

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Int.

1. Aim: To show what God teaches about this subject.
2. God created us Male and Female - Gen. 1 - God instituted marriage and blessed it.
3. Man does not always follow God's will about having a happy and successful marriage. The result is often a broken marriage - which ends in divorce.
 - a. It is God's ideal will that marriage last until death - Rom.7:1-3
 - b. But sometimes it is not possible for a marriage to continue - there is no longer any love for one another, there sometimes is another person involved.
4. What does God say about divorce?

Discussion

I. MATTHEW 19:1-9 and Matthew 5:32

A. Mt. 19:1-9

1. V.1-2
 - a. Region of Judea
 - b. Healed many of the multitudes
2. V. 3-6
 - a. Pharisees ask questions tempting Jesus.
 - b. Did He follow the Law of Moses? Would he contradict himself
 - c. Is it lawful to divorce for every cause? Does the law of Moses allow this?
 - d. Jesus said - haven't you read God's will from the beginning
 - (1) Gen. 2:24-25
 - (2) One flesh
 - (3) Let not man put asunder

3. V. 7-8
 - a. Why did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce?
 - b. Moses suffered or allowed - he didn't command!
 - c. Permitted or allowed because of hardness of hearts of the people
 - d. From the beginning it was never intended for there to be divorce.

4. V. 9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." (NKJV)

"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (KJV)

 - a. The teaching of Jesus is contrasted with the Law of Moses - "And I say"

 - b. WHOSOEVER = any person, all persons in or out of the church

 - c. SHALL PUT AWAY HIS WIFE = Divorce, release, liberate

 - d. EXCEPT IT BE FOR FORNICATION - sexual immorality
 - (1) If and only if fornication is the cause
 - (2) Fornication means marital unfaithfulness - adultery, homosexuality, bestiality

- e. AND SHALL MARRY ANOTHER - another person, another man or another woman

- f. COMMITS ADULTERY
 - (1) Present tense - continuous action
 - (2) Keeps on committing adultery as long as they live together as husband and wife
 - (3) All persons who shall divorce their companions and shall marry another companion -- except upon the grounds of fornication of the companion put away -- are persons who keep on committing adultery.

- g. AND WHOSO MARRIES HER WHO IS DIVORCED COMMITS ADULTERY
 - (1) Marrying a put-away person - that is one put away for fornication
 - (2) Keeps on committing adultery
 - (3) All persons who marry a put away companion are persons who keep on committing adultery.

- h. By implication this says that all persons who because of fornication put away their companions and form another marriage with an eligible person are persons who do not commit adultery.

B. Mt. 5:32 “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.” (NKJV)

“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.” (KJV)

1. BUT I SAY TO YOU

- a. He is contrasting the law of Moses with his teaching
- b. This was his regulation concerning divorce and remarriage

2. THAT WHOEVER DIVORCES HIS WIFE

- a. Divorce
- b. Break the marriage

3. FOR ANY REASON EXCEPT SEXUAL IMMORALITY - SAVING FOR THE CAUSE OF FORNICATION

- a. Fornication would be all unlawful marital relations
- b. Sexual IMMORALITY
- c. A large general term to include all ways of unfaithfulness
- d. This is the one and the only ground for scriptural divorce with the privilege of remarriage

4. CAUSES HER TO COMMIT ADULTERY

- a. That is if she remarries she will be committing adultery
- b. The husband who put her away for some other cause than fornication, would also share in her guilt
- c. Causes her

5. AND WHOEVER MARRIES A WOMAN WHO IS DIVORCED COMMITS ADULTERY

- a. The other or new companion who marries her is also involved in the sin of adultery
- b. She is not free to remarry
- c. Also the husband who put her away for some other cause than fornication would be committing adultery if he got married again.
- d. He is not free to remarry

II. THE ONE EXCEPTION FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

A. Fornication or sexual IMMORALITY

1. God frees the innocent party to remarry following a divorce granted because of fornication.
2. The guilty party in the O.T. times was stoned to death he could not remarry.
3. In the N.T. God forbids the guilty party to remarry because he has violated the marriage bond.
4. The innocent party is free to remarry but not the guilty party.

B. Legal or Scriptural Divorce

1. In our society a legal divorce implies a legal right of remarriage.
2. But a legal divorce does not necessarily imply the scriptural right of remarriage.

III. MEN TRY TO AVOID THESE TRUTHS IN SEVERAL WAYS

A. THOSE OUT OF COVENANT ARE EXEMPT is one excuse to avoid this truth

1. This view says that those people are in the church, non-christians, cannot be guilty of any sin except those of civil law.
 - a. According to the laws of the land a person can divorce and remarry for reasons other than fornication and have not violated any civil law.
 - b. So some people reason that those out of the church can marry, divorce, remarry for any reason and be involved in any number of marriages and never be guilty of living in adultery.
2. This is false doctrine
 - a. All men are accountable to God
 - (1) The Gospel applies to all men - Mark 16:15 Matt. 28:19
 - (2) Every person in the whole world must obey the gospel or be lost -
II Thes. 1:7-10
 - (3) God commands all men everywhere to repent - Acts 17:30
 - (4) If the people out of the church are not accountable to any of God's laws then they could not repent for transgressing God's laws.
 - (5) If they are not guilty of sin then they are not lost.

- b. Men of the world do sin and will be held accountable to God
 - (1) Rom. 1:24-32 Those people out of the church were condemned for their sins
 - (2) Matt. 14:4 "it is not lawful for you to have her."
 - (3) The world is guilty of sins including the sins of adultery and fornication - Gal. 5:19-21
- c. If the law of Christ did not apply to the people of the world then there would be no fornication or adultery on their part since the civil laws do not condemn it.
- d. If you could keep any marriage partner at baptism regardless of God's marriage laws then you could remain in any kind of marriage relationship, including polygamy, group marriage, or even a homosexual marriage.
- e. Those out of the church are accountable to God's laws about divorce and remarriage. Baptism does not make an adulterous marriage a holy marriage. If it was adulterous before baptism then it would still be so after baptism. Baptism is for the remission of past sins, but does not make it right for us to continue living in our old sins.

B. THESE LAWS DO NOT APPLY TO US TODAY - is also an excuse by some

- 1. Some people reject these laws by saying they are not repeated after Acts 2 when the church was established.
- 2. When did these laws apply in Matt. 19:9?
 - a. They did not apply before Christ - for the law permitted several reasons for divorce - Deut. 24:1

- b. They will not apply when we get to heaven for we will not be married in heaven - Luke 20:35-36, Matt. 22:30
3. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were all written after Pentecost to tell about the life of Christ.
4. Jesus lived under the Law of Moses and taught many things that would become effective after the church was established.
5. It did not have to be repeated after Acts 2 for it to be a part of the law of Christ.
6. There are many things found in the "gospels" that are not repeated after Acts 2.

CONCLUSION

1. God's Regulations about DIVORCE and Remarriage are important
 - a. They are for all people
 - b. We must abide by these regulations because we will be judged by them
2. We should teach these regulations to our children before they even begin to think about marriage.
3. Many today in the church are turning away from the sound doctrine of Christ about Divorce and remarriage, but we must hold firm to the TRUTH - God's will about Marriage - Divorce and Remarriage