

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE---WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY? (2)

By Keith Greer

When Jesus spoke, in what we commonly refer to as "The Sermon on the Mount", He said "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery." (Matthew 5:31,32)

What does a man do when he puts away a mate without this scriptural cause? The Bible states that it is adultery! In God's eyes it is adultery, no matter what the world might think! Notice the phrase "causes her." What does this mean? God is saying when divorce for any other reason than adultery – they have placed the temptation before themselves and their mate to commit adultery! One doing the unscriptural divorcing will be held accountable for the subsequent adultery of their mate. Why? Because – they obtained and pursued an unlawful divorce.

One's marriage may be recognized by civil authorities, and yet not be "right" in the sight of God. **"WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES?"** If the cause for divorce is not fornication, then those involved are committing adultery. Men can obtain "unlawful divorces" from the civil authorities. Does this tie God's hands to accept it? Never! Please read Acts 5:29.

In virtually every "wedding ceremony," each man and woman vows to be "faithful" to each other "until death do us part." We seem to start out "with good intentions," but the divorce rate today is a good indication that many people are not taking their vows very seriously.

God wants no divorce in marriage! His design was perfect, and He expects us to take it seriously. How often do you stop and consider that marriage is the physical counterpart to the spiritual relationship between Christ and the church? (Ephesians 5:22-33) Jesus gave everything for His bride, and husbands and wives would do well to treat one another as they should instead of trying to find "loopholes" in the scriptures for getting out of marriage.

Can you see our Lord "divorcing" His bride just because times get rough, or some other inconvenience in His life and determines to leave His bride – the church! No one in the wildest imagination could ever believe He would have ever done it or will do it. Men and woman need to develop that same mindset in their marriages.

Does God authorize divorce? He does, but only in one case: for the cause of fornication. Let each one of us, as Christians, be sure that our lives are right in God's sight. The divorce rate is high in our society. We must live in the world, but let us be sure that we are not living of the world.

One of the positions some in the Lord's church has professed for years is that **"one can obtain a divorce for any cause as long as they don't remarry."** Where does God's book teach it? In other words, we can just forget the vows we made before God and to our mate, break our covenant,

just as long as we don't enter another "covenant of marriage." Such teaching has made men nothing more than liars and seeking to "loose" where God has "bound."

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4) Sadly, many are seeking to redefine exactly the binding effect of the marriage covenant in order to make it more convenient for them to get released from it. Yes, men may give hundreds of reasons for one to be "released" from their vows but this does not mean God will accept it. Man will not change the mind of God—period! ***