

Teaching on Divorce, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 19:7-12.

II. The attack.

III. Jesus' response: it is not lawful to divorce. (Genesis 2, Malachi)

A. God created one man for one woman.

B. God created a strong bond.

C. God made man and woman one flesh.

D. Marriage is a work of God.

IV. What makes a marriage.

A. Sex does not make a marriage otherwise there would be no such thing as fornication.

B. Sex acts were not seen as marriage. (Exodus 22)

C. Fornication does not dissolve a marriage. (Malachi 2)

D. A covenant makes a marriage.

V. The argument.

A. The Pharisees were only interested in finding loopholes in the law.

B. Jews took Deuteronomy 24 as a command to divorce. The passage regulates remarriage. (Deuteronomy 22:19-29, Leviticus 7:14)

C. Divorce is mentioned because an indecency was found. The remarried in this instance became defiled because she was divorced for faulty reasons and became an adulteress by default.

1. A reunion could not be established because of remarriage.

2. This was a way of protecting marriage.

VI. The affirmation.

A. Divorce for any reason less than adultery leads to adultery.

B. Because is God is gracious, he allowed divorce to this on account of sin to make life more bearable to the one sinned against.

C. Some priests entered into pagan marriage, and God called them to divorce because of spiritual adultery and because their wives were engaged in prostitution. (Ezra 10:3)

D. God divorces Israel because she committed spiritual adultery after seven hundred years. (Isaiah 50:1, Jeremiah 3:8)

E. The only grounds for divorce is prolonged adultery for God. He will remarry Israel again. (Jeremiah 31:31-32)

F. Joseph was prepared to separate from Mary for righteous reasons (supposed adultery). (Matthew 1:19)

G. Divorce was only allowed because of a hard heart.

H. Divorce not on the grounds of adultery proliferates more adultery. (1 Corinthians 10:8; 7:10)

I. Remarriage is permitted after the death of a spouse. (Romans 7:3; 1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Corinthians 7:8; 7:27)

Application Questions:

1. On what grounds can a person get a divorce?

2. When is remarriage permissible?

3. How would you evaluate the speaker's argument? Are there any other cases that need to be considered? Explain.
