

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, REMARRIAGE #1

Other than the day you become a Christian, the most important day of your life is the day you get married. It is most important because whom you marry is for life. There is no trial period wherein if things do not work out you get a divorce and try again. God's law regarding marriage is quite specific. There's no misunderstanding it. It applies equally to all.

GOD'S LAW OF MARRIAGE

God's law of marriage was revealed in the garden of Eden. *"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"* (Gen. 2:22-24). This is also found in Matthew 19:4-6. *"...Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*

By the inspiration of God, we read that marriage is for life. *"For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband"* (Rom. 7:2). Every man is to have his own wife and every wife is to have her own husband (1 Cor. 7:2). This is so unlike the way people act today that desire someone else's wife or husband!

God's LAW regarding marriage is ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN, FOR LIFE. Marriage is a very serious matter. The unmarried better make sure what they are doing before they transgress God's law.

GOD'S LAW OF DIVORCE

What about divorce? God has not left us without His law. His word is just as plain on this subject as it is on marriage in general. The words of Jesus in Luke 16:18 sets forth the principle. *"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."* There's no misunderstanding what Jesus said. The problem comes when people are not willing to accept and follow it! It's sad indeed when people begin to make excuse and search to find some loop-hole through which they may escape the consequences of breaking God's decree. The statement of Jesus is plain and simple. **Whoever divorces their mate and marries another commits adultery!**

Romans 7:3 states, *"So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress..."* Now, how serious is God's law? Is it to be taken lightly? Can one simply ignore it? The answer is NO!

I've sought to emphasize Luke 16:18 and Romans 7:3 because it is God's principle concerning divorce. Remember how Jesus said, *"what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* Where does man get the right to seek a divorce or grant a divorce when God's law will not allow it?

We learn of one exception next week.

– Garland M. Robinson