

Biblical Marriage, Divorce, & Singleness—Part 2

Matthew 19:1-12

(cf. Matt. 5:31–32; Mark 10:1–12; Luke 6:18 & 1 Cor. 7:10–16)

I. The Pharisees' Second Question (v. 7)

- a. The Pharisees were still trying to trap Jesus, so they doubled down with another question about divorce
- b. They twisted God's teaching through Moses from Deut. 24:1-4
 - i. God hates divorce! (Mal. 2:16)
 - ii. This is not a command to divorce; it's a command about remarriage in a particular circumstance
 - iii. **some indecency** = sexual immorality, but not adultery because that would have meant death by stoning (cf. Lev. 20:10; 21:7, 14; Deut. 22:19, 24, 29; 23:14)
 - iv. The certificate of divorce is not commanded, only recognized as the common practice of the day
 - v. **sends her out from his house** = no living together
 - vi. **she has been defiled** = considered guilty of adultery because God designed marriage to be PERMANENT! (cf. Lev. 18:20)
 - vii. God's Law forbidding the original husband from remarrying his divorced wife is a warning to not divorce frivolously!

II. Jesus' Answer on Divorce (vs. 8-9)

- a. **permitted** not commanded or mandatory!
- b. **your** was a direct shot at the Pharisees who as supposed teachers of the Law were to be judged harsher (cf. James 3:1)
- c. **hardness of heart** = **sklērokardia** (σκληροκαρδία) = "stubbornness or obstinacy" (Matt. 19:8; Mark 10:5; 16:14)
- d. **from the beginning** = divorce was not God's plan and design

e. The Exception Clause in Matthew (cf. Matt. 5:32):

- i. God shows no partiality
- ii. Jesus does not use the normal term for adultery:
 1. **moicheuō** (μοιχεύω) = "commit adultery" (Matt. 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 16:18; 18:20; Rom. 2:22; 13:9; James 2:11; Rev. 2:22)
 2. **porneia** (πορνεία) = "to engage in sexual immorality of any kind" (Matt. 5:32; 15:19; 19:9; Mark 7:21; John 8:41; Acts 15:20; 1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3)

f. The Exception Clause in 1 Corinthians (1 Cor. 7:10-16):

- i. God designed marriage to be Permanent!
 1. So, being unequally yoked by itself is not biblical grounds for divorce
- ii. **I say, not the Lord** = Jesus did not say this during His earthly ministry, but He is saying it now through the Holy Spirit and Paul
- iii. Believing spouses can protect their unbelieving spouses and also their children by staying married
- iv. If an unbelieving spouse abandons the marriage that is biblical grounds for divorce
- v. **consents to live with** = **syneudokeō** (συνευδοκῶ) = "a pleasing agreement—a mutual desire to be together" (Stephen Davey)
 1. It's not just consenting to live together, it's consenting to live in peace, which means without habitual unrepentant sin against your spouse.
- vi. **in such cases** = **in cases like these** = physical abandonment was only 1 example of biblical cases for divorce that involve abandoning the marriage vows:
 1. Sexual Immorality
 2. Gambling
 3. Addiction
 4. Verbal Cruelty
 5. Physical Abuse
 6. Verbal Threats of Violence