

Marriage, Taking Another Look - Sunday AM 03/04/18

Introduction:

For years there has been differences in what people believe about marriage and divorce. In this lesson we want to look at marriage before we look at the divorce issue.

I) What Is Marriage?

A) A Divine relationship, *Genesis 2.24.25*

1. Marriage is not a product of social evolution but was from the very beginning, *Matthew 19.4.*
2. Therefore it is a relationship created and regulated by God not society.

B) A relationship entered into by a man and a woman

1. Not a boy or a girl but two people willing to make a commitment to each other.
2. Not a relationship between two people of the same sex, *1 Corinthians 7.1ff.*
3. When we read through the Bible we see people entering into a marriage. Nineteen times in the NKJV is the word "marry" used. Each indicating some action required by those involved to enter into a marriage. *Luke 20.34; 1 Corinthians 7.28,29.*
4. One does not enter into a marriage just by living together or having a sexual relationship, this is called adultery or fornication. *Deut. 22.28-29.*
 - a. There is the intent to enter into a marriage.

- b. There is abiding by the laws of that society of entering a marriage. Jew and Romans knew when they were entering into a marriage.

C) A scriptural marriage is one where God binds them together

1. Notice - man enters into a marriage but God binds them or joins them together, *Matthew 19.4ff.*
2. They are bound by the law of God, *Romans 7.1ff.*
3. There is a difference between a "scriptural marriage" and an "unscriptural marriage."
 - a. Scriptural is one where God binds them together. They are in compliance with His law.
 - b. Unscriptural is where man is entering into a marriage that violates God's law. See, *Mark 6.17* notice *verse 18* "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."
 - c. Herod and Herodias were "married" but it was not sanctioned by God.
 - d. They were married but not bound by God in this marriage.

D) A relationship designed to end at the death of one spouse, *Romans 7.2b.*

1. The marriage bond ends at death, *1 Corinthians 7.39.*
2. Therefore we speak of people being married until one of them dies.

II) Who Can Enter into A Marriage?

Folks need to make sure before they start dating that the person asking them out has a right to be dating. Only those eligible to marry should be dating.

A) A man and a woman who have never been married before has the right to get married, *Matthew 19.5*.

1. God allows those who are not bound by law to someone else to get married.
2. Some may elect to not get married but the law does not forbid marriage to those who are eligible.

B) A person whose spouse had passed away. *Romans 7.1ff; 1 Corinthians 7.39*

1. Why? Because they are no longer married. The marriage bond ends at death.

C) A person who has put away their spouse for the cause of fornication, *Matthew 19.9*.

1. This is the only cause for divorce and only the "innocent party" has the right to marry another person.
2. They have the right to reconcile.
3. In this case the marriage bond is broken for the innocent or faithful person, the other person is still bound by God's law.

III) What's the Problem?

A) Man has tried to redefine the sin in *Matthew 19.9*.

B) Others have tried to redefine repentance - enter into an unscriptural marriage, simply repent and stay together.

C) Some have tried to redefine what it means to divorce or put away the spouse.

D) Still others have tried to change the order of the divorce and fornication in *Matthew 19.9*.

Conclusion:

God's law trumps man's law on marriage and divorce. We need to make sure we understand how God designed the marriage relationship and be loving spouses, faithful till death do us part. The next lesson will deal with the divorce, when it occurs, and who has the right to get married after a divorce occurs.