

Bible Cause for Divorce.

Matt. 19:3-9

Introduction:

- A. The growing controversy
 - 1. Differing views on MDR around for years – little practical effect because of rarity of divorce
 - 2. Certain factors in recent years have forced it to the forefront:
 - a. The tremendous increase in cases of MDR in congregations.
 - b. The number of prominent brethren publicly espousing “unorthodox views.”
 - c. The keener realization of the consequences of getting it wrong – soul destroying adultery.
 - 3. The more recent discussions have centered around about five questions:
 - a. Are aliens subject to God’s marriage law?
 - b. Is adultery a sexual act or is “breaking the covenant?”
 - c. Does Paul give an additional exception to that of Jesus for divorcing and remarrying?
 - d. Are there multiple scriptural reasons for divorce providing one does not remarry?
 - e. What role, if any, does society and government have in marriage and divorce?
- B. In these two lessons, I plan to limit my discussion to the last two questions – covered in recent book.
- C. In this first lesson, let’s look at scriptural reason or reasons for divorce:

Discussion:

I. What Did Jesus Say?

A. *Matt. 5:32*

- 1. The effect a divorce has on the “innocent divorcee” (not “divorcer”) – causes her adultery.
- 2. The divorcer may or may not have contemplated his own remarriage – text does not say.
- 3. The effect on the one marrying the divorcee – adultery.

B. *Matt. 19:3-8 and Mark 10:2-13*

- 1. The question asked (19:3; 10:2) – nothing about remarriage in the question.
- 2. The question answered (19:4-8; 10:3-9) – nothing about remarriage in the answer.
- 3. The post-divorce consequences – the results of remarriage (19:9; 10:10-12)
 - a. Mark shows that these comments were made later than the original question and answer.
 - b. Here we learn there is one exception to Jesus’ “no divorce” rule.
 - c. He the sin of adultery for the one remarrying is in addition to sin of divorcing .

II. Did Paul Say Anything Differently from Jesus? (1 Cor. 7:10-11)

- A. Both said do not divorce – Paul not does deal with the exception nor did Jesus in Luke and Mark.
- B. Both deal with consequences of post-divorce behavior.
 - 1. Jesus says remain unmarried or adultery results.
 - 2. Paul says remain unmarried or be reconciled
 - 3. No essential difference in the two.
- C. Neither says it is OK to divorce as long as you remain unmarried.

III. What about Divorcing “For the Kingdom of God’s Sake?”

- A. A relatively new concept.
- B. A look at the “proof texts.” (Matt. 10:34-38; 19:28-29; Lk. 14:26; Lk. 18:29-30; 1 Cor. 7:12-15)
 - 1. Jesus tells what one must do to become a disciple – not what might have to do (Lk. 14:23)
 - 2. Peter left all without physically forsaking his wife and family (Luke 18:28-30; 1 Cor. 9:5)
 - 3. Paul is not giving permission for believer to initiate divorce.

IV. What about Spouse And/or Child Abuse?

- A. Physical and mental abuse? – (Acts 23:16ff)
- B. Divorce only relief available in 1st century?

Conclusion:

- A. Such issues cannot be settled by sentimental or emotional considerations – but what the text says.
 - 1. If so, no “good” person would ever be lost.
 - 2. If so, no “innocent” person would ever suffer from another’s actions.
- B. The bottom line is: What text gives one the right to divorce for any reason other than fornication?