

FROM THE MINISTRY OF
PRAYING4YOU.NET

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**THE "AROUND THE WORLD MINISTRY"
THAT STARTED IN TEXAS**

DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

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 us and share it with you. If we, (especially those men who are leaders of God's church), would make it our aim to ¹"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. And yes, there are those who may not like what we're saying and may even get offended or hurt by it. However, we need to be: ²"speaking the truth in love" and to remember that God's word says: ³"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Therefor, let's put away the stereo type, watered down, compromising view of divorce and once and for all stand on God's word. Amen

¹(2 Timothy 2:15) ²(Ephesians 4:15) ³(Proverbs 27:6)

THE CHALLENGE

The Pharisees asked Jesus, ¹"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" And He answered and said to them: "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: "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

Jesus then makes a statement that I'm sure caught them all off guard saying: ²"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 couldn't 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.

So, we see that Jesus made it very clear on what God's standard for marriage should be. This would be that the man and his wife would be together for life. But because of their hard hearts, Moses allowed them to put away their wives. This is true, and let's remember that Paul said: ³"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: ⁴"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

¹(Matthew 19:3-7) ²(Matthew 19:8-9) ³(Romans 1:28-31) ⁴(Matthew 19:6)

THE ALIBI LIE

We all need to be clear on something. For there is a Bible passage that reads: ¹"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." Now, 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 a slave of or to reduce to bondage as is used in the passage above, and the other is "bound" (tie the knot in a sense) which is a reference to a marriage relationship. So that being said, marriage is a mutual bond, but bondage is something that make your life miserable which could be the case if you're married to an unbeliever.

So, that should make it clear that this is not giving any Christian the right to divorce but only to let the unbelieving spouse to go their own separate way. This is true, because Paul was careful not to use the word Jesus used for ²"divorce" in this passage. However, it should be a Christian's duty to be praying for that unbeliever to come to repentance, all in hopes that their marriage may be reconciled. ³Now, I know that there may be times that a woman would flee from her husband for her safety as well as her children's. But even here, the Bible says she must remain single or be reconciled back to her husband.

¹(1 Corinthians 7:15) ²(Matthew 19:9) ³(1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

THE RIGHT OF DIVORCE

Now having said all that, we need to point out something else that's true in God's word, and that would be, who has the right to divorce. For if we study through God's word, we would see that only the man has the legal right to divorce, but never the

woman. For the woman is ³bound to her husband as long as he lives. We can see this to be true both in the Old Testament as well as the New. For in the Old Testament we read concerning the man that he: ¹"writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house."

This is true also in the New Testament where Jesus picks up on this verse by saying: ²"it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'¹ "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery." So, this is the only place where we read of a legitimate reason for a divorce in the New Testament, and it's only given to the man, but not the woman. This would also be true even in such cases where there's another woman involved in the man's relationship. For some men of the Bible (even those of faith) had more than one wife as well as concubines and yet there is no scripture given that would allow a woman to divorce her husband over this. For the word of God clearly says: ³"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." This would be her only legitimate reason for remarriage.

¹(Deuteronomy 24:1) ²(Matthew 5:32) ³(1 Corinthians 7:39)

REDEEMING YOUR MARRIAGE

So, For those of you who are the guilty party and are responsible for this mess, if you would turn and repent, God will forgive you. And, if it's not too late to redeem your marriage, redeem it for your sake and for the one whom you are bringing so much heartache on. 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 but have not yet married 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.

NO TURNING BACK

Now, we must take heed to what Deuteronomy 24:3-4 says. For it reads: "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance."

So, according to that passage just quoted, if a divorced woman remarries, she can't go back to her first husband. For God calls this an abomination. This would be a shame because it would permanently close the door on her chances for getting back

together with her first husband. However, God's word does say if her first husband dies: ¹"she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

So, let's look at what has been said. A woman who is in the arms of another man, even though she may be married to him, is committing adultery if your first husband is still alive. This also is true for any man who has married such a divorced woman. For even though the second marriage may close the door for a woman to go back to your first marriage, it does not dissolve the fact that both she and the man she is with are committing adultery. For didn't Jesus make this very clear when He said: ²"whoever shall put away his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery: and whoever shall marry her that is divorced commits adultery?" So, what should you do if you're in a marriage relationship that you don't belong in, even if there are children involved? Well, you need to obey, so please continue reading below.

¹(1 Corinthians 7:39) ²(Matthew 5:32)

YOU NEED TO OBEY

Yes, you need to obey God's word and do what He tells you to do. 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: ¹"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." So, I would urge you both to pray and seek God's will in all this. Then you need to do whatever he tells you to do, even if it means going your own separate ways.

So please, don't let anyone tell you that it's okay to remarry after a divorce. For there are those who are misinformed on this important subject, even some leaders of God's church. And let's not forget Paul's warning to the church of Corinthians, for he said: ²"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" And then he goes on to say: "neither fornicators. ...nor adulterers. ...shall inherit the kingdom of God." And let's take heed to what Jesus said as well: ³"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."

So let's not be deceived, for: ⁴"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." And again Paul said: ⁵"If we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." So, let's not try to

water down the words of Jesus when it comes to divorce and remarriage. For we must remember that one's eternal destiny is a stake here. And let's remember what Jesus said concerning sin: "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."

¹(Ezra 10:2-3) ²(1 Corinthians 6:9, 11), ³(Matthew 7:21) ⁴(Proverbs 14:12) ⁵(Galatians 1:8-9) ⁶(Matthew 5:29)

THE GOD OF MERCY

¹"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. ²"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." And just to let you know, I was involved in a divorce as well but afterward was reunited back with my wife. So for the most part, I do know what you are going through.

¹(1 John 1:9) ²(Isaiah 1:18)

Sincerely yours,

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