

FROM THE MINISTRY OF  

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# GOD HATES DIVORCE

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Penned by: The Preacher

*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. (Malachi 2:16)*

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## LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD

I know that there are those of you who are the innocent party who may be going through, or even have gone through a divorce that you didn't want. I also understand that there are those of you who are the guilty party that made this mess as well. But there is hope for all of you. I say this because God can and will give you the strength to do what is right if you'll just follow his leading. So please, consider what's being said here in this video and test it with scripture itself. Because there are those who are watering down the truth of the God's word and leading fellow Christian astray. God help us all.

## COMPELLED

With all the confusion that's going on regarding marriage and divorce, I feel compelled to do a biblical overview of what God's word teaches. If we, (and especially those men who are leaders of God's assembly), would make it our aim to <sup>1</sup>"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," we would all come to the same sound conclusion. For we must remember that peoples eternal destiny is at stake here. <sup>1</sup>(2 Timothy 2:15)

And yes, there are those who may not like what I'm saying and may even get offended or hurt by it. However, we need to be: <sup>2</sup>"speaking the truth in love" and to remember that God's word says: <sup>3</sup>"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy

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are deceitful." Therefore, let's put away the stereo type, watered down, compromising view of divorce and once and for all stand on God's word. Amen. <sup>2</sup>(Ephesians 4:15)  
<sup>3</sup>(Proverbs 27:6)

## THE CHALLENGE

In Matthew's Gospel, the Pharisees asked Jesus, <sup>4</sup>"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" And He answered and said to them: <sup>5</sup>"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." But being not content with that answer, the Pharisees went on to challenge Him saying: <sup>6</sup>"Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" <sup>4</sup>(19:3) <sup>5</sup>(19:4-6)  
<sup>6</sup>(Matthew 19:7)

Jesus then makes a statement that I'm sure caught them all off guard saying: <sup>7</sup>"Moses because of the hardness of your hearts allowed you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery: and whoever marries her which is put away dose commit adultery." It could not be any clearer than this! The sinning husband, the remarrying wife, as well as the one who marries her, are all guilty of adultery if they fail to take heed to God's word here. <sup>7</sup>(Matthew 19:8-9)

So, we see that Jesus made it very clear on what God's standard for marriage should be. And that is a man and his wife would be together for life. But because of their hard hearts, Moses allowed them to put away their wives. For Paul said: <sup>8</sup>"and even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting" which would include the act of divorce. However, Jesus came to set things back to God's standard by saying: <sup>9</sup>"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." <sup>8</sup>(Romans 1:28-31) <sup>9</sup>(Matthew 19:6)

## WHAT IS ADULTERY?

Now before moving on, we must take a look at the difference between fornication and adultery. Fornication is any sexual act committed either by a man or a woman that doesn't line up with God's word. But adultery is an act of fornication which violates the marriage covenant. This would include a man who has joined himself to a married or divorced woman or for a man who puts away a faithful wife to marry another. For by these wrongful actions, all parties (both men and women) are not only violating the marriage covenant, but are severing the marriage relationship as well. Thus we see the act of adultery taking place.

Now just to let the read know. The word fornication (unchastity or sexual immorality) and adultery can refer to the same act. I say this because we can come up with the false notion that the word fornication that Jesus was using in these passages are only referring to an act that happened prior to the marriage. However, though it can include this act as well, it can also mean any sexual act that happens during the marriage relationship.

I say this because if we go to Revelations 2:20-22, we see Jesus addressing the church of Thyatira, in which he says: *'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.'*

So the Greek word used for "immorality" in verse 21 of Revelations is the same Greek word used as "unchastity" (or fornication) in Matthew 5:32 where it says: *"but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."* And the Greek word used for "adultery" in verse 22 of Revelation is the same Greek word used as "adultery" in Matthew 5:32 as well.

So the point I'm making here is; in Revelation quoted above, at one point Jesus is referring to her acts as acts of "immorality," then in the next verse he sums it up as acts of "adultery." And it's the same for Matthew 5:32 where we see these two Greek words being used. So, it can be referencing an act of sexual immorality during the marriage relationship, or before the marriage relationship. And yes it is true that any sexual misconduct was generally dealt with through stoning. However, we see Jesus changing all that not only here, but also in John 8:3-11 where he showed compassion on the adulterous woman.

