

## MARRIAGE & DIVORCE: WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURES SAY? (4)

By Keith Greer

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

"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)

Some brethren today are forgetting that those who participate in adultery, failing to repent, cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven! Some are even seeking to use 1 Corinthians 6 to show us that the "adulterers" were washed, sanctified, and justified by the blood of Christ and can therefore continue to live together. Seeking to bolster their argument, some turn to 1 Corinthians 7:2 and reminds us, "...to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." My question is a simple one, how many times can they take a mate? Can they take another person's mate?

There is no doubt that "**from the beginning**" it was God's plan that each of us had the right to be married. On that point we can all agree.

Where we disagree is when questions are asked such as, "To these I must ask, "Where did Paul tell any of the Corinthians that the effeminate or homosexual must leave their sinful relationships?" Do we not all agree that when the apostle Paul said "such were some of you" that they could not continue in those relationships and still inherit the kingdom of God?

The apostle Paul asked the Romans if they understood the commitment required to the marriage covenant in the law. "Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man." (Romans 7:1-3) Notice the phrase, "**bound by the law**", many have difficulty understanding what binds someone who has no mate, because of divorce. This passage shows the law can bind them!

Previously, we have looked in detail at what Jesus told the Pharisees in Matthew 19:9. Do either one of these passages indicates that we can live with whomever we choose, whether or not we have

the right? Do we just "repent", continue living in that relationship, and God will forgive and forget? If that were the case, then the homosexuals could continue in their relationships, and they would have just as much authority from God. We would all agree that the scriptures do not teach this to be true.

As we all know, there are some Christians today who are in difficult and heartbreaking circumstances. Can we make an exception for adultery just because we don't want to give up something- or someone- to which we do not have a right? Why do we want to blame God, or men trying to preach His Word, for the consequences of our own sins? Today men are trying to justify situations for themselves or loved one involved in unlawful marriages. Do we want to allow or suggest some to keep a mate, even at the cost of both of their souls? Yes, I know that it's a highly emotionally charged situation and hard choices must be made. Please remember God did not create these situations. (cont.) \*\*\*