

**"WHAT THEREFORE GOD HATH JOINED  
TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER"**

Matthew 19:6b

The number one issue today in fundamental churches is--**DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE**. Where you will stand on this issue depends upon your obedience to the word of God. Churches are full of divorced and remarried people these days. Preachers are divorced and remarried. What does the Bible say?

***"And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."***

Mark 10:11-12

From here a person could plainly see the Lord's mind on the subject. But they proceed to girate, twist, confuse and fight the issue. They do this because they have sin in their hearts and they will resist the truth in such manner until they submit to the will of the Lord.

The first supposed loop hole, I would like to close up, is the "except for fornication" clause.

***"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."***

Matthew 19:9

Men say that unfaithfulness on the spouse's part is an excuse for divorce and remarriage.

The word fornication is not the same as adultery. In the very verse in question one can see the proof of this. For why would they use two different words describing sensual sin if they were the same?

***"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication..."***

Galatians 5:19a

We see two sins listed here. It would be foolish to list both if they meant the same. Fornication is lewdness involving unmarried people.

***"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."***

I Corinthians 7:2

Before you get a wife, you are unmarried. The sin committed by practicing lewdness at this time would be fornication.

***"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:"***

Matthew 15:19

We see again that adultery and fornication are TWO different sins.

What is meant in Matthew 19:9 then? The answer would be found in Matthew 1:18-19.

***“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.”***

Matthew 1:18-19

During the betrothal period of the Jews, they were considered man and wife even before they came together. Joseph had a right to put her away. He would have if the angel had not appeared to him and told him;

***“...that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”***

Matthew 1:20b

Therefore in conclusion of this matter we see that Matthew 19:9, with its fornication clause, is not an excuse for divorce because of unfaithfulness on the part of the spouse. It is talking about the betrothal period in Jewish marriages where the woman was found unfaithful.

Another way people try to get around obeying God is by saying they were not saved when they married and divorced someone and then remarried. They say, "Doesn't the blood cover all sin?" Yes, it does. But divorce and remarriage is not a one-time sin. It is a continual act of adultery.

***“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”***

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable in saved or unsaved marriages. Also, God expects a person to keep a marriage vow even though a spouse is unsaved.

If a saved person married an unsaved person, they disobeyed II Corinthians 6:14.

***“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”***

They now have to live with the consequences of their sin. They cannot break the vows of marriage, for the Bible says,

***“And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him”***

I Corinthians 7:13

Yet another popular loop hole is the divorced-loosed clause in I Corinthians 7:27. It says,

***“Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.”***

Men say that divorce looses a man from his wife. The Bible says, ***“Art thou bound unto a wife?”*** You are bound by the marriage vows. The Bible says,

***“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”***

Matthew 19:6b

Then I Corinthians 7:27 continues, ***“...seek not to be loosed...”*** After a person enters a marriage contract they should not seek to be loosed. It is God's will for them to live together until one of them dies. This is the only way one is loosed from a wife.

***“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.”***

Romans 7:2

In I Corinthians 7:27 it says,

***“...Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.”***

You are loosed by death and not by divorce. Even then you are not to seek a wife if you want to devote all your time to the work of the Lord. We can see this from the context.

***“He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:”***

I Corinthians 7:32b

The next place I would like to comment on is John chapter 4. While talking to the woman at the well, Jesus said unto her, (vs.16)

***“Go, call thy husband, and come hither.”***

Verses 17-18 continue,

***“The woman answered and said, I have no husband, Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband; For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that sadist thou truly.”***

John 4:17-18

I've actually had some people tell me that Jesus was telling her she had five God-honoring husbands. How foolish! The Lord said in verse 17 that she had well said she had no husband. He was just showing how ridiculous and sinful her situation was by saying, ***“For thou hast had five husbands.”*** I would say the same thing in disdain about some movie stars. I would say, "This or that person has had five wives." Did God place his stamp of approval on the last four wives? No! God honors only one wife, and not one wife at a time either!

This leads up to another point. Some people would have us believe that a physical union between a man and a woman produces marriage. This is blasphemy!

***“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”***

Hebrews 13:4

If every time a couple engaged in an illicit, wicked affair it made them man and wife and married in the sight of God, we would have quite a paradox, for the verse would read, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will honor, because they are married!" This does not make sense. One of the scriptures men use to back up this theory is I Corinthians 6:16. It says,

***“What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.”***

Yes, and I believe this! According to this verse, a person does become one flesh when engaging in a wicked act with a harlot. But that does not make them married! In Genesis 2:24 the Bible says,

***“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”***

If I pick up a stone and throw it at a tree, it was a tree before I threw the stone at it. When a man cleaves unto his wife and then becomes one flesh he obviously, according to the verse, has to have a wife before he cleaves unto her. Physical union does not make her his wife. Fornication is a perversion of the oneness of the husband and wife relationship. People are married at the marriage ceremony. Then they cleave unto their wife and become one flesh.

With the mention of the marriage ceremony I come to the next point of controversy. Some would have us believe that the wedding ceremony is of pagan origin. This is strange considering that our Saviour started his ministry at one, and also performed his first miracle there.

***“And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.”***

John 2:2

He went and respected the wedding and we also should highly esteem the marriage vows. It does not matter if someone was remarried before they were saved or if their ceremony was conducted by other than a preacher. It does not matter if you were married by someone who was not a Christian either. God puts his stamp of approval upon the institution of marriage.

***“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled...”***

Hebrews 13:4

Some people have used the Mosaic law of divorce found in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 to justify divorce and marriage. Is this rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15)? I believe ***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God,...”*** II Timothy 3:16a, but let's rightly divide it. In the Old Testament it commands to refrain from pork. However, in I Timothy 4: 3b it says, "... and commanding to abstain from meats...." it is a doctrine of devils. (See I Timothy 4:1) When we compare scripture with scripture we can get the meaning of a passage. (See I Corinthians 2:13) The Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew,

***“...Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.”***

Matthew 19:8

And again in Mark 10:2-12 it says,

***“And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”***

Mark 10:2-12

***"...let God be true, but every man a liar..."***

Romans 3:4

We need to obey God, not man.

Remember also that the one who marries a divorcee is also committing adultery.

***"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."***

Luke 16:18

What should a person do if they are divorced and remarried? Should they continue to live in an adulterous situation? **NO!** What should he or she do? Separate immediately! And we won't let them become a member of the local church until then.

Someone says, "What about the children?" Well, what about them? God says you will be judged while you are committing adultery!! Hebrews 13:4b, ***"...but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*** I've never seen a divorced and remarried home that had the blessing of God upon it. It is continual adultery, that's why.

I'll witness to divorcees and try to get them saved, but we won't allow them to become members of the local church until they separate.

And what is love? I John 5: 23 tells us,

***"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."***

In closing, may I urge everyone who reads what I have written, to prayerfully consider it. Remember, a silly piece of paper from a liberal judge and a humanistic lawyer does not mean anything to God! Take a stand! John the Baptist did!

***"For Herod had laid hold on John and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her."***

Matthew 14:3-4

Philip was alive and his brother had his wife. Evidently it was OK'd by the court of that day. Did John preach against it because he was unloving or bitter? No, he obeyed God and cried aloud against it. He later lost his head because of his stand against this sin.

**Where will you stand?**

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