

Hosea – The Scandalous Love of God

For the Love of God Series

Discussion Questions

- **Read Hosea 1:1.** Yancey pointed out that during the time of the leaders listed in v.1 that Israel was very prosperous, but they also were devoting themselves to the worship of the Assyrian deity Baal as well as Yahweh (or the LORD in the biblical translation). How can comfort lead to compromise?
- **Read Hosea 1:2.** What is God’s point in using the life and marriage of Hosea? Why is it such a striking illustration?
- **Read Hosea 2:7-9, 13 and Hosea 4:1-2.** This is a courtroom setting where the husband calls out the infidelity of his spouse. How does Yahweh describe the “crimes” of Israel against him in a relational sense? What will be his response in the future to Israel’s “cheating”? How has Israel’s divided heart impacted their life before God?
- **Read Hosea 6:4-6.** (Tip: Ephraim is another name for Israel, Judah is the Southern Kingdom) How does God characterize Israel’s love for him? They show Yahweh how religious or spiritual they are, but God is having none of it. Why? What does God want?
 - How can this apply to us today?
 - What does this tell us about the kind of relationship God wants with us?
- **Read Hosea 2:14-20.** How does God’s heart change for Israel in this passage? He promises a future relationship that will be better than their current one. How?
- **Read Hosea 3:1-5 and Hosea 14:1-7.** How does God use Hosea’s marriage to demonstrate this change? Why would this be considered a scandalous love? What does this reveal about God’s heart?
- How does the New Covenant in Jesus Christ fulfill the kind of relationship that God wants to have with his people? How is this relationship a kind of scandalous love from God to us?
- Why does God expect those who have been loved in complete grace to display a difference in their life (personal holiness)?
- How does knowing that God will always love his people even though they may be repeatedly unfaithful to him impact the obedience in our lives?

- How does being a family member (think Spiritual Growth Grid) remind us of the gospel truths our hearts need to hear time and again?