one of the two because they know whether they want to be with the other person for the rest of their life. It's everyone's responsibility to observe their relationship and help them along. They should be going over to the other households to visit with them. It is our responsibility to prevail upon our household head, and our household head's

responsibility to invite them over (to eat with us) and have time with their brothers and sisters to talk to them about how their relationship is going. At the same time we are also talking to each other about them, finding out how others in the household feel about them. We don't wait until the last day or two before they want to get their *Amen*. We've got to be speaking to one another about it, so we can give our fatal *Amen*. Let it be from the Holy Spirit.

If their waiting period is called off, it's permanent, and they shouldn't go back on, but sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that allow them to go on a *parenthesis*. A *parenthesis* is when they both agree to hold it off for awhile and then go back on after about a month. (But when a month is over, they probably won't want to go back on it). This is more for unstable people, but doesn't happen very often.

So do you want to assume the responsibility of judging that relationship as members of His Body?

Keli: It's part of protecting the Body. The most terrible thing for a man is to be married to a woman he doesn't love. Or that a woman would be married to a man she doesn't love.

It's hell. We can save the Body endless hours of counseling by judging the relationship rightly before we give our *Amen*.

Keli: It's part of the immune system of the Body to weed out the bad from the good.

(Yoneq handed Naschon the Bible and he read from Jn 19:12)

Jn 19:12 — The Jews handed Yahshua over to the Gentiles who were lawless men. The Gentiles were ignorant of the law, but the Jews weren't — they had the law, they were fastidious in the word. Just like all authority, they didn't have authority unless it was given to them.

So we can rest (even in building the cafe), we don't have to strive. The building inspectors can go in and say to us that the work we are doing doesn't meet their regulations, and we can say, "Thank you, Father; we don't want to have this place if you don't want us to have it." "Our Father didn't want us to open it; thank You, Father." We can pray for the authorities because we know that all authority comes from our Father. Most of the police are good, but there

is bad authority. But bad authority is better than no authority. Which would you rather have — bad policemen or no policemen? I'm so thankful there is at least bad authority because just think what it would be like if we didn't have any authority?

Let's give our sacrifice and give our Father praise for our food and for our brothers working so hard on the cafe. There has to be a sacrificing of our flesh before we can give praise. If we do not have praise then we are denying the one who bought us. If we do not give thanks we are acknowledging the flesh and letting it rule over us.