

# Divorce, Examining Some Arguments and Comments - Sunday PM 03/11/18

## Introduction:

There are many different teachings on this subject. I want to take this lesson to quickly look at some of those teachings and focus on God's word as a reply.

### I) What Jesus said in the Gospels does not apply because this was before the cross.

#### A) If so then when would Jesus' teaching on this subject of applied?

1. Not during His earthly ministry because the Law of Moses was not nailed to the cross until Jesus was nailed to the cross. *Colossians 2.14*

#### B) Jesus' teachings was not explaining *Deuteronomy 24.1*

1. He goes to *Genesis 2.24-25*
2. He says "And I say to you", *Matthew 19.9a*. Jesus was establishing His law.

### II) This applies only to Christians (a Kingdom passage)

#### A) Comparing this to the Lord's Supper or the command to assemble.

#### B) God's moral law applies to everyone. *Mark 6.17-18*

#### C) If God's law on marriage applies only to Christians then non-Christians cannot be married. They are all living in adultery. Baptism not only washes away sins but acts as a marriage ceremony.

- D) If God's law on marriage only applies to Christians then does any of God's Law apply to non-Christians.
- E) This would lead one to the conclusion than non-Christians cannot sin since sin is a violation of the law, **1 John 3.4**
- F) All of mankind is amenable to God's Law, **Matthew 28.18ff.**

III) I believe they can be forgiven

- A) Said when a couple who is living in a wrongful marriage obeys the Gospel.
- B) Admittedly this can be a heart rendering situation where a couple unaware of God's law finds themselves in a wrongful relationship.
- C) Yes, they can and will be forgiven just as those on the Day of Pentecost were forgiven when baptized for the remission of their sins, **Acts 2.38**. See **1 Corinthians 6.9-11**
- D) However, repentance demands one stops sinning. Can a thief continue to steal, can an idolatry continue to worship idols, can a person living with someone they are not married to continue living with them?

IV) The Bible says to remain in the condition you are in when converted. **1 Corinthians 7.20**

- A) Context deals with being circumcised or uncircumcised, a slave or free. Not marriage.
- B) If such was the case then how about a polygamist? Or a homosexual?

- C) Obviously this does not tell us to continue in sin but refers to non-moral conditions.
- V) 1 Corinthians 7.15 says the Christian is not under bondage when an unbeliever leaves.
  - A) Paul is not referring to the marriage bond but under obligation to that person.
  - B) Look at **1 Corinthians 7.10ff** there is nothing about remarriage in the passage.
  - C) There is nothing in **verse 15** about remarriage.
- VI) There is not a prescribed way for a divorce to occur.
  - A) They refuse to accept a legal divorce.
  - B) **Deut. 24.1** speaks of a "prescribed away" in the Law of Moses.
  - C) There is not a prescribed way for a person to get married. Can we determine whether we are married or not? Can we simply proclaim we are married? What about obeying the laws of the land? **Romans 13.1**
- VII) God's law supersedes man's law.
  - A) That is always the case but notice **Mark 6.17-18**. It was not lawful refers to God's law and not Roman Law.
  - B) God's law always supersedes man's law but that does not mean man the divorce did not occur just as the marriage in **Mark 6.17-18** did occur but was not scriptural.
  - C) They then talk about a second putting away, which is the "real divorce". It cannot be a second writing of divorcement since one has already been obtained. It

cannot be a separation since that had already occurred. It cannot be the end of the physical relationship since that had already occurred.

**D) Not advocating "mental divorce" or the "waiting game"**

1. Their position allows both to occur. How do you determine if they were playing the "waiting game"?
2. On what basis can you exclude them from your fellowship?

**VIII) Not A Fellowship Issue**

- A) Fellowship is to be a joint partaker, have in common, work together.**
- B) Any false teaching is a fellowship issue. This assumes we are not talking about immoral conduct.**
- C) The same argument could be made for the person advocating idolatry, or multiple wives, or homosexuality.**
- D) If the person is living in adultery then it is a fellowship issue, *1 Corinthians 5*.**