

PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



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Divine Viewpoint

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Falling in love is not always rational. People often marry when judgment is null and void. Therefore, it is important before someone decides to marry, to absorb some principles found in the Word of God so they can apply it before they become emotionally involved. In other words, if you become emotionally involved, you can't make any decisions. Your emotions begin to dictate to your mentality. So the best thing is to get some information before your emotions take over.

The first thing we're prohibited, as far as believers are concerned, is to marry an unbeliever. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?" Now, if you do marry an unbeliever, don't come to that principle and say, "Well, I've made a mistake, now I'm getting a divorce." After you've made that mistake, get back in fellowship, start to take in the Word of God and hope that person becomes a believer by your manner of life so they can grow in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ. The principle is, **DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE FIRST BY MARRYING AN UNBELIEVER.**

Next thing, **DON'T MARRY IN IMMATUREITY.** Immaturity can mean a lot of things. Immature doesn't actually mean a particular age. But it does mean while you're too young. When you're a teenager, you're definitely immature. The person you want to marry, probably won't be the person you want later on in life, because your norms and standards have changed and you'll end up with a monster. So, don't marry when you're too young and don't marry on a wave of libido. Libido is not love. Libido is not the burning of Right Man and Right Woman.

Also, **DON'T MARRY TO FULFILL SEXUAL DESIRE. SEX IS NOT LOVE.** It is only one of the many manifestations of love. **LOVE IS A MENTAL ATTITUDE** - the Greek

work "AGAPE". Out of this comes a rapport love. In other words, first of all you begin with love which is "AGAPE", which is mental attitude love. As a result of that, you get into another category of love which is "PHILOS" love, which involves total soul rapport, and as a result of that, sex is an expression of it. There are many expressions of this, conversation, compatibility, all sorts of things.

So, don't marry to fulfill sexual desires. Sex is not love. It is only one of the many manifestations of love. Love is a mental attitude first, then it becomes a total soul rapport. When you magnify sex out of its proper perspective, then you ignore different things. You ignore spiritual compatibility. In other words, if you're emphasizing sex, then you have no spiritual connotation and there are certain situations that come up in your life. For example, you should have some compatibility and you should be in agreement as to how you handle the finances at home. You should have recreational compatibility and mental compatibility. So there are different things you have to know when you marry.

DON'T MARRY BECAUSE OF SOCIAL PRESSURE. In other words, some people think, I'll never have another chance, I'm 25, I'm old; consequently, life has passed me by.

DON'T MARRY BECAUSE YOU'RE PREGNANT. People are getting married because of the fact that they're pregnant. That's two mistakes.

DON'T GET MARRIED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, whatever your problem happens to be.

DON'T MARRY A WRONGFULLY DIVORCED PERSON.

DON'T MARRY TO ACQUIRE A STATUS SYMBOL, or to improve economic situations in life.

DON'T MARRY THINKING IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT, YOU'LL GET OUT OF IT EASILY. In other words, marriage is still a

Divine Institution and you just can't get out of it.

DON'T MARRY BECAUSE SOMEONE IS SYMPATHETIC TO YOU. Some people are sympathetic in a stress period and people marry because of it.

DON'T MARRY A NEUROTIC PERSON. A neurotic person can be a gambling addict. Some men or women have gambling fever.

DON'T MARRY A JEALOUS PERSON. Some people are jealous all the time.

DON'T MARRY AN ALCOHOLIC.

DON'T MARRY AN EGOTIST, who wouldn't make a good mate. Women should not get married until they understand the principle that when they marry someone, they're losing their freedom. **A woman must be careful to surrender her free will to a man who will cherish it and not abuse it.** She has to know that much about him. **She must realize she is surrendering both her soul and her body to one man, but it has to be the right one.** She has to do this as long as they're both alive. A man, on his part, must be willing to assume responsibility and must be careful to find a woman with the proper mental attitude.

Now, marriage is a Divine Institution which existed before man's sinfulness. In other words, in Genesis chapter 2 verse 21-25, "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." We have a principle that marriage was the order of the day and was a Divine Institution before Adam went negative. Also, sexual relationships were an expression of marriage in the age of innocence in the garden, Genesis 2:24. When it says that they should be one flesh, that's talking about sexual relation-

ships. So, **the primary purpose of sex is an expression of love. Sex existed before sin did.** Whatever sins may be involved in sex, SEX IS NOT SINFUL. Some people think that sex in itself is sinful, but it's not, **within the confines of marriage.**

