

THE HOME

Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

Introduction

1. Some Statistics.

A. The National Center for Health Statistics says:

1) 2.4 million weddings in 1997.

---- 10.7 percent of these marriages were divorced men marrying never-married women

---- 10.9 percent were marriages of divorced women to never-married men.

2) No figures reported about how many marriages united two divorced individuals

---- Close to 30 percent of today's new marriages, one or both spouses have been previously married and divorced.

2. Divorce is becoming more acceptable.

A. Andrew Cherlin, a sociologist at John Hopkins University who studies divorce and remarriage in the USA, made these comments when the statistics were released: *"If this says anything, it says divorce is becoming more acceptable and less of a barrier to getting remarried. There isn't much difference between being divorced and single when you're marrying a spouse."*

3. This is greatly affecting the Lord's church.

A. Society's says "divorce and remarriage" is acceptable.

B. We are seeing only the tip of the iceberg in this area.

C. The family unit and Brethren today **better accept the Lord's teaching about divorce and remarriage.**

1) If not, Christians will not remain faithful and neither will the churches in the future.

God Has Always Hated Divorce

- 1. In the beginning He created Adam and Eve for each other and no one else. In the last book of the Old Testament the Lord speaks about divorce.**

*Malachi 2:16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That **He hates divorce**, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."*

- 2. God never intended for there to be divorce.**

*Matthew 19:8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning it was not so.**"*

- A. Today, divorce proceedings are treated more like a bad cold, even among religious people – some in the church!)**
 - B. There was a time when the whole family felt a sense of disgrace when a divorce was granted to some member of it.**
- 3. Why Divorce?**

- A. God's Word nowhere requires that a divorce be obtained for any reason. Some think that if the partner is unfaithful - then one must divorce. This is not so.**
- B. God's word permits divorce, but does not make it unrighteous to forgive the unfaithful party.**
 - 1) Those that took the woman that was taken in the act of adultery demanded Christ to make a decision.**
John 8:3-11

Jesus' Teaching on the Sanctity of Marriage

- 1. All the fuss in the Lord's church over divorce and remarriage is rooted in our lack of willingness to submit to the Lord's plain teaching on the matter!**

Matthew 19:9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." 1

Matthew 5:32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Mark 10:12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.

- A. Is this so difficult to understand?**

- 2. The Lord does not condone divorce.**

- A. He does not allow divorce, and he does not allow divorced people the right to remarry.**

- 1) The only exception to this law is when one spouse divorces the other for sexual unfaithfulness, in which case only the "innocent" spouse may remarry without committing adultery.**

- (a) Jesus spoke this doctrine plainly and to the point!**

CHARTS 1 and 2

Digging the Adulterous Hole

1. **There is a possibility that the person who divorces their partner may cause that partner to commit adultery.**
Matthew 5:31-32
2. **An individual will not be held guiltless if they try to force their partner into adultery so that they will have an excuse for divorce.**
1 Corinthians 7:2-5
 - A. **People who have enjoyed the privileges of marriage are seldom content to live a chaste single life.**
 - B. **The Gospel presupposes that a second marriage will follow, on the part of both.**
 - C. **If the divorce is not for fornication, the one obtaining it is accountable, for he causes her to commit adultery, in case of her remarriage.**

CHART 3

- 1) **If he remarries, he commits adultery, & causes her to.**

Matthew 19:9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.

- (a) **Though she will be responsible for her own guilt.**
- 2) **He that marries her commits adultery.**
- 3) **The one he marries commits adultery.**
- 4) **Thus 4 people, two men and two women have become guilty of adultery because of one person wanting an unscriptural divorce!**

What Is the Problem in the Lord's Church:

- 1. Many do not want to accept Jesus' plain teaching.**
 - A. Many have made Jesus' plain statement one full of confusion, doubt, and created "loopholes" (under the banner of compassion) for divorced persons.**

- 2. Here is what some are saying in the church that is splitting the home and church wide open on this issue.**
 - A. A strict doctrine will cost too much.**
 - B. Too many people who divorced at a young age will have too high a price to pay.**
 - C. Too many people who have been wrongly divorced by their spouses will suffer for a lifetime.**
 - D. Too many divorced people will never become Christians because of this law.**
 - E. Too many Christians with children and happy homes will discover that they are living in adultery and will have to change their relationship; or they will find a different church that allows them to continue in adultery; or they will stop attending anywhere. It will tear up the church. It will tear up families. It will tear up children.**

(1) Sadly, many of these statements are true. But I suppose the disciples had similar things in mind when, in obvious discouragement, they answer the Lord;

Matthew 19:10 "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

---- It appears that things haven't changed much after all, have they?

3. What would the Lord say in response to us in his church today? He would probably respond the same way he did to His disciples;

Matthew 19:11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:

A. Jesus' statement was plain. Some will accept it and some will reject it. There are haves and have nots. The haves will understand it, the have nots will not understand, receive, or submit to His teaching.

4. Who are the haves and have nots?

A. Paul can tell us.

*1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, **because they are spiritually discerned.***

1) Those to whom it has "been given" are spiritually-minded people.

2) Judgments are based upon God's will.

3) The unspiritual minded base their judgements on their own observations, desires, and opinions, and are unwilling to accept the plain teachings of Jesus.

a) This is what's happening in the Lord's church on the issue of divorce and remarriage today!

B. Within all the intricate doctrines of men on divorce and remarriage are complex **human reasoning, improperly **re-defined words**, out-of-context **forced interpretations**, and strong **appeals to emotion**.**

1) **Let us not be guilty of the very sins Jesus condemned the Pharisees for in their doctrines on divorce.**

What can unscripturally divorced people do?

1. They may submit to Christ's law on remarriage and stay celibate because they are under Christ's rule and want to please Him above all things.
 - A. They will control their sexual desires for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
 - B. They will **accept the consequences** of their (or their ex-spouse's) sin of unlawful divorce, and not try to find a way out of Christ's plainly taught law.
 - 1) Will the spiritually minded brethren sympathize with them? Certainly.
 - 2) Will they help them? Definitely
 - 3) Will they compromise Christ's law for them? **NO!**

Conclusion:

1. Jesus' teaching on divorce and remarriage is clear. He intended it to be so.
 - A. The disciples understood the consequences of it. They knew it was a strict law.
 - 1) Ones that are able to accept it, let them accept it.
2. We must strive to live as Christians should live and make the home that God designed a happy one for everyone living there.

Next Week: THE HUSBAND

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