

The Divorce And Remarriage Question

Matt. 19:1-9

Introduction:

- A. A *serious* problem for Christians.
 - 1. Becoming more frequent and acceptable in society — brethren follow suit
 - 2. Becoming easier to find preachers and elders who either ignore or justify.
 - 3. Involves individual salvation (1 Cor. 6:9,10) and church fellowship (1 Cor. 5: Rev. 2:20).
 - 4. Involves hardship and heartache when sound doctrine is applied in some cases.
- B. A *solvable* problem for Christians - if ruled by scripture rather sentiment.

Discussion:

I. Scriptural Facts about God's Law in General That We must Accept.

- A. Individual hardship do not set aside God's laws for the good of all.
- B. Innocent people often suffer when God's law is broken. (cf. 1 Pet. 2:18ff.).
- C. Conversion often involves great sacrifices. (Matt. 19:16-22).
- D. God's law cannot be set aside to avoid immediate difficulty without creating greater difficulties. (Uzza and ark, Israel and king)

II. Scriptural Answers to Questions about God's Marriage Law That We must Accept.

- A. "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason? (vv. 3-6)
- B. "Why then did Moses command ... ?" (vv.7-8) — Not become God approved divorce (Mal. 2:16)
- C. Is there any cause that permits one to lawfully divorce? (Matt. 5:31,32; 19:9).
- D. Who can remarry with assurance of Scriptural authority? (Rom. 7:1-3; Matt. 19:9)
- E. What does repentance demand of all sinful relationships, including adultery? (Cf. Ezra 10:3)

III. Contemporary Answers About Divorce And Remarriage That We Cannot Accept.

- A. "Matt. 19:9 does not apply to this dispensation" — when did it apply?
- B. "One law for alien another for Christians" — "Whoever"; How can aliens commit adultery?
- C. "Adultery is "breaking the covenant"" — Adultery is a form sexual immorality (Rev. 2:20-22).
- D. "Bond broken by adultery, hence guilty free to remarry" — Three way bond.
- E. "Conversion (F.R.B) removes all sins, sanctifies the relationship" — What about polygamy?
- F. "Pauline exception" (1 Cor. 7:15) — Remarriage not even considered in chapter..
- G. "Legal divorce now and mental divorce later".
 - 1. No way one could ever be divorced against will.
 - 2. Have two divorces in same case.
- H. Too severe a penalty for a mistake. (cf. Mt. 19:10-12.)

Conclusion:

- A. God's law is best for us all.
- B. Let's take it as it is, regardless of the consequences.