

Lecture 18 – Divorce & Remarriage

He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.”
Mark 10:11 (NIV)

“To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.” I Corinthians 7:10-11 (NIV)

Key Terms

Faithfulness, adultery, restoration, faith

Objectives

- *Consider the biblical data concerned with divorce and remarriage.
- *Explain the parallels between marriage and faith.
- *Apply the biblical data to issues related to divorce and remarriage in the church and the larger culture.

Divorce & Remarriage

Test Case: Elian Gonzalez (*no longer applicable*)

Emergency situation?

State’s rights?

Introduction

“No fault” divorce

Our prophetic role – declare the revealed will ...

Our priestly role – forgive/restore sinners through ...

Our kingly role – nurture persons so that they are ...

I. Divorce & Remarriage in the Gospels (see notes on following pages)

A. Mark 10:11 –

1. Deuteronomy 24:1-4

2. Hosea 2:4

B. Luke 16:18

C. Divorce in Malachi 2:16

D. Matthew 19

II. Divorce & Remarriage in the Epistles

A. Romans 7:2-3

B. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

1. 1 Corinthians 7:12-15

III. The Analogy of Faith

A. Theological rationale

B. Divorce as an abnormality

C. Emotional adultery?

Six Principles for Dealing with Divorce & Remarriage (Jones, p. 204)

1. Marriage is more than a bilateral contract.
2. Divorce is not a solution for disappointment or difficulty.
3. The covenantal commitment provides the context for trust and patience. (*this point is not on the tape*)
4. Some marriages are destroyed by radical breaches of covenant fidelity.
5. God hates covenant infidelity in all its marital forms. (*this point is not on the tape*)
6. Each case must be judged according to its particular circumstances.

Divorce & Remarriage in the New Testament

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Unqualified Statements

Mark 10:11-12

He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

Luke 16:18

“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Romans 7:2-3

For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

1 Corinthians 7:39

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

Desertion

“In matrimonial law, the separation of one spouse from the other with the intention of bringing cohabitation to an end, without legal justification or the consent of the other spouse. It may be done by leaving or physically departing from the other spouse, or constructively, by one spouse so treating the other that he or she is driven to, and held justifiably to, leave the deserting spouse....It was formerly a ground of divorce and may now evidence breakdown of the marriage.” David M. Walker, *The Oxford Companion to Law* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1980), 353.

Qualified Statements

Matthew 5:31-32

“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:8-9

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

1 Corinthians 7:12-15

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to

live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

dcj – 11/88