

The Divine Pattern Broken—Divorce and Remarriage

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I. Introduction.

- A. The divine pattern of marriage does get broken in the church.
- B. We are confused about marriage and divorce because we are tempted to accommodate with the world.

II. Jesus teaches contrary to the spirit of the age that there should be no divorce. (Matthew 5:31-32)

- A. One rabbi said that a man could divorce his wife for any reason.
- B. To understand God's view of divorce, one must understand his view of marriage.
 - 1. Marriage is characterized by two people coming together in an indissoluble union.
 - 2. Marriage is God putting two people together. God never intended divorce in the beginning. (Matthew 19:4, Genesis 2:24)

C. God gave the ultimate penalty for adultery in the Old Testament. The penalty for fornication was marriage. (Leviticus 10:20, Exodus 22:16)

D. God also forbade polygamy. (Leviticus 18)

E. God indicts people for getting divorces. (Malachi 2)

F. Hosea shows that even in cases of adultery God does not want divorce. (Hosea 2)

III. Divorce was only permitted in the Old Testament because of hardness of hearts. Divorce for anything short of adultery causes the person to commit adultery in the inevitable remarriage. When you send a partner away for anything else but adultery you propagate adultery. (Matthew 19:7-8, Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

IV. God permitted divorce only as the lesser evil (when the existence of Israel was threatened or adultery was through another man). Adultery is a grounds for divorce through Scripture and by implication. (Ezra 10:3-5, Matthew 1, Isaiah 50:1, Jeremiah 3:8)

V. A person whose unbelieving spouse leaves can remarry if he or she chooses but only in the Lord.

Application Questions:

1. Why is divorcing one's spouse a cause for their adultery?

2. On what grounds is divorce permissible?

3. Why do people divorce so readily in our culture today? What can we do to ensure lasting and healthy marriages?