The secondary purpose of sex is the propagation of the human race. Genesis 4:1 "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived and bare Cain and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD." In other words, Genesis 2:24 came way before Genesis 4:1. So, you have Adam and Eve having sexual relationships as Right Man and Right Woman BEFORE they have any children. So, the secondary purpose of sex is the propagation of the human race. This came into the picture AFTER THE FALL OF MAN. After the fall, the woman no longer had sex just for pleasure, but it had another purpose, bearing children and with bearing children pain was connected with it. The old sin nature which came with the fall, introduced things which sometimes destroy and distort sex, which is the lust pattern. Sex lust takes sex out of its proper place and makes it love itself. On the other hand, asceticism says sex is only for perpetuation of the human race. There are two types of people in the world. One, those only interested in the lust pattern, sex, and the other people who say sex is only for having children. That's both ends of the pendulum and both of them are WRONG. Sex, remember, is an act of personal free will, mentally desirous. Sex is an act of mutual response and needs mental preparation. Man initiates and the woman responds. Sex is an act which is only meaningful when there's a true love, the doctrine of Right Man and Right Woman.

MENTAL ATTITUDE LOVE PRECEDES SEX LOVE, or it becomes mechanical and animalistic.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS IN MARRIAGE ARE FOR RECREATION. The purpose is expression of love between two people, partners, Right Man and Right Woman.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE ALSO FOR PROCREATION, but **love happiness**

must always precede sex happiness. It's "WHOM MY SOUL LOVES." Sex merges a man and woman and makes them one.

There is no such thing as superiority in sexual relationships. Man loses his sovereignty in sexual relationships and at the same time, the woman gains from and receives from the man, and in so doing she actually gives. It's a mutual thing. So, marriage is the boundary for sex. It's described in the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 7:1 "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless to avoid fornication, let every man have his OWN woman and let every woman have her OWN husband." **Without boundaries people would be hurt and the nation would destroy itself from within.** That's one of the protections.

MARRYING SIMPLY FOR SEXUAL EXPERIENCES IS DANGEROUS GROUND UPON WHICH TO BASE A HAPPY MARRIAGE. In other words, just for sexual experience is not the criteria.

A husband is commanded in Ephesians 5:25 to "love his wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it." Love is a mental attitude. **Love is what you think.** Sex is, again, only one of the many expressions of this mental attitude. A woman must respond to a man mentally, before she can respond to him sexually, or in any other way. It has to be mental first otherwise, it's no more than animal activity. If a woman is not responding to her husband mentally she will say, "Honey, I have a headache," or "I'm tired," or some other excuse. Love happiness is moment by moment rapport in the soul and always must precede sex happiness. Any man who fulfills Ephesians 5:25, will receive the proper response from his wife as believers who respond to the LORD Jesus Christ.

The husband's love should be predominantly aggressive and protective. The wife's love should be responsive and receptive and actually from the standpoint of the human anatomy, the Bible is verified; man gives and the woman receives. The principle is that

man initiates love, both mentally and sexually, and the woman responds to it.

The body of one partner rightfully belongs to the other. 1 Corinthians 7:4, "The wife hath not power of her own body but the husband and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife." Therefore, any selfish motivation of action is ruled out. The beauty of the sexual concept is, there is response and counter response. The man becomes complete because the woman completes him. God separated something from the man, the rib, and now this is returned to him in the form of a mate.

The woman complements the man, thus emphasizing her complete femininity. Man does not get love by demanding love. **He can only get love by giving love first...mental attitude love.** No man has the right to demand relationships with his wife. **Husbands must give from the ultimate source of their mental attitude and they can only get by giving of himself. That's the lesson in GRACE. YOU CAN ONLY GET SOMETHING BY GIVING OF YOURSELF.**

A WOMAN IS A RESPONDER and a husband cannot subject his wife to abuse and maltreatment and expect her to respond to his advances when he's ready to make love. Most guys abuse their wives either physically or mentally and then they say, "Honey, let's go." There's no way in this world that can happen.

Since God has so ordained the man and woman for each other, the sexual relationship should not be denied to each other, except under certain conditions of true worship and spiritual activity. 1 Corinthians 7:5, "Defraud ye not one the other except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to prayer: and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for you incontineny." **Sex minus love equals a life time of misery. sex plus love equals happiness.**

True love is a mental attitude, therefore, it is positive and not possessive. Since marriage is founded on the mental attitude of

love, **the older you become, the more wonderful the marriage can be.** However, those who look at life and marriage from the human viewpoint will consider the body only an instrument in expression of sex and because of this improper emphasis on the body as a sex symbol, the marriage of such a person can only get worse as the body deteriorates with age and loses some of its symmetry and human attractiveness. In other words as you get older, from the Divine Viewpoint, the relationship gets better. From the human viewpoint, your body begins to spring leaks, wrinkles, bags under your eyes, fat stomach, varicose veins, and there it goes down the drain. How can the Lord overcome that?

