

## BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING DIVORCE

1. Divorce was <sup>(16)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in God's original plan for the home. Sin necessitated it.
2. According to Jesus, on-going sexual immorality (*porneia*) is a <sup>(17)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ground for divorce.
3. Scripture strongly favors <sup>(18)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and love toward a sinning spouse guilty of sexual immorality instead of divorce (Hosea 3:1-5; Genesis 38:26; John 8:1-11).
4. The Bible teaches that a believer deserted permanently by an unbeliever is <sup>(19)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from the marriage bond and can remarry. I Corinthians 7:15 [Wuest's Expanded Translation from the Greek text], "But assuming that the unbelieving husband departs, let him be departing. A [Christian] brother or [Christian] sister is not in the position of a slave, namely, bound to an indissoluble union in cases such as these; but God has called us [to live] in peace."
5. The discovery of pre-marital sex on the part of a married partner is <sup>(20)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Scriptural grounds for divorce.
6. Sexual involvement alone does not necessarily constitute a marriage in the sight of God.
7. A person who becomes a <sup>(21)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, who prior to his salvation was married and divorced, is free to remarry a Christian mate. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things become new."

## THE KEY TO MARRIAGE

Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

>>> Kind? Tender-hearted? Active in expressing love? Does it describe you? Your marriage?

1 Timothy 3:4, "One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence."



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Answers: 1-Moses 2-Sin 3-indecency 4-adultery 5-lifestyle 6-permission 7-destroy 8-remarriage 9-Incompatibility 10-male 11-woman 12-abandon 13-glued 14-man 15-one 16-never 17-legitimate 18-forgiveness 19-free 20-not 21-believer

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Pastor Jerry Johnston's Sermon  
Wednesday, December 2, 2009  
Jesus on Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage  
Message #15 in the series, "Your Miracle in the Mirror of Mark"

Bible Text: Mark 10:1-12, pp. 1661-1662 in the *Nelson Study Bible*

YESTERDAY, more than 3,000 couples divorced in the USA.

SINCE 1960, the number of couples getting married has declined by 1/3, while the number of couples getting divorced has more than doubled.

## THE PHARISEES' TEST QUESTION – 10:1-3

Matthew 19:3, "The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?'"

J. B. Phillips, 19:3, "Then the Pharisees arrived with a test-question. 'Is it right,' they asked, 'for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds whatsoever?'"



"The question raised was one on which the schools of Shammai and of Hillel differed. Shammai interpreted Deuteronomy 24:1 as follows: 'The man is not to release his wife unless he has found something indecent in her.' Hillel allowed as a charge the fact that in cooking the wife had burnt her husband's food; and Rabbi Akiba, referred to the expression, 'that she find no favor in his eyes,' permitted her release when the husband found a better-looking woman. Shammai was stricter, Hillel utterly lax."

-German theologian Dr. R.C.H. Lenski

"The Pharisees themselves debated the grounds for divorce implied in Dt. 24:1-4; the school of Shammai, predominant in Jesus' day, argued the passage allowed divorce only if one's spouse was unfaithful; the school Hillel, which eventually won out, said that a man could divorce his wife if she burned toast."

-Dr. Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*



- Jesus ignored rabbinic teaching and pointed to <sup>(1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ teaching in Dt. 24:1-4.

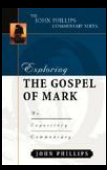
Deuteronomy 24:1, "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, 2) when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife, 3) if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4) then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination

before the Lord, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.”

- Moses did not command divorce, he permitted it on rare occasions and for specific reasons.
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ demanded it, it was never in God’s original plan.
- Cause of divorce: (Hebrew) acts of (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 19:9, “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”


Mark 10:10, “In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. 11) So He said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries commits adultery against her. 12) And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’”



“Mark simply records the ideal. He shows us marriage, divorce, and re-marriage from God’s standpoint. The divine standard calls for perfection and allows for nothing less. Those who take Mark’s account alone do not get the full picture, but they do get a view of the permanence, perfection, and purity of marriage and the general unacceptability of divorce from the standpoint of heaven ... Matthew does consider the other side, and it is a mistake to isolate Mark’s teaching from Matthew’s teaching.”


-John Phillips, *Exploring the Gospel of Mark* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, Inc., 2004), 214

“This is the strongest statement against divorce that is found in the Scripture. How is it to be interpreted? All the Scriptures on divorce should be brought together and considered before a proper induction can be made. The parallel passage in Matthew lists fornication as the one basis for divorce. Why did Mark omit this? Mark was writing to the Romans who did not know the Mosaic Law, while Matthew was writing for Israel who had and knew the Mosaic Law of divorce. So it must be considered in that light.”



-J. Vernon McGee, *Mark* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), 121

- Jesus said the “exception” and only lawful reason for terminating a marriage is *porneia* – a Greek term embracing (4) \_\_\_\_\_, homosexuality, and bestiality – all unlawful sexual practice.
- This indicates a sustained sexual misconduct as a (5) \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is a (6) \_\_\_\_\_, not a command.




“First, this is not simply a case of quickie sex on the sly – a one-time only experience. This is *porneia*. I take this to mean an immorality that suggests a sustained unwillingness to remain faithful. I hesitate to use the term lest I be misinterpreted – but I think of the idea of an immoral lifestyle, an obvious determination to practice a promiscuous relationship outside the bonds of marriage.”

-Dr. Charles Swindoll

- Adultery, and all sex sins, are forbidden by God because they (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the marital bond.


>>> See further Matthew 5:31-32

“The faithful mate has the option to leave ... but such is not mandatory. I have seen numerous marriages rebuilt rather than ended because the faithful partner had no inner peace pursuing a divorce. How much better to look for ways to make the marriage work rather than anxiously anticipate evidence that is needed to break off the relationship. But there are occasions when every attempt has been made to keep the marriage together ... but sustained sexual infidelity won’t allow it. It is in such cases our Lord grants freedom from that miserable and unbearable bond.”



-Dr. Charles Swindoll

- When there are biblical grounds for divorce, there are biblical grounds for (8) \_\_\_\_\_.



“Divorce was granted for the purpose of permitting the innocent party to remarry. This rule is applicable only to believers; God is not regulating the lives of unbelievers but holding them to the message of the cross first ... The important thing to note is that for believers He puts down one ground for divorce: ADULTERY.”

-Dr. J. Vernon McGee

- (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is not biblical grounds for divorce.

>>> See Mark 10:3-9

- God made us (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4)
- God brought the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to man, out of man for a permanent union (Genesis 2:18; Genesis 2:23-24).


Mark 10:7, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8) and the two shall become one flesh”; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9) Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

- “leave” means “to (12) \_\_\_\_\_”
- “joined to” means “to be (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to”

### GOD’ INTENT FOR MARRIAGE

- One (14) \_\_\_\_\_ for one woman for a lifetime
- Two brought together by God who become (15) \_\_\_\_\_
- A union dedicated to honoring God

“The physical sexual union consummated in marriage actually makes ‘one flesh’ of two. And it ought to be self-evident that, therefore, this union is to be permanent ... the implication is that any man who divides what God has thus by His own creation united into one, flies into the face of God and His will – a serious opposition, indeed.”



-Dr. R.C.H. Lenski