

GETTING AROUND GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE MATTHEW 19:3-12

Thesis: Death and the unfaithfulness of a spouse are the only reasons allowed by God for divorce and remarriage. Remarriage for any other reason constitutes adultery.

Introduction

1. Last week, we discussed God's perfect plan for marriage and we briefly noted death and unfaithfulness as the only reasons allowed by God for remarriage.
2. Today, we want to study, in greater detail, this exception of fornication inasmuch as death of a spouse is widely accepted and not challenged.
3. We will see that man has attempted to circumvent God's ordinance on the subject but has failed.
4. Background of the text:

Discussion

- I. God permits remarriage for the cause of the unfaithfulness of one spouse.
 - A. When approached by the Pharisees in Matthew 19, Jesus went back to the beginning:
 1. "Have you not read?" (Matthew 19:4)
 - a. "at the beginning..."
 - b. "male and female..."
 - c. leave & cleave
 2. "Let not man put asunder." (Matthew 19:6)
 3. "For the Lord, the God of Israel saith that he hateth putting away..." (Malachi 2:16)
 - B. There was an exception however, well known but not under consideration by the Pharisees in this text.
 1. Prohibited by the 7th Commandment (Exodus 20:14)
 2. Witnessed Adultery (Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22)
 3. Unwitnessed but suspected Adultery (Numbers 5:11-31)
 - C. Even when allowed by divine authority, there is nothing good about divorce.
 - D. Divorce always arises from sin.
- II. Some permit remarriage for "*any cause.*"
 - A. This was the question in view in Matthew 19
 - B. Two prominent schools of thought
 1. Hillel – lenient
 2. Shammai - strict
 - C. Jesus said they were both wrong – Fornication is the only caused allowed.

- III.** Some say “adultery” is the breaking of the vow or convanant and may simply be forgiven as a one time act.
- A. One must re-define “adultery” in Matthew 19
 - B. *usus loquendi*
 - C. Not one bit of credible evidence to support the claim
 - 1. Usage in OT
 - 2. Usage in NT
 - a. Matthew 5:28 “look on a woman to commit adultery”
 - b. 2 Peter 2:14 “eyes full of adultery”
 - c. John 8:4 “woman taken “in the very act”
 - D. “Adultery” is clearly a word with pronounced sexual connotations/denotations.
 - 1. When one breaks a contract today, they are not guilty of “adultery.”
 - 2. In this country, a divorce on the grounds of adultery requires sexual misconduct.
 - 3. Clearly, when speaking of a relationship between people, adultery always means sexual sin....always.
 - E. We add here that adultery, unrepented of and unforgiven will condemn.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:9
 - 2. Gal 5:19
- IV.** Some say God’s law on marriage only applies to Christians.
- A. Idea is allow the alien sinner to be baptized and wash away his sin.
 - 1. “washing away sin” is the appropriate goal
 - a. Acts 22:16
 - b. 1 Peter 3:21
 - c. Acts 2:38
 - 2. Theory fails on two key reasons:
 - a. God’s law applies to all men
 - i. Acts 17:30
 - ii. Matthew 7:12 “Golden Rule”
 - iii. Romans 13
 - iv. Laws of murder, theft, fraud etc. do not apply
 - b. Conversion requires repentance
 - i. Philemon / Onesimus
 - ii. Acts 17:30 “commandeth...to repent”
 - iii. Matthew 12:41 / Jonah 3:10
 - iv. More than saying “I am sorry.”