## THE ALIBI LIE

Now, there is a Bible passage that reads: <sup>10</sup>*"But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace."* So, is this really giving a Christian the freedom and right to divorce? For notice that Paul uses two different words in this chapter. One is "bondage" which means to make one a slave, and the other is "bound," to tie the knot in a sense which is a reference to a marriage relationship. So that being said, marriage is a mutual commitment that binds two people together, but bondage is something that make your life miserable which could be the case if you're married to an unbeliever.

<sup>10</sup>(Corinthians 7:15)

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So, that should make it clear that this passage is not giving any Christian the right to divorce let alone to remarry. For this passage is only allowing the believer to let that unbeliever leave. For Paul was careful not to use the word Jesus used for <sup>11</sup>“divorce” in this passage. However, the believer should be praying for that unbeliever to come to now Christ and for their marriage to be restored. Now, I know that there may be times that a woman would flee from her husband for her safety and her children’s. But even here, the Bible says she must <sup>12</sup>remain single or be reconciled back to her husband. <sup>11</sup>(Matthew 19:9) <sup>12</sup>(1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

## THE RIGHT TO DIVORCE

Now, we need to be clear on something else, and that would be who has the right to divorce. For if we study God’s word, we would see that only the man has the legal right to divorce, but never the woman. For the woman is bound <sup>13</sup>*“to her husband as long as he lives.”* We can see this to be true in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 24, as well as in Jeremiah 3. And in the New Testament, Jesus only mentions the man having the right to divorce his wife in Matthew 5 and 19, Mark 10 and also in Luke 16. <sup>13</sup>(Romans 7:2)

Now, this would also be true even if there is another woman in his relationship. For Jesus only condemns a man for getting rid of a woman that he doesn’t like, only to replace her for one does. However, Jesus never condemns a man for adding another wife. For we must remember that God allowed men (even those of faith) to have more than one wife as well as concubines. However, there is no scripture given that would allow a woman to divorce for this reason.

Now please note, I’m in no way encouraging a man to have more than one wife, for almost everywhere we read of a man having more than one wife in the bible, there were issues between the women. But again, God allowed it in the Old Testament and it’s also referenced to in the New where the <sup>14</sup>Elders and Deacons are restricted to have only one wife. This would makes sense because he may never have time for the ministry. For it can be bad enough having one hunny-do list, let alone having them come from multiple wives. <sup>14</sup>(1 Timothy 3:2,12 and Titus 1:6)

## RETURN TO ME, SAYS THE LORD

*“They say, ‘If a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man’s, may he return to her again?’ Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me,” says the LORD. (Jeremiah 3:1)*

In Jeremiah the 3 chapter we see God using an illustration that involves an adulterous wife who has been with many lovers. This he does to show Israel how they have

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backslidden from him. Here we see him pleading for her to put away her sin of harlotry and return to him. What's interesting in this illustration is that even though he gave her a certificate of divorcement, he still says "I'm married to you" in verses 13-14. This shows us that even if a woman is divorced and remarried, her true husband will always be the first man that she was married to. Therefore, as long as a man's wife remains in the arms of another, (whether she's married to him or not) she is committing adultery

## BECAUSE OF YOUR HEARD HEARTS

We can see this also to be true in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 where Moses allowed a woman to be divorced and remarried because of their hard hearts. For in these verses we see the Hebrew word "possessor" being used in reference to her first husband. However, we don't see that word being ascribed for the second husband that took her in to be his wife. So again, we see here that the woman's first husband is her true soul possessor.

Now, we must remember that Moses allowed a man to divorce his wife because of their hard hearts. For Jesus said: <sup>15</sup>"Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. So we see that in the beginning Jesus said: <sup>16</sup>"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Paul the apostle says something of the same thing when he said: <sup>17</sup>"A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives." <sup>15</sup>(Matthew 19:8) <sup>16</sup>(Matthew 19:6) <sup>17</sup>(1 Corinthians 7:39)

So that being said, Jesus reestablished that which is from the beginning by not allowing any divorce to take place at all, except if the woman commits fornication with another man. However, just as we see God in the book of Jeremiah chapter 3 saying that his wife (Israel) "played the harlot with many lovers" and that he has "put her away" and "given her a certificate of divorce," yet he still says to her after all this: "yet return to me" (and for what reason?), "for I am married to you." This is a reflection of the heart of a true loving husband for his sinning wife.

