

WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER

"Divorce and Remarriage"

Mat. 19:3-9

I. RATIONALE FOR TEACHING ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

- A. Can't ignore issue, though controversial and painful
- B. No justification or condoning of issues
- C. Must teach sacredness of marriage vows
- D. Must provide healing and reconciliation to those affected

II. QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

- A. Is divorce a sin? Is remarriage a sin?
- B. Guilty of adultery?

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Sin is a selfish act that displeases God
 - 1. Sin is a decision
 - 2. Under Moses, act had to be performed
 - 3. Under New Covenant, sin occurs at moment of decision
- B. What is marriage?
 - 1. A covenant before God and witnesses which unites the spirit of man and woman
 - 2. Happens in same way as salvation--believe in heart, confess with mouth
 - 3. In eyes of God, to be forever
- C. What is divorce?
 - 1. Not merely dissolving of a partnership, but separating of two spirits molded and melted together into one
 - 2. Cannot be torn apart without harm to one or both
 - 3. Can be spiritually divorced, but legally married--court acknowledges what has already taken place

IV. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DIVORCE

- A. God hates it (Mal. 2:13-16, Amplified Version)
- B. Must remind Him of Eden when He was put away
- C. God forgives divorce

V. QUESTION OF ADULTERY

- A. In OT, those caught in adultery were to be stoned
- B. Definitions of adultery
 - 1. Immoral sex
 - 2. Breach of wedlock
 - 3. Apostasy, which means to fall away from God; to break fellowship with God

- C. When does adultery take place?
 1. Does mate put away become sexually immoral even if never again has sex relationship?
 2. What about "living in adultery?"
- D. Divorce as apostasy
 1. Divorce disturbs fellowship with God
 2. Spiritual union between a husband and wife so profound that to break that oneness disturbs oneness with creator
 3. Jesus more concerned about relationship with Father than with former spouse

VI. IS REMARRIAGE A SIN?

- A. Divorce is greater sin
 1. Sin against person offended
 2. Sin against God--what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder
- B. God hates divorces, not necessarily remarriage
- C. To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife
 1. Marriage provides lawful fulfillment of natural sex urge
 2. Why hold against person divorced against their own will?

VII. BUT SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU

- A. I Cor. 6:9-10 - *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"*
- B. v. 11 - *"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God"*
- C. Dope addict stands up to testify, we applaud
- D. *"I used to be married to John Doe..."*
- E. Can shoot wife, but not divorce her

VIII. *"GOD FORGIVES, I'LL JUST DO IT ANYWAY, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT ANYWAY"*

IX. FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

- A. Divorce should not be contemplated
- B. If divorced or separated, should seek for restoration
- C. If spiritual situation that caused problem in first place not resolved, marriage will fall apart again
- D. If offended, should forgive offender--not hold bitterness and hatred
- E. If offender, ask for forgiveness
- F. We as the church should forgive
- G. Reconciliation and restoration process for those in leadership

Malachi 2:13-16 (Amplified Version)

And this you do with double guilt; you cover the altar of the Lord with tears (shed by your unoffending wives, divorced by you that you might take heathen wives), and with your own weeping and crying out because the Lord does not regard your offering any more or accept it with favor at your hand.

Yet you ask, Why does He reject it? Because the Lord was witness (to the covenant made at your marriage) between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously and to whom you were faithless. Yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant (made by your marriage vows).

And did not God make (you and your wife) one flesh? Did not One make you and preserve your spirit alive? And why did God make you two One? Because He sought a godly offspring (from your union). Therefore take heed to yourselves, and let no one deal treacherously and be faithless to the wife of his youth.

For the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I hate divorce and marital separation and him who covers his garment (his wife) with violence. Therefore keep a watch upon your spirit (that it may be controlled by My Spirit), that you deal not treacherously and faithlessly (with your marriage mate).