

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, REMARRIAGE #2

ONE EXCEPTION

The Lord has given one cause, and ONE CAUSE ONLY, wherein one may divorce their mate and marry again and not be guilty of adultery. The one and only exception to Luke 16:18 and Romans 7:3 is found in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9. Matthew 5:32 reads, “*but I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*”

This verse is as plain and simple as Luke 16:18. One who divorces their mate for ANY reason other than their mate’s fornication (sex with someone other than their spouse) and marries someone else, commits adultery, and continues to live in adultery as long as they live with their new partner.

It’s amazing that many have added other exceptions to the one the Lord gave. Some say you are free to remarry if your mate *deserts* you. Some say you can remarry if they are unable to *fulfill your needs*. While others say God’s law does not apply to *non-Christians*.

Either “except” means “except” or it doesn’t. We don’t have any problem believing it in John 3:5 where Jesus told Nicodemus “**except** a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” We understand, and rightly so, there is one exception to entrance into the Lord’s kingdom. One is “born of water and of the Spirit” or he does not become a child of God. So, why try to make the Lord’s exception in Matthew 19:9 mean only one of many exceptions? The only conceivable reason is that in John 3:5 one believes what the Lord said and in Matthew 19:9 he does not.

ADULTERY IS CONTINUOUS

Those who divorce their mate for a reason other than their mate’s fornication and marry again *continue* to live in a constant state of adultery. Though some say you cannot “live in adultery,” the Bible says you can. Matthew 19:9 reads, “*Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*” The word *committeth* is present tense which means “continuous action.” As long as one continues married to their new partner, they continue to commit adultery. It is a continuous state/relationship.

The tense of “continuous action” is recognized in many other passages. “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...*” (Matt. 6:33). “Seek” means to “keep on seeking.” “*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation...*” (James 1:12). “Endureth” means to “keep on enduring.”

Colossians 3:5-7 gives further evidence of this. “*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*” Some in the church at Colosse had “lived” in the continual state of fornication before they became Christians! Living in a continual state of adultery is possible, regardless of what some say!

ADULTERERS MUST REPENT

Those guilty of adultery must repent just like thieves, liars, those guilty of homosexuality, or anyone else. No such persons

can enter the kingdom of heaven (Gal. 5:19-21). When one repents, he stops the action and changes his relationship to it. He no longer continues in the state of stealing, lying, homosexuality, adultery.

To say that one can repent of the act of adultery and continue in the marriage is a false statement. Example: when one joins a denominational church, he must not only repent of it but must also get out of his *relationship* with this unscriptural body. When one enters an unscriptural marriage, he must not only repent of the sin of adultery but must get out of the *adulterous relationship* to his unlawful partner. Continuing the

relationship is just as wrong as the sin of entering the relationship. It is just as true with an unscriptural marriage as it is with an unscriptural church.

CONCLUSION

To read the passages relating to marriage, divorce and remarriage drives home the thought of just how serious God's law is regarding marriage. Make sure you know what God's will is and choose your life-long companion carefully. With only one exception for divorce, there's no second chance unless you put away (divorce) your spouse because of their fornication.

– *Garland M. Robinson*