So, shouldn't those who are caught up in such a mess be trying to reconcile their marriage? Shouldn't they be humble themselves, putting away their sins and pleading for reconciliation. For as long as any man or woman are in the wrongful arms of another, they are committing adultery and heading down a road that leading straight to <sup>18</sup>hell itself. So for you men, be a man after <sup>19</sup>"God's own heart" and do your best to reconcile you marriage back again. <sup>18</sup>(1 Corinthians 6:9) <sup>19</sup>(Acts 13:22)

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- She will chase her lovers, But not overtake them; Yes, she will seek them, but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, For then it was better for me than now.' ... "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. I will give her her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. "And it shall be, in that day," says the LORD, "that you will call Me 'My Husband,' and no longer call Me 'My Master,' (Hosea 2:7, 14-16)

## YOU NEED TO OBEY

So, what should you do if you're in a marriage relationship that you don't belong in, even if there are children involve? Shouldn't you be obeying God's word. Let's remember what the children of Israel did when they realized that they disobeyed God by marrying foreign wives who even bore children to them. For they said: <sup>20</sup>*"We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law."* <sup>20</sup>(Ezra 10:2-3)

So, even though they married these woman, some who even bore children to them, they did what was right and separated themselves from them. So for all you men who are in the arms of a woman who's first husband is still alive, you are committing adultery even though your legally married to her. And this goes for you women who are married to these men. So please, don't let anyone tell you that it's okay to stay together in this relationship. For you need to stand on God's word, and not the watered down teachings of man. So I urge you all to pray and seek God's strength to take the next step and put away your sin from you. For only then can you finally have true peace and be truly walking with the Lord.

## WHAT DOES IT HURT TO STAY TOGETHER?

Now there may be some who think that two wrongs don't make a right. But you must not look at it from the perspective that a "divorce is a divorce" no matter how you look at it. For you must consider how God sees it, and according to his word that would be as an act of adultery. So that being said, I'm convinced that God doesn't even recognize this as a legitimate marriage. Also, the word divorce doesn't even exist in the Greek text of the New Testament, for it simply means to "put away" which is the same words the disciples used when they said to Jesus: <sup>21</sup>"send away" the multitude so they can buy food. So with that in mind, you would be simply sending her or him

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away in order to be <sup>22</sup>putting away your sins according to God's word. <sup>21</sup>(Luke 9:12)  
<sup>22</sup>(Ezra 10:3)

But there is also something that we can't overlook her, and that would be <sup>23</sup>"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." So, to allow those who are in this situation to remain in that relationship would only encourage others to follow suit. Because the reasoning would be, "if God allows them to do it, why can't I get remarried, for after all God understands my situation, right?" Well yes, God does understand your situation, and that's why Jesus said if you remarry, you are committing adultery and thus be sinning against God. <sup>23</sup>(Galatians 5:8-9)

And let's not forget Paul's warning to the church in 1 Corinthians, for he said: <sup>24</sup>"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" And then he goes on to say: <sup>25</sup>"neither fornicators. ...nor adulterers. ...shall inherit the kingdom of God." And let's take heed to what Jesus said as well: <sup>26</sup>"*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*" As well as: <sup>27</sup>"*And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*" So let's not be deceived, for: <sup>28</sup>"*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" <sup>24</sup>(6:9)  
<sup>25</sup>(6:11) <sup>26</sup>(Matthew 7:21) <sup>27</sup>(Matthew 5:29) <sup>28</sup>(Proverbs 14:12)

## THE GOD OF MERCY

So, For those of you who are the guilty party and are responsible for this mess, if you would repent and put away you sin, God will forgive you. So, all you men who are dumping your wife for another (or already have), please stop and consider the heart that you're breaking, and instead reaffirm your love to her again. And for all you women who have betrayed your husband and are joined to another man, stop what you're doing and free yourself from the arms you don't belong to and be reconciled back to your husband.

<sup>29</sup>"*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" And that is so true for all of you who are going through this mess. There is hope, even for those of you who must get out of that adulterous relationship you're in. For God will never let you have true peace as long as you're in the arms of someone you don't belong to. So, take the steps you need today to get yourselves back on the right path with God. He will see you through, no matter how deep you are in a relationship. <sup>30</sup>"*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*" <sup>29</sup>(1 John 1:9) <sup>30</sup>(Isaiah 1:18)

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Here are a few videos concerning divorce and remarriage:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAvLqf\\_in\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAvLqf_in_s)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKkXClhpMlk&t>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYCCf0XhepM&feature=youtu.be>

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