

“From the Beginning It Has Not Been So”

In Mt. 19:3:6, the Pharisees tried Christ. “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” they asked. He answered them:

Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 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’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matt 19:3-6

God’s rules for marriage

God laid down the rules of marriage from the very beginning and Christ reiterated them:

- A man shall leave his father and mother.
- A man shall be joined to his wife.
- The two shall become one flesh.
- God joined them together as man and wife.
- Let not man separate.

One man, one woman, one flesh

This Bible teaching in both the Old and New Testaments could not be clearer: God created one man, one woman, one flesh. Man cannot separate them. Yet, we live in an age when divorces frequently break up marriages. Often, we do not teach strongly that marriage is a lifetime proposition. In fact, many assume that if things do not work out, they can easily obtain a divorce; and a new marriage can easily follow. Not so! Jesus was clear and emphatic when he added: “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, [marital unfaithfulness, NIV] and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery. Matt 19:9

Divorce, a dangerous situation.

The Bible teaching is clear, but how serious is the situation that a divorce can create? Sexual immorality and adultery are sins of the most serious condemnation. Gal 5:19 lists sexual immorality as a work of the flesh. “I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Gal. 5:21. We are warned by Paul: “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders . . . will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Cor 6:9-10. A human predicament can get no more serious than the one created by ignoring God’s law of marriage and divorce. It often creates a situation where people are living in the sins of sexual immorality and adultery.

Our clear Christian duty.

We must teach and observe God’s law of marriage and divorce. We must teach our young people that marriage is a relationship set apart by God. For God sanctified marriage, and we should never treat it frivolously. We should go into the marriage contract knowing that the two become one flesh. What God has joined together, man can not separate.

Conclusion.

The Bible clearly and emphatically teaches that marriage is created by God. Man cannot destroy what God has created. Modern attitudes toward marriage and divorce create untenable situations for godly people. Faithful children of God will practice and teach the truth on marriage and divorce.

Study questions.

1. Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife just for any reason? _____

2. List God's rules for marriage as stated by the Lord in Mt 19. _____

3. What are the three ones in a marriage? _____

4. What is the danger in sexual immorality? _____

5. What is the teaching in 1 Cor 6:9-10 on male prostitutes and homosexual offenders?

6. What should we teach our young people regarding marriage? _____

7. Who creates a marriage? _____ Who can set a marriage aside? _____