

The Sermon on the Mount

God's Law and Kingdom Citizens, And the Issue of Divorce; Matthew 5:31-32

The Sermon on the Mount and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Proverbs 19:3 People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.
(NLT)

Marriage

- * Origins

- * Covenant

- * Analogy

Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Matthew 5:31-32 "It was said, 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce'; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Part of the adultery discussion

Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Part of the vow discussion

Matthew 5:29-30 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.'...But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

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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 indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house

Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 19:3 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

Matthew 19:4-5 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

Matthew 19:6-7 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

Matthew 19:8-9 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

I Corinthians 7:10-11 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

I Corinthians 7:12-13 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.

I Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

I Corinthians 7:15-16 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

I Corinthians 7:39-40 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

Practical conclusions

Jesus affirms the sanctity of marriage

If you are married, stay married
If your spouse dies, you are free to remarry

Jesus affirms the sanctity of marriage
Divorce should be restricted to issues of sexual immorality, protracted abandonment, or threat to life

In some cases, it is still best to remain single
If you remarry, remain remarried

Jesus affirms the sanctity of marriage
Divorce should be restricted to issues of sexual immorality, protracted abandonment, or threat to life
For all believers in Christ, grace covers our past, present and future decisions

With malice toward none, we must all pursue His righteous standards and cling to the grace that covers us

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Closing: Jesus' response to a multiple divorcee in John 4

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