

"Let No Man Separate" (Mark 10:9)

[Broken4You](#)

The Challenge

The Pharisees asked Jesus, "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: "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." (Matthew 19:3-9) It could not be any clearer than this. The sinning husband, the wife (even if she's not the guilty party) and the one who marries her, are all guilty of adultery if they fail to take heed to God's word here.

So, from the scriptures quoted above, Jesus made it very clear that God's standard for marriage was instituted back in the Garden of Eden. This would be one woman for one man 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: "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 include the act of "fornication" as well as being "without natural affection" for each other. (Romans 1:28-32) However, Jesus came to set things back to God's standard by saying: '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." (Matthew 19:5-6)

God's Ideal

The only way a man can commit adultery is by two actions. The first would be having sex with a married woman. But, second would be by getting rid of the wife he has so that he can replace her for another. Again, this is adultery in the form severing the marriage covenant, which is a sin in the eyes of God. So, would it be an act of adultery if the man didn't divorce his wife, but just added another wife instead? Well, let me first say this. I'm not in any way going to encourage a man to go out and add another wife to his marriage. For we can read in God's word that almost every man that had more than one wife was confronted with issues. (Genesis 16:4-6, ch. 29-30, 1Samual 1:1-6)

But did God condemn them for having more than one wife? Well, not according to His word. In fact, we even have scriptures that gives guidelines for a man who has, or plans to have more than one wife. (Leviticus 18:18, 20:14, Deuteronomy 17:17, 21:15-16, 1Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6) However, I do believe God's ideal is what He established back at the beginning. For in the beginning God only gave one wife to Adam, not multiple wives. And let us remember that Jesus said: "a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Matthew 19:5) So, even though we don't see God condemning a man for having more than one wife, going against His ideal for marriage is just inviting trouble.

So, that being said, I know that there may be those who are asking, "why did the man get away with having more than one wife, but not the woman?" Well, if a man has three wives and they all conceive and bear a child. You will always know who's the dad, and who's the mom. But the opposite is not true. For if a woman has three husbands and they have all lain with her that

month and she conceives and bears a child, who is the dad? Yes, I know that we have tests that can determine this now, but is that going to appease the other two jealous husbands? I don't think so. Someone is going to get hurt, and it could include the mother and the child. And let me say it again, I'm in no way endorsing multiple marriages so please, please don't go there.

The Right of Divorce

Now having said all that, we need to point out something that's true. For we can see in all scripture that only the man has the legal right to divorce his wife, but not the woman the man. 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: "writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house." (Deuteronomy 24:1) This is true also in the New Testament where Jesus picks up on this verse by saying: "it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery." (Matthew 5:32) This is the only place where we read of an legitimate reason for a divorce in the New Testament, and it's only given to the man, but not the woman. But to the woman the Bible says: "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. (1 Corinthians 7:39)

A Reason for Divorce or an Alibi Lie?

We need to be clear on something. For the Bible passage: "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" is not giving any Christian the freedom to divorce. (1 Corinthians 7:15) This passage is simply saying a brother or sister in Christ is free to let the unbelieving spouse go there own separate way. This would also free them from any evil influences that the unbelieving spouse was throwing at them. 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. Again, I don't see this passage of scriptures 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 same word Jesus used for "divorce" in this passage. (Matthew 19:9) However, it's a Christian's duty to be praying for that unbeliever to come to repentance, all in hopes that their marriage may be restored.

Redeeming Your Marriage (Before it's too late)

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.

And let's take heed to the warning in Deuteronomy 24:3-4 which says: "And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."

So, according to that passage just quoted, if a divorced woman remarries,

she can't go back to her first husband if the second marriage breaks up. For God calls this an abomination. This would be a shame because it would close the door on her chance of getting back together with her true husband. However: "if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 7:39) Not that anyone should hope for this.

For those who have Remarried

Now, you must realize ladies that as long as you're in the arms of another man, even though you're married to him, you are committing adultery if your first husband is still alive. This also goes for you men who have married such a divorced woman. For nowhere in the Bible do I see this second marriage dissolving the first marriage. However, I do see Jesus making it very clear that: "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?" (Matthew 5:31-32)

So, what should you do if you're in a marriage relationship that you don't belong in, especially if there is children involve? Well, you need to obey his word and do what he tells you to do. And let's remember what the children of Israel did when they realized that they disobeyed God and took foreign wives who even bore children to them. For they said: "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. (Ezra 10:2-3) So, if you are in an adulterous relationship, I would first suggest that you both pray and seek God's will in all this. Then the next step would be to do what ever he tells you to do, even if it means going your separate ways.

Please don't be Deceived

So please, you should not let any Pastor, Teacher, Preacher or even your best friend tell you that it's okay to remarry after a divorce, for they would only be speaking heresy. And let's not forget Paul's warning to the church of Corinthians, for he said: "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." (1 Corinthians 6:9, 11) And let's take heed to what Jesus said as well: "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." (Matthew 7:21) And let's not be deceived, for "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12) And again Paul said: "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." (Galatians 1:8-9)

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." (Matthew 5:29)

God So Loved the World

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) And that is so true. For all of you who are going through this mess, there is hope for you. That would include 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. "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."

(Isaiah 1:18) God bless you as you seek to do his will. Amen

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