

Introduction

Apostasy

THE WORD “APOSTASY” means the renunciation of a religious faith and an abandonment of a previous loyalty. The synonym for this word is “defection,” which means a conscious abandonment of allegiance or duty (to a person, cause, or doctrine). The synonym for defection is “abandonment,” which means to give up with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest in—for instance, to abandon property or a relationship. Hmm, are you starting to follow me here? The title of this book is *The Apostasy of Marriage*. Oftentimes we relate this word to God as it is referenced in the book of Hebrews, chapter 6, verses 4 through 7. However, we do not see the correlation of this meaning or relating to relationships in general, but only to God, with whom we have a *relationship*—that is, a covering, agreement, and so on.

In truth, the word “apostasy” could not exist outside the confines of a relationship. It could not be applied to anything else other than a relationship because it involves multiple persons. On the other hand, the *state of*

apostasy is a place that one arrives after many meaningful attempts have been made to persuade one in the opposite direction in which he or she is headed. The key word here is “state”—a mode or condition of being; the condition of mind or stage in the physical being of something or someone. We have heard it said that God will never give up on us because of his never-failing love; well, news flash! It is God the Father, the Almighty, the all-knowing, and the Creator of agape love, who reaches the state of apostasy with us and abandons the *relationship*, not the person—and in this case, the abuser! Selah. Contrary to popular belief, God will not begin nor stay in a relationship with us if we are unwilling to change. You can receive salvation without sanctification, but you cannot keep salvation without sanctification. Our sole purpose of coming to God is for him to make us more like his son Jesus in character and deeds, and this cannot happen if we are unwilling to *constantly* change.

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