

# Divorce And Remarriage

Matt. 19:1-9

## Introduction:

- A. *Divorce and Remarriage* is perhaps most explosive issue among brethren today.
  - 1. Because more people involved than ever before.
  - 2. Because well-known, well-respected, well-liked on all sides of issue.
  - 3. Because emotions run high when families and close friendships are involved.
  - 4. Because congregations do not deal uniformly with the problem.
- B. *Divorce and Remarriage* has several aspects that need to be studied:
  - 1. The law involved.
  - 2. The divorce involved.
  - 3. The sins involved.

## Discussion:

### I. The Universal Scope Of The Law Involved.

- A. Not “Mosaic” law nor a “Christian” law—but for all mankind from beginning. (vv.4-8)
  - 1. Some say it applies only to those in the kingdom—Bales & Haley.
  - 2. But, “adultery” and “fornication” are words tied to marriage—both possible for outsiders.
- B. “Does 1 Cor. 7:10-11 not show that the Lord had two Christians in mind in Matt. 19:9?”
  - 1. Jesus said “whoever” - If Paul speaking only of Christians, Lord included them in “whoever”.
  - 2. Jesus did not specifically address troubles in a mixed marriage, so Paul does it by Revelation.

### II. The Kind Of Divorce That Permits Remarriage. (v. 9)

- A. If one marries after divorcing or after being divorced for “just any reason”, then results is adultery.
- B. If one marries after divorcing for “fornication” or “sexual immorality”, then results is not adultery.
  - 1. “Fornication” must be the “reason” or “cause” for the divorce action. (Matt. 5:32).
  - 2. Does not say “for suspicion of adultery”.
  - 3. Does not leave from for divorcing for one reason and later re-marrying for another reason.

### III. The Nature And Consequences Of The Sins Involved.

- A. The sin of divorcing for just any cause
  - 1. One sins by putting asunder what God has joined together.
  - 2. One adds sin to sin by remarriage after the putting away.
  - 3. Does not 1 Cor. 7:10-16 permit divorce for other causes?
- B. The sin of “fornication (Porneia)” – a generic word that includes all “sexual immorality.”
- C. The sin of “adultery”.
  - 1. “Unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another”.
  - 2. “Commits adultery” in Matt. 19:9 is continuous or repetitive action—it is on going sin.
- D. The consequences of adultery and/or fornication.
  - 1. Temporal.
    - a. Cannot be fellowshiped nor tolerated by brethren. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Rev. 2:20-24).
    - b. Cannot be received as a matter of “individual conscience” like Romans 14 and parallels.
      - (1) Some try to make it parallel to covering, military service, Sunday night communion, etc.
      - (2) Language is too explicit to leave it in this area.
        - (a) If explicitly said “Whoever covers or uncovers head commits adultery” - would have to deal with as such. Or, if said, “Whoever serves in military commits murder”—would have to deal with them as murderers.
        - (b) Honest men may study passages and reach different conscientious personal conclusions and practice their conclusions without it necessarily effecting their fellowships.
      - (3) In case of Matt. 19:9, Jesus has explicitly revealed the conclusion — it is adultery. We have no choice to deal with it as adultery.
  - 2. Eternal. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21)

## Conclusion:

- A. Must determined what Bible teaches rather than what some well-known or well-liked brother teaches.
- B. Must not let emotions or relationship blind us to truth.
- C. Must not merely leave it to individual conscience without church doing it duty toward this sin.