

**QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE (2)**  
**Hebrews 13:1-4**

**Introduction:**

1. God's people hate every false way (Psa. 119:104).
2. We know we cannot live eternally with God if we despise His way.
3. God's teaching on marriage and divorce is not hard to understand, but it can be hard to obey once one has made a wrong start.
4. Many have questions regarding the application of Matthew 19:3-9.

**Discussion:**

**I. DOES ONLY A MAN HAVE THE RIGHT OF DIVORCE?**

- A. Under the Law of Moses, husbands could divorce their wives, but wives could not divorce their husbands (Deut. 24:1-4).
- B. Under the Law of Christ, both husbands and wives have the right to divorce an unfaithful partner (Mk. 10:11,12).

**II. IS ABUSE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE WITH A RIGHT TO REMARRY?**

- A. Physical and mental abuse are frequently cited as a cause for divorce.
- B. One might have to leave an abusive partner to protect one's life and children.
  1. There is no sin committed in leaving the abusive partner.
  2. However, one would not have the right to remarry in such case (cf. 1 Cor. 7:10, 11).

**III. WILL BAPTISM SANCTIFY AN ADULTEROUS UNION?**

- A. Since baptism is for the remission of sins, some feel they can stay in an unscriptural union after they are baptized (Acts 2:38).
- B. For baptism to be Scriptural prior conditions must be met:
  1. One must hear the Gospel (Mk. 16:15,16; Rom. 10:17).
  2. One must believe in Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:16; 8:24).
  3. One must be repent of his sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30, 31).
  4. One must confess Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10).
- C. What does repentance require?
  1. Repentance is not just being sorry, but godly sorrow produces repentance (2 Cor. 7:10).
  2. The Greek word for repentance "metanoeo" signifies to change one's mind or purpose for the better (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words).
  3. Repentance results in a change of life (Matt. 3:8).
  4. If one truly repents, he will stop sinning.
    - a. The drunkard will stop drinking; the liar will stop lying, and the adulterer will stop committing adultery.

- b. If a man steals another man's car, will he keep it when he repents?
- c. If a man steals another man's wife, will he keep her when he repents?

**IV. SHOULD A COUPLE IN AN ADULTEROUS UNION SEPARATE IF THEY HAVE CHILDREN?**

- A. Some argue we should not "break up a home" especially if children are involved.
  - 1. If the union is not according to God's law, it is not a marriage in God's sight.
  - 2. What kind of example are we setting for our children if we knowingly live in adultery?
- B. There is an Old Testament example which sheds light on this (1 Cor. 10:11).
  - 1. God forbade the Israelites to marry pagans (Deut. 7:1-4).
  - 2. After the Babylonian captivity many Jews married pagans (Ezra 9 and 10).
    - a. God required them to separate from their pagan wives (Ezra 10:10-12).
    - b. Even though children were involved, no exceptions were made (Ezra 10:44).

**V. DOES 1 CORINTHIANS 7 GIVE ANOTHER REASON FOR DIVORCE WITH THE RIGHT TO REMARRY?**

- A. One must understand this chapter in the light of its context.
  - 1. Paul's instructions had to do with a time of distress (see verse 26).
  - 2. It was better not to marry under these circumstances 1 Cor. 7: 1, 7,8, 26-28, 32-34, 38-40).
- B. If a Christian was married to a pagan in a time of persecution, it would be a very stressful union.
  - 1. If the pagan was willing to stay with the Christian, they should remain married (1 Cor. 7:12-15).
  - 2. If the unbeliever departed, the Christian is to let him go.
    - a. He is not so enslaved to the marriage bond that he must give up Christ to maintain it.
    - b. No right of remarriage is given to one in such a situation (1 Cor. 7:10, 11).

**Conclusion:**

- 1. It is never easy when one violates God's law (Prov. 13:15).
- 2. Sins can be forgiven but the consequences remain.
- 3. Most of the world, including most churches, have forsaken God's plan for marriage.
- 4. Many seek to find someone who will accept them in their sin, but they will still have to face God on Judgment Day (Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19-21).
- 5. Heaven will be worth any sacrifice we must make in order to go there.
- 6. One must obey the Gospel to be saved (Rom. 10:17; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2: 38; 8:37; 22:16).



