

A Second Letter to Matthew and Abby Rainer – March 10

I trust you received my letter on Wednesday and further understand the reason for your continued stay in Jacksonville and my absence from you at this time.

Please understand, again, that I love you and miss you very much. What was a home in Atlanta is now only a house.

I must tell you that divorce is not my desire. Though your mother and I have problems sometimes, divorce is not the answer. First, divorce separates you (the children) from one of us – most likely, me. Second, divorce creates a lot of difficulty with money and parenting. Often, divorce leaves the once in love parents bitterly angry and resentful of the other.

God created marriage for his glory that, even though we all sin or disobey God, this sacred promise between a man and woman should be honored until the husband or wife dies. Many years ago, divorce did not occur that often because people committed themselves to the relationship even though they were not always happy. Like any relationship between two people, difficulty and difference is going to happen from time to time. It must be the choice of both people to overcome the difficulty and preserve the relationship – especially, if they have made a promise to God. In this day and age, divorce is much more common or occurs far more often – not because the difficulty and difference has changed but because our laws make it easier and more convenient for people to get a divorce.

With divorce, the man or woman sometimes feels better or senses that their lives will be better apart from the other. But if the man and woman have children whom they care for very much, like you Matthew and Abby (and Ben and Brian), the leaving of your mom or dad can hurt very much.

Matthew, Abby, Ben, and Brian – each of you is a gift from God and, in his sight, are beautifully and wonderfully made for his glory. As your parents, mom and I have been given the privilege to raise you through your childhood. The Bible says that your mom and I are to love you, to discipline you, and to teach you in the instruction of Jesus. To be good teachers, we must not only instruct you through our words but, as well, by our actions. Without God in our lives, your mom and I cannot teach you as he desires but, with God in our lives and hearts, we can.

As I think about divorce, my concern is primarily for you. Please know and understand that, even though I have not called you on the telephone, I love you and miss you very much.

Kirk