

False Teaching Regarding Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

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- “*Marriage is honorable,*” Hebrews 13:4.
- Marriage is a divine arrangement, Genesis 2:18,21-24.
- Marriage is a “*covenant,*” Malachi 2:14.
- Marriage is “*for keeps,*” Matthew 19:6; Romans 7:2-3.
 - Romans 7:2-3, states the general rule.
 - Matthew 19:9 cites one exception to the general rule, “*except it be for fornication.*”
- Biblical teaching regarding this topic often constitutes a “*hard saying,*” John 6:60,66.
 - Consequently, there are many human theories designed to get around the true teaching of the Bible on this topic.

False Teaching on this topic often occurs because People Follow the Wrong Standard.

- Family situations.
 - But God must come before family! Matthew 10:34-38.
 - If a loved one dies without being baptized, would that negate what the Bible teaches on baptism?
- One’s own sense of injustice.
 - “It’s not fair for that person to have to live a celibate life!”
 - But life itself is not fair!
- What brethren believe and teach.
 - Brethren are not infallible standards to follow. Galatians 2
 - The majority are seldom right! Exodus 23:2; Matthew 7:13-14.

God’s Word is the Only Standard We Can Afford to Follow!

- By it we will be judged, John 12:48.
- It is perfect, Psalms 19:7.
- It is profitable, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- It will last forever, Matthew 24:35.
- It must be obeyed, Matthew 7:21.

Erroneous Positions Regarding M,D,R: Death the only acceptable reason to remarry!

- **Romans 7:2-3:** “*For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulterous, though she be married to another man.*”
- These verses teach the General Rule.

One Exception to the General Rule:

- **Matthew 19:9:** “*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 committeth adultery.*”
- “*Except it be for fornication*” has the meaning of “if, and only if.”
 - cf. Matthew 18:3.
 - Luke 13:3.
 - Matthew 19:9.

Erroneous Position: "God's Instructions apply only to Christians."

- "Worldly people are judged solely by the law of the world." "Baptism is the dividing line between the world and the church (I Cor. 12:13). Up till then, Civil laws control. After baptism, Christ's law takes over," E.C.Fuqua, The Vindicator, December 1951.
- But note Matthew 14:4.
- **Mark 6:17-18.** Herod had "married" his brother Phillip's wife. John said "it is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife."
 - By whose law was it "not lawful?"

Erroneous Position: "God's Instructions apply only to Christians."

- "The alien is not under the covenant law of Christ until he brings himself under it by obedience to its terms," Homer Haley, The Divorced and Remarried Who Would come to God, page 52.
- If the alien is not under the law of Christ, he is not a sinner! I John 3:4; Romans 4:15.
- The people at Corinth were subject to the law of God prior to becoming Christians, I Corinthians 6:9-11.

Erroneous Position: "The first act of adultery adulterates the Adulterous Relationship."

- Argument by Lloyd Moyer in Gospel Guardian
- The idea is that the first time a couple in an unscriptural second marriage cohabit, it is adultery, but that that act of co-habitation, "at once releases one from the bond of the previous marriage and establishes a bond in the adulterous marriage so that it ceases to be adulterous."
- **Conclusion:** A little adultery makes everything right!

But What Did Jesus Say?

- **Matthew 19:9:** "... 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."
- "Commit adultery" (*moichatai*) is present tense, which refers not to time but to action. It is progressive action.
- "The present tense of Matthew 19:9 shows that unlawful remarriage is adulterous and continues to be adulterous ... to continue in the same relationship is to continue in sin," Gene Frost (Marriage is Honorable).

Erroneous Position: "If One is Loosed, then Both are Loosed."

- Those who hold this position generally agree that fornication is the only legitimate cause for divorce and remarriage. They rightly say "the innocent party is loosed, but then they say if the innocent party is loosed, then the guilty party must also be loosed, and is thus free to marry.
 - This means a person can profit from his own sins, thus contradicting Proverbs 13:15.
 - It opens the door to gross immorality!

Erroneous Position: "If One is Loosed, then Both are Loosed."

Matthew 5:32	Matthew 5:32
• "Whosoever shall put away his wife	• "Whosoever shall marry her that is divorced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Exception- -Saving for the cause of fornication • causeth her to commit adultery" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Exception given • commits adultery"

Erroneous Position: "If One is Loosed, then Both are Loosed."

<p>Matthew 19:9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Whosoever shall put away his wife • One Exception- • Except it be for fornication <p>And shall marry another committeth adultery"</p>	<p>Matthew 19:9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "whosoever marrieth her which is put away • No Exception • Doth commit adultery"
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Erroneous Position: "Mental Divorce"

- The idea is that one who is put away for an unscriptural cause can remain married in his (or her) mind to the first mate until he/she remarries. Then he/she puts him/her away "in his mind" for adultery, and is **now free to remarry**.
- Question: What did Jesus mean when he used the expressions "put away" and "marry another?"
- The case of Herod (and Herodias) proves that marriage is marriage (real) whether God approves or not.
- Isn't it better (and safer) to just take Jesus at His word?

Erroneous Position: "Adulterous marriages are washed away in baptism"

- The idea is that when alien sinners, without scriptural reason, marry, that marriage is adulterous. However, upon being baptized all sins are washed away, including the sin of an unscriptural divorce and an unscriptural marriage!
- This overlooks an important point! Repentance precedes baptism. Repentance is a change of mind regarding sin, including ceasing from past sins. The act of sin must cease!

Conclusion:

- The time to prepare for marriage is before courtship. "The problem of unhappy marriages and divorces is better solved before the wedding," Frost (Marriage is Honorable, page 113).
- **Hebrews 13:4:** "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
- **Judgment day is coming!** Are you ready?