“WHOM MY SOUL LOVETH”...and it progresses as your body deteriorates. When mental attitude love prevails, and precedes the sexual relationship, then sex becomes a beautiful expression and tapestry of blending of two factors of life into one “AND THEY SHALL BECOME ONE”.

Sexual compatibility without mental compatibility can destroy a marriage. Mental attitude compatibility and sexuality with spirituality can make an exceedingly happy marriage. Marriage cannot survive on the basis of sex alone. It takes something greater than that because sex decreases and mental attitude and spirituality and compatibility increase.

PRINCIPLES OF DIVORCE

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

If you're a believer and you're single, remain in that status. Take in the Word of God, grow in GRACE, learn the principle of Right Man and Right Woman and wait until the Lord supplies that person for you and that status is changed. **It's much better to be single, than married to the wrong person.** If you cannot live with yourself, you cannot take your problems to someone else. Changing from single to married status is more insane than anything you can do because your problem becomes worse. In other words, as a single person you can't handle your own problems; taking on the responsibility of someone else only makes it that much worse. As a believer, it's better first of all to understand pertinent information on the subject of love, sex and marriage, before any change is made in status.

So in studying Right Man and Right Woman, you might come to the conclusion that you're married to the wrong person. That's not an excuse to break up the marriage. Keep on taking in the Word of God.

Lean strong on the inhale and exhale of the Word of God. You can turn an unhappy marriage into a happy one. How? You can accept Christ as your Saviour. Your domestic problems are then secondary to your relationship with the Lord. You can understand the principle of the filling of the Holy Spirit by confession of sin, and you'll begin to mature and you'll become GRACE oriented and have the mastery over the details of life, inner happiness and capacity for life. In the meantime, consider carefully the law of contentment, Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am to be content.” Hebrews 13:5,6 “Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have, for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” Remain in the status quo. If, as a believer, you go against God's will and marry an unbeliever, or a wrongfully divorced person, remain in the status quo, marriage. You're not to break it up. Get back in fellowship over that failure,

don't look back. God has forgotten it and so should you. Just keep moving. You'll have problems, you'll have natural repercussions of a mixed marriage. But the responsibility is to stay in fellowship, learn the Word, use the principle of trying to win the other person to the Lord by your manner of life.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4, "When a man has taken a wife and married her and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he has found some uncleanness in her, then let him write her a bill of divorcement and give it in her hand and send her out of his house. And when she has departed out of his house, SHE MAY GO AND BE ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE." Every time you say the word "divorce" you automatically get into some legalistic thinking pattern. If you say "baptism", you think "water". If you say "repent", you think something like "feel sorry for your sins", or "turn from your wicked ways".

All those words have been so misused and abused, that we can't even think clearly anymore. So, you have to keep on emphasizing it. I know I can say "divorce" to most people and they're just shocked out of their skivvies, because their dear uncle or their dear aunt told them divorce is the unpardonable sin. **Divorce is not the unpardonable sin. I'm not on a platform for people to be divorced. I'm saying that the unpardonable sin is rejecting Jesus Christ as Saviour.** And if you're a divorced person, or you're contemplating divorce, you're still in the plan of God, you still have a purpose and a function. If you don't, you won't be here anymore.

Do you know how you'll know when the Lord is through with you? It's the easiest thing in the world. You'll get up in the morning and you go to your cabinet, you open it up and you take out your razor, you'll look in the mirror and you don't see yourself, you'll know you're with the Lord. So you can always tell. When you get up in the morning, look in the mirror, if you're still there, why He still has a purpose for you. When He's through, you'll be face to face with the Lord. So you won't have to shave anymore. You won't have to dye your hair either.

Now the Word says in verse 2, "When she departs out of the house, SHE MAY GO AND BE ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE." Now, I didn't write that! That's what it says. Try to get around it. You CAN'T get around it. "And the latter husband hate her and write her a bill of divorcement and give it in her hand and send her out of the house, or if the latter husband die which took her to be his wife, her former husband, who had sent her away, may not take her again."

Now I want you to see something here, verse 2, she can be another man's wife. Underline that...and then, verse 4, "HE MAY NOT TAKE HER AGAIN." Two definite statements. To be his wife after she is defiled, "for that is an abomination before the Lord and thou shalt cause the land to sin"...a very important expression, "the land to sin which the LORD thy God has given thee for an inheritance".

