

God Hates Divorce

(Pray that No One would Dare Cut into It)



"For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." (Malachi 2:16)

A word to the Reader

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. 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 and test it with scripture itself. Because there are those who are leading fellow Christian astray by watering down the word of God when it comes to Divorce and Remarriage.

And let me also say this. I find in God's word that there are passages that pertain to what constitutes a proper marriage. And for those who "marry" contrary to those passages, are they truly in a relationship which "God has joined together?" This is a question we should pray about and consider. The main passages I'm talking about is found in Exodus 22:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 7:36-38. These passages declare that the woman's father has authority over who she marries. So, that being said, I'm basing the rest of this article on a legitimate marriage that's based on God's word, not man's.

The Challenge

In Matthew's Gospel, we read that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was confronted by the religious rulers concerning divorce and remarriage. For *"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto*

them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and the two shall be one flesh? Therefore they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man separate.” (Mat 19:3-6) But being not content with that answer, “They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?” (Mat 19:7)

The Lord Jesus then makes a statement that sets things strait 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, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. (Mat 19:8-9)* 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 the words of Jesus here.

So, Jesus Christ made it very clear on what the standard for marriage should be. And that is a man and woman would be together for life. But because of their hard hearts, Moses allowed them to put away their wives. For Paul said: *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient”* which would include the act of divorce. *(Romans 1:28-31)* But again, Jesus came to set things back to their proper standard by saying: *“Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Mark 10:9)*

What is Adultery?

Now before moving on, we must take a look at the word fornication and adultery. Fornication is any sexual act that doesn't line up with the word of God, including adultery. However, adultery is mainly used when describing a marriage relationship that is severed. This we see taking place when a man or woman puts away a spouse to marry another. So, let's not believe the false notion that the word fornication in Matthew 19:9 is only referring to an act that happened prior to the marriage. For it can be any sexual misconduct that occurs during or before the marriage. We can see this to be true where the apostle Paul speaks out against the man who is having sex with his father's wife saying: *“It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.” (1 Corinthians 5:1)* So, we see that Paul uses the Greek word for “fornication” which would describe any unlawful sexual act, including adultery.

Below are some scriptures that show that fornication can include the act of adultery as well.

- But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. (Acts 15:20)
- Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. (1 Corinthians 6:18)
- But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (Ephesians 5:3-4)

Now, there may be some challenging what I just said about fornication. For in their own reasoning they would say: “this is not true because any sexual misconduct during the marriage was dealt with by stoning.” And yes, even though this may have been generally the case, we don't always see this happening. For God has made exceptions both in the Old Testament as well as the New. For was not

David and Bathsheba spared the death penalty for their unlawful sexual misconduct? (2 Samuel 11) And did not Jesus Himself show mercy to the woman who was caught in the very act of adultery as well? (John 8:3-11) Both these cases were normally dealt with by stoning; however, we see God showing his mercy and forgiveness instead.

The Alibi Lie of “Desertion”

Now, there is a Bible passage that reads: *“But if the unbelieving departs, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”* (1 Corinthians 7:15) So, is this really some “exception clause” that’s giving a Christian the freedom and right to divorce and remarry because the unbelieving spouse deserted them? For notice first, that Paul uses two different Greek words in this chapter. For one is bondage (mentioned above) 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. And please remember that in the verses 12 through 17, Paul is only giving his advice, for he admits that he didn't receive this from God. For he says: *“But to the rest speak I, not the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 7:12) And so this is what Paul's statement is based on. Paul is only giving his advice for their current situation. However, he is not giving any Christian the right to divorce that person, let alone to remarry. For that would be a contradiction to what Jesus said.

And just to clear things up people. What's the difference between what Jesus said concerning one who put away a spouse and Paul's statement concerning the unbeliever who dumps their spouse? For it's just as much an act of desertion in Jesus statement as it is in Paul's. So, let's stop trying to find some loophole in all this. If you divorce and remarry, you are committing adultery. Therefore, this passage is only allowing the unbeliever to leave so that the believer can finally live in peace. However, this believer should be praying for their unbelieving spouse to come to know 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. But even here, the Bible says that she must remain single or be reconciled back to her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

The Right to Divorce

Now, we need to be clear on who has the right to divorce. For if we study the word of God, we would see that only the man has the legal right to divorce. For the woman is bound *“to her husband as long as he lives.”* (Romans 7:2) We can see this to be true throughout the Old Testament and the New. (Deuteronomy 24, Jeremiah chapter 3, Matthew chapter 5 and 19, Mark chapter 10, Luke chapter 16) This would also be true even if there is another woman in the man's relationship. For there is no scripture in the entire bible that would allow a woman to divorce for this. And let's keep in mind that Jesus only condemns a man for replacing a faithful wife for another. For God allowed men (even those of faith) to have more than one wife as well as concubines. And not only that, we have guidelines both in the Old Testament and the New pertaining to having more than one wife. (Exodus 21:10, Deuteronomy 21:15-17, Leviticus 18:17, 1 Timothy 3:2,12, Titus 1:5-6) The only exclusion would be for those men who want to be Elders or Deacons in the New Testament church. This would make sense because they may never have time for the ministry.

