

Seek The Old Paths

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths...and walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16)

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Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage

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Other than the day you become a Christian, the most important day of your life is the day you get married. It is most important because whom you marry is for life. There is no trial period wherein if things do not work out you get a divorce and try again. God's law regarding marriage is quite specific. There's no misunderstanding it. It applies equally to all.

GOD'S LAW OF MARRIAGE

God's law of marriage was revealed in the garden of Eden. "And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:22-24). This is the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 19:4-6. "...Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For

this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

By inspiration, Paul said marriage was for life. "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband *so long as he liveth*; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband" (Rom. 7:2). It is stated in I Corinthians 7:2 that every man is to have his own wife and every wife is to have her own husband. This is so unlike the way people act today that desire someone else's wife or husband!

God's LAW regarding marriage is **ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN, FOR LIFE!** Marriage is a very serious matter. The unmarried better make sure what they are doing before they transgress God's law.

GOD'S LAW OF DIVORCE

What about divorce? God has not

left us without law. His word is just as plain on this subject as it is on marriage in general. Luke 16:18 sets forth the principle. *"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."*

There's no misunderstanding what Jesus said. The problem comes when people are not willing to believe and follow it! It's sad indeed when people begin to make excuse and search to find some loop-hole through which they may escape the consequences of breaking God's decree. This statement of Jesus is plain and simple. **Whoever divorces their mate and marries again commits adultery!**

Romans 7:3 states, "So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress...." Now, how serious is God's law? Is it to be taken lightly? Can one simply ignore it? no! No!! NO!!!

I've sought to emphasize Luke 16:18 and Romans 7:3 because it is God's principle concerning divorce. Remember how Jesus said, "what therefore God hath joined together, *let not man put asunder.*" Where does man get the right to seek a divorce or grant a divorce when God's law will not allow it?

ONE EXCEPTION

The Lord has given one cause, and **ONE CAUSE ONLY**, wherein one may divorce their mate and marry again and not be guilty of adultery. The one and only exception to Luke 16:18 and Romans 7:3 is found in Matthew 5:32

& 19:9. Matthew 5:32 reads, "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."

This verse is as plain and simple as Luke 16:18. One who divorces their mate for ANY reason other than their mate's fornication (sexual intercourse with someone other than their spouse), and marries someone else, commits adultery, and continues to live in adultery as long as they live with their new partner.

God's LAW regarding marriage is ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN, FOR LIFE!

It's amazing that many have added other exceptions to the one the Lord gave. Some say you are free to remarry if your mate deserts you. Some say you can remarry if they are unable to fulfill your needs. While others say God's law does not apply to non-Christians.

Either "except" means "except" or it doesn't. We don't have any problem believing it in John 3:5 where Jesus told Nicodemus "*except* a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." We understand, and rightly so, there is one exception to entrance into the Lord's kingdom. One is "born of water and of the Spirit" or he does not become a

child of God. So then why try to make the Lord's exception in Matthew 19:9 mean only one of many exceptions? The only conceivable reason is that in John 3:5 one believes what the Lord said and in Matthew 19:9 he does not.

ADULTERY IS CONTINUOUS

Those who divorce their mate for a reason other than their mate's fornication and marry again *continue* to live in the state of adultery. Though some say you cannot "live in adultery," the Bible says you can. Matthew 19:9 reads, "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." The word *committeth* in this verse is present tense which means "continuous action." As long as one continues married to their new partner, they continue to commit adultery. It is a continuous state - relationship.

The tense of "continuous action" is recognized in many other passages. "But *seek* ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..." (Matt. 6:33). "Seek" means to "keep on seeking." "Blessed is the man that *endureth* temptation..." (James 1:12). "Endureth" means to "keep on enduring."

Colossians 3:5-7 gives further evidence of this. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; *fornication*, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time,

when *ye lived in them.*" Some of those at Colossae had "lived" in the continual state of fornication before they became Christians! It is therefore possible, regardless of what some say!!

ADULTERERS MUST REPENT

Those guilty of adultery must repent just like thieves, liars, those guilty of homosexuality, or anyone else. No such persons can enter the kingdom of heaven (Gal. 5:19-21). When one repents, he stops the action and changes his relationship to it. He no longer continues in the state of stealing, lying, homosexuality, adultery.

To say that one can repent of the act of adultery and continue in the marriage is a false statement. Example: when one joins a denominational church, he must not only repent of it but must also get out of his *relationship* with this unscriptural body. When one enters an unscriptural marriage, he must not only repent of the sin of adultery but must get out of the *adulterous relationship* to his unlawful partner. Continuing the relationship is just as wrong as the sin of entering the relationship. It is just as true with an unscriptural marriage as it is with an unscriptural church.

CONCLUSION

To read the passages relating to marriage, divorce and remarriage drives home the thought of just how serious God's law is regarding marriage. Make sure you know what God's will is and choose your life-long companion carefully. With only one exception for divorce, there's no second chance.

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