

Marriage, Divorce, And Remarriage

Matthew 19:1-9

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

- Few topics more controversial!
- A time when it was not so controversial, but that has dramatically changed!
 - “The people of God are being blown by the winds of society, and many are drifting.”
- No society is any stronger than the homes that make up that society.

This is a Topic Which Is:

- Controversial.
- Troubling.
- It can be divisive.
- Much needed.
 - Especially as it relates to our young people who are unmarried, and who need to know certain basic principles before they contemplate getting married!

Marriage:

- Defined: “the state of being married, relation between husband and wife, married life, wedlock, matrimony.”
- A union of one male and one female.
 - Genesis 2:18, 21-24.
 - Matthew 19:3-5.
 - Note verse five: “They twain (two) shall be one flesh.”

Marriage:

- Is not a homosexual union.
 - Genesis 18:20, 19:24.
 - Jude 7
 - Romans 1:26-27.
- Is a “covenant,” Malachi 2:14.
 - A covenant is an agreement, a binding contract between two or more parties.
 - Calls for a vow, a promise, or an oath by the parties to fulfill terms of the contract.

Marriage Involves Three Very Important Items, Matthew 19:5:

- Leaving. This involves decisive action by both parties.
- Cleaving. From *kollao*, means “to glue or weld together.” Romans 7:1-2; Matthew 19:5
- Becoming “one flesh,” Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5.
 - Includes cohabitation which is “*honorable*,” Hebrews 13:4
 - More than just a sexual union; “a fitting expression of the intimacy, boundless sharing, and total merging that marriage demands of a male and a female,” L.A. Stauffer, Is It Lawful.

A Scriptural Marriage Includes:

- Three Parties.
 - The Husband.
 - The Wife.
 - God, Who joins them together, Matthew 19:6.
- Compliance with Civil law, Romans 13:1-2; Acts 5:29.

Divorce

- Defined: From *apoluo*, “to loose from, sever by loosening, undo ... set free ... used of divorce, as to dismiss from the house to repudiate,” Thayer
 - Matthew 1:19.
 - Matthew 5:31.
 - Matthew 19:3,7-9.
 - Mark 10:2,4,11.
 - Luke 16:18.

Matthew 5:32

- “*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.*”
- Read verse without the exceptive clause.
 - The force of the exceptive clause: whoever puts away his wife “for the cause of fornication” does not share in the blame if she, through remarriage enters into an adulterous marriage. cf. Romans 7:3.

Matthew 5:32

- “*But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery ...*”
 - “*Causeth her to commit adultery*” assumes remarriage on her part.
- “*... and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*”

Matthew 19:9

- “*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.*”
- “*And I say unto you ...*” Jesus was answering the Pharisees.
- Jesus’ answer: “Have you not read,” verse 4.
 - Jesus was taking them back to God’s original law for marriage, Genesis 2:24.

Matthew 19:9 Analyzed:

- “*Whosoever*” – as broad as “*whosoever will,*” Revelation 22:17.
- “*Shall put away his wife*” – the one to whom he was to “*cleave,*” verse 5.
- “*Except it be for fornication*” (her fornication)
 - “*Except*” has the force of “if and only if” (cf. Matthew 18:3; Luke 13:3; Matthew 19:9.)
- “*And shall marry another*” (becoming “*one flesh*” sexually with another).

Matthew 19:9 Analyzed

- “*Committeth adultery*” (involved in an immoral sexual relationship).
- “*And he that*” (whether previously married or not).
- “*Marrieth her which is put away*”
- “*Committeth adultery.*”
 - Note the impression this had on the disciples! Matthew 19:10-12.

The Sinfulness of Divorce

- It is a putting asunder of what God has joined together, Matthew 19:6.
- It is something God hates, Malachi 2:16.
- It often leads to adulterous remarriages, Matthew 19:9; 5:32.
- There is only one scriptural cause – “*except it be for fornication.*”

Remarriage

- Two groups of people who may scripturally remarry:
 - Those whose mates are deceased, Romans 7:2-3.
 - Those who put their mates away “*for the cause of fornication,*” Matthew 19:9.
 - Permission to remarry granted to “the innocent party” the party sinned against by his/her fornicating spouse.

What Shall We do about Christ’s Law on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage?

- Should We:
 - Tighten it and make it more restrictive, I Timothy 4:1-3?
 - Make it more lax, Romans 6:1?
 - Allow preachers and elders to set it aside, Galatians 1:8-9?

What Shall We do about Christ’s Law on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage?

- Study it, Acts 17:11; I Thessalonians 5:21.
- Obey it, James 2:12; James 1:21-22.
- Teach it, Matthew 28:20.

Conclusion:

- What Jesus taught on this subject constitutes a “*hard saying,*” John 6:60.
- When some heard what they interpreted to be a “*hard saying*” they turned away and “*walked no more with Him,*” John 6:66.
- We should have the attitude of Peter, “*Lord, thou hast the words of eternal life,*” John 6:68.