So, am I encouraging a man to have more than one wife? Well, almost everywhere we read in the Bible of a man having more than one wife, there were issues between the women. And let's remember that the bible says: *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* (Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:7-9) And yes, some may argue that a man can be one flesh with each wife he marries? However, God gave Adam only one wife, not multiple wives. So, I believe the ideal relationship for us to follow would be one wife for life. Anything more than this would be inviting trouble.

Return to Me say 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 chapter 3, we see God using an illustration that involves an adulterous wife who has many lovers. This he does to show Israel how they have backslidden from him and turned to foreign gods. Here we see him pleading for her to put away her sins of harlotry and return to him. But 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." (Jeremiah 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 previously married woman remains in the arms of another, (whether she's legally married to him or not) both she and that man are committing adultery. The only exception to this would be if her former husband has died. (Romans 7:2-3, 1 Corinthians 7:39)

Their Hearts were Hard

Now, we read in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 that Moses allowed a woman to be divorced and remarried. This he did because of their hard hearts. For Jesus said: *"Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."* (Matthew 19:8) Then Jesus goes on to say: *"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."* (Mark 10:9) Paul the apostle says something of the same thing when he said: *"A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives."* (1 Corinthians 7:39)

Therefore, we see Jesus reestablishing that which was from the beginning by not allowing any divorce to take place at all, except if a wife 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"* (3:1) and that he has *"put her away, and given her a bill of divorce,"* (3:8) yet he still says to her after all this: *"return"*(and for what reason?), *"for I am married to you."* (3:14) So, this should be a reflection of the heart of a true loving husband for his sinning wife as well.

- 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)

Shouldn't You Obey?

So, what should you do if you're in a marriage relationship that you don't belong in (and yes, even if there are children involved)? Well, 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: *"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)

Now, even though they married these women, 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 whose first husband is still alive, you are committing adultery even though you may be legally married to her. And this goes for all you divorced women who are married to another man. So please, don't let anyone tell you that it's okay to stay together in this relationship. For doesn't the word of God say: *"let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts?"* (Hosea 2:2) So, shouldn't you be standing on the word of God and not the watered-down teachings of man? 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.

So, 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 we must consider how does God see it, and according to his word it's an act of adultery. And we know that God doesn't except or allow sin in our life. For throughout the Bible, God tells us to put away our sins from us. (Ezra 10:3, Hosea 2:2, John 5:14, John 8:11) For true faith in God is not only to trust him for our salvation through Christ, but to turn away from our sins and obey him. So, we shouldn't even recognize this second relationship as a legitimate marriage but an act of sin. For a true marriage would only be what *"God has joined together."* (Mark 10:9) So, would God join together and thus approve an adulterous marriage? God forbid, of course not. Therefore, an adulterous marriage is not one that He has joined together. Therefore, the two must separate in order to be free from the act of adultery.

But there is also something that we can't overlook here, and that would be *"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."* (Galatians 5:8-9) So, to remain in that adulterous 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 sinning against God. Therefore, we shouldn't come to the false notion that repentance allows a couple to stay together. For true repentance requires one to put away their sins. Would Jesus allow two married gay men who have adopted children to remain in that sinful relationship if they repent of it? Of course not. So, why would we think that God would allow a man and woman to remain in an adulterous relationship? Therefore, to remaining in an adulterous relationship would only influence others to do likewise.

The Penalty for Our Error

Thus shall it go also with the wife that leaveth her husband, and bringeth in an heir by another. For first, she hath disobeyed the law of the most High; and secondly, she hath trespassed against her own husband; and thirdly, she hath played the whore in adultery, and brought children by another man.” Then we read: “Her children shall not take root, and her branches shall bring forth no fruit. She shall leave her memory to be cursed, and her reproach shall not be blotted out. And they that remain shall know that there is nothing better than the fear of the Lord, and that there is nothing sweeter than to take heed unto the commandments of the Lord. Sirach 23:22-27

That’s a heavy passage above for those who are living in error. And let’s also remember what happened to David’s child who was conceived in adultery by Bathsheba who was another man’s wife. For we see that Jehovah (LORD) struck the Child and it died. For we read: *“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die. And Nathan departed unto his house. And Jehovah struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. (2 Samuel 12:14-15)* So, should we still be asking: “what does it hurt to stay together?” I hope not brothers and sisters in Christ.

Enter in at the Strait Gate

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27)

According to that passage above, only those who have put away their sins will enter His Kingdom. Therefore, we must not embrace a watered-down version of the Gospel which allows a divorced and remarried couple to remain together. For we read that an adulterous person is not going to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) Also, Jesus said: *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)* And let’s remember that Jesus said it’s better to yank your eyeball out of its socket or chop off your hand or foot if it’s causing you to sin.

John the apostle said: *“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:7-10)* Then he goes on to say: *“We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.” (1 John 5:18)*

God’s Grace

However, thank God John also said: *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2)* So, let’s do our best to put away our sins. For *“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)* Yes, brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord

Jesus Christ took our sins upon himself. So, 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. Therefore, take the steps you need today to get yourselves back on the right path with him. For 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)

Here are a few videos concerning divorce and remarriage:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAvLqf_in_s
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKkXClhpMlk&t>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsd0cs6AsI0&t>