

QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE (1)

Genesis 2:18-25

Introduction:

- 1. America has the highest divorce rate in the whole world.**
 - a. One of every two marriages ends in divorce.**
 - b. Divorce is accepted without question everywhere even in most churches.**
 - c. A teacher said fewer than five in a class of thirty students had both original parents in their home.**
- 2. Fifty years ago, the majority accepted the Biblical teaching on marriage.**
 - a. The Gideons visited my school when I was in the eighth grade.**
 - b. They quizzed us on marriage, divorce and remarriage.**
 - c. All - teacher, students, and the Gideons were in agreement.**
- 3. What does the Bible teach about marriage and divorce?**

Discussion:

I. GOD HAS SPOKEN.

- A. Does anyone care what He has said?**
 - 1. He created marriage for the happiness of men and women.**
 - 2. He gave the laws to govern marriage.**
 - 3. We can find peace and happiness now and in eternity only by following God's will.**
- B. God's marriage laws are strict by today's loose standards.**
 - 1. He created one woman for one man (Gen. 2:18-25).**
 - 2. Homosexuality is a perversion of His plan (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26, 27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).**
 - 3. God will judge those who violate His marriage laws (Heb. 13:4).**
- C. God tolerated some deviation from His law in the Old Testament (Deut. 24:1-4; Matt. 19:7, 8).**
 - 1. In the last book of the Old Testament, God said He "hated divorce" (Mal. 2:16).**
 - 2. Today we are not under the Old Testament law; we are under the Law of Christ (Col. 2:14; Heb. 7:12).**

II. JESUS HAS SPOKEN.

- A. The Lord was asked: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason" (Matt. 19:3)?**
 - 1. He referred them to the Scriptures (Matt. 19:4-6).**
 - 2. He restored God's original plan for marriage.**
 - 3. He concluded: "What God has joined together, let not man**

separate” (Matt. 19:6).

- a. Marriage is a covenant between a man, a woman, and God.
- b. God expects us to keep our vows (Eccl. 5:4,5).

- B. The Pharisees wanted to find a “loophole.”
 1. They brought up the tolerance of divorce under the Law of Moses.
 2. Jesus referred them back to God’s original plan (Matt. 19:8).
- C. Jesus gave only one exception to God’s original plan for marriage (Matt. 19:9).
 1. “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” (Matt. 19:9).
 - a. Jesus has all authority (Matt. 28:18).
 - b. His Word is the standard of judgment (Jn. 12:48).
 2. He gave His general law of marriage and divorce.
 - a. “Whoever” applies to everyone.
 - b. Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery by so doing.
 - c. Whoever marries the one put away also commits adultery.
 3. Jesus gave just one exception to this universal law: “except it be for sexual immorality.”
 - a. “Sexual immorality” is “fornication” in the KJV.
 - b. The Greek word “porneia” means “unlawful sexual relations of any kind.”
 - c. It includes fornication, adultery, and homosexuality.

Conclusion:

1. God’s plan is for a man and a woman to be married to one another for life.
2. Jesus restored God’s plan but gave one exception - if one’s partner is unfaithful, he does not commit adultery if he divorces and remarries.
3. If one divorces when his partner has not been unfaithful and marries someone else, he is guilty of adultery.
4. He also causes his divorced partner to commit adultery, if she marries someone else (cf. Matt. 5:31, 32).
5. The home is the most fundamental institution in the world.
 - a. The church and the nation are only as strong as the homes in them.
 - b. God gave strict laws to govern the home because it is so essential to the well being of all society.
 - c. Most, if not all, of our problems in society can be traced back to problems in the home.
5. “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4).

