

# Short-Circuits In Marriage

Matt. 19:3-6

## Introduction:

- A. Divorce is an *old* problem. (text)
- B. Divorce is a *common* problem.
  - 1. In the world.
  - 2. In the church - even among preachers.
- C. Divorce is a *painful* problem.
  - 1. For the couple.
  - 2. For the children
  - 3. For the families
  - 4. For the church.
- D. Divorce is a *serious* problem.
  - 1. Has temporal consequences.
  - 2. Has eternal consequences.(Teach children to memorize Matt. 19:19 as well as Mk. 16:16)
- E. Divorce is a *preventable* problem -- if we overcome common **short-circuits** to a good marriage.

## Discussion:

### **I. Liberal Thinking Short-circuits Many Marriages.**

- A. Permissive attitudes about sex outside of marriage. (cf. Heb. 13:5)
- B. Permissive attitudes about divorce and remarriage.
  - 1. Take liberties with Matt. 5:32; 19:9.
  - 2. Take liberties with 1 Cor. 7:15.

### **II. Confusion Over Proper Roles For Each Partner Short-circuits Many Marriages.**

- A. Use modern trends in the world as role models.
- B. Confused about who should be the head. (cf. Eph. 5:23-27).
  - 1. Husband fails to exercise real leadership. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:7)
    - a. May be too timid.
    - b. May be overbearing.
  - 2. Wife ignores husbands leadership.
    - a. Behind the scenes circumvents his headship.
    - b. Overrules husband in handling of children.
- C. Confused about family economics.
  - 1. Man should be primary providers. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8).
  - 2. Wife should be primarily homemaker. (Tit. 2:4-5).
  - 3. Each may assist other (cf. Prov. 31:16,24), but not take over role of other.

### **III. Conflicting Values Short-circuits Many Marriages.**

- A. Differ over the what is essential, important and unimportant.
  - 1. Causes problems over where they go.
  - 2. Causes problems over where they live.
  - 3. Causes problems over what they spend.
  - 4. Causes problems over child-rearing.
- B. Differ on willingness to yield -- basic conviction not negotiable.

### **IV. Neglect of Marital Duties Short-circuits Many Marriages. (1 Cor. 7:1-5)**

- A. Too busy elsewhere.
  - 1. Work - even "The Lord's Work".
  - 2. Social life.
  - 3. Civic affairs
  - 4. T.V.
  - 5. Children
- B. Too indifferent.
  - 1. To the needs of partner.
  - 2. To high priority it holds (cf. 1 Cor. 7:5)
  - 3. To the consequences of neglect.(cf. 1 Cor. 7:5).

### **V. Careless Preparation Short-circuit Many Marriages.**

- A. By looking for wrong things in a husband or wife.
- B. By letting emotions rule out common sense.
- C. By ignoring differences in basic moral, religious and ethical values.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let God's word be common ground to avoid conflicts.
- B. Let both respect Bible teaching on all aspects of marriage.