

## MARRIAGE & DIVORCE—WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY? (3)

By Keith Greer

"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21)

The apostle Paul went on to tell the churches of Galatia that "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:24-25)

When one decided to become a Christian, each one of us had a "body of sin" that had to be destroyed in order that we might "walk in newness of life." "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:1-3)

Most of us can quickly recite the five "steps" (**HEAR, BELIEVE, REPENT, CONFESS, AND BE BAPTIZED**) and corresponding verses required for a person to become a Christian.

Unfortunately today, now that the divorce rate is so high in our country, far too many brethren are trying to change God's "rules" where repentance is concerned. We are now hearing things that are very different than the truth many once practiced and taught!

Here are a few I've been hit with: "Let's not be breaking up homes. They were so young; they just didn't know what they were doing." "The situation is just so complicated, and, after all, we are not detectives. Where is your MERCY?"

Most assuredly, Christians are not in the detective business, but we are supposed to be in the business of trying to save souls. We are also supposed to be encouraging one another and walking hand in hand towards heaven. Where is the mercy in someone who allows a brother or sister to stay in sin and never says anything about it? Yet, so many will shed tears over the ones who must leave a sinful relationship, yet, not shed one tear of the home that was destroyed by the one who committed adultery! **ONE HOME IS ENOUGH!!!**

"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul." (Ezekiel 3:18-19)

On the day of Pentecost, Peter told the Jews, after they were convicted in their hearts of sins by the preaching of the gospel, they were to "...Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

Some brethren today are saying, "Show me where God told one person on the day of Pentecost to leave his wife or her husband in order to be saved." Here is my answer, where is the authority for any to continue living in sin if they have truly repented? Does "baptism" wash away marriages or sin? Please give Acts 22:16 a careful reading and you will find the answer!

Did Peter specifically tell any of the new Christians to put away such things as idolatry, drinking, gambling, or any other sins according to what we read in Acts 2:38? Paul had already stated that the Christians in Galatia could not participate in any such works of the flesh as adultery and fornication and still inherit the kingdom of God? We know many were practicing worshipping of idols. Do we need a direct statement telling them to leave such marriages, to conclude they did? (cont.) \*\*\*