Now whether you know it or not, those four verses in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 are where God has given us four Divine Institutions for the stability of the human race. There are four principles the Lord has given the human race whether they're believers or unbelievers, to protect us from destroying ourselves.

FREE WILL. You have free will to make decisions in life. In other words, you have free will to wear whatever you want to wear, look like you want to, pursue any type of job you want to. You can make decisions to come to church if you want to. You can make decisions not to come, if you don't want to. No one should ever put any pressure on you to come to church, to come to class, or anything else, because that would violate your free will.

Now one of the decisions you make that should be free will is accepting Christ as your Saviour. No one should make you jump through a psychological hoop. So, Divine Institution #1 is free will. This is where we have volition. We make choices in life. When we are not able to make choices, then we're in Siberia and we're under a different system called Communism. Socialism, also, doesn't give you any opportunity to exercise free will.

Now we're talking about MARRIAGE, so free will is involved in marriage because you choose who you want to marry. In other words, this knocks out shotgun weddings. There's a new twentieth century version of shotgun weddings called computer dating. Very fancy. Instead of a father holding a shotgun, now it's very technical. Computer dating or Leisure Tree, where they violate your free will. They tell you who to marry. No one tells you who to marry. You know the Lord tells you and the other person and that's all. So you have free will to make decisions in life. One of those is marriage.

Divine Institution #2 is MARRIAGE. Marriage is designed to perpetuate the human race. One man and one woman so we can have stability in our national entity and the family.

Children, Divine Institution #3 is FAMILY. We raise our children, teaching them these principles, Right Man/ Right Woman, Freedom, etc.

Divine Institution #4 is NATIONALISM. You live in a national entity. If you have freedom of choice, you have freedom to marry whom you want to, raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That gives us a strong national entity. But if there are multitudes of divorces, adultery and promiscuity, then it causes the "land to sin". You have a maximum amount of people doing that and your land is destroyed. The Roman Empire went down that way and we're going to go down the same way if we continue.

All right, so let's look at it. The word DIVORCE means biblically, not legally, not legalistically, but the word divorce means **freedom to marry**. See, that's a new concept in your thinking. As soon as you say divorce, you say uh-oh, that's a divorced person, that's a scarlet woman.

Illustration: "A" is a woman, "B" is a man. "A" is unfaithful to her husband. We'll say she's out of it. "B" is the husband and he isn't out of it. He's not unfaithful. So now she's the guilty party. She has broken this relationship.

All right, now the husband has two choices, 1) he can forgive and forget. If he can't forgive and forget, then he shouldn't even take her back. In other words, he shouldn't hold her feet to the fire. "Now you so-and-so, you did this and that and from now on you've got to shine my shoes, bring me the newspaper, take the dog out". That's no way to run an airline.

So he has to forgive and forget. If he can't, then he has a bonafide reason to divorce her. That's a bonafide reason and he can remarry. Period! A divorce in the Bible means freedom to remarry...one person. One of them has got to be guilty. You see, if neither of them are guilty, then there's no bonafide reason for divorce. **So biblical divorce gives the right of remarriage to one person.** Divorce was permitted under the Mosaic Law with one exception, verses 3 and 4.

In the Old Testament the man always divorced the woman, Deuteronomy 24:1-4. However, the principle applies both ways. In the Old Testament the man was the head of the house and he was the spiritual leader, living under the order of the patriarchs and they represented the family in spiritual things. Today, in the New Testament, in the Church Age, "We're all one in Christ Jesus. There's neither male nor female, Jew or Gentile, bond or free, we're all one in Christ Jesus". So the women and the men are alike in that we represent ourselves to the Lord. So the principle applies both ways. The man or the woman can get the divorce.

Now the biblical background is Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Verse one says "When a man hath taken a wife and married her and it cometh to pass that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her." "Some uncleanness in her"...see under the Mosaic Law divorce was abused. It was distorted. When you get religion working with the Mosaic Law, it begins to twist it. So under the Mosaic Law divorce was abused and distorted because there were many reasons for uncleanness.

For example, a man who wanted to get rid of his wife in the Old Testament would get her to touch some dead animal. If he got her to touch some dead animal, he would pronounce her "unclean." He'd go to the priest and get a written bill of divorcement. It was ceremonial. Or, if she touched the clothes of someone who had died, he can divorce her because she's unclean.

Or, if she went to a funeral, all a guy would have to do is say, you know what Son-so did, she goes to the funeral, he brings a priest along and says, "Hey, look at her, she's in there" and he gets out of it. It's a gimmick. So they twisted it into a gimmick. **If you're looking for a way out, you're going to find one.** But that's not biblically correct. So immediately he would send for a judge and declare his wife unclean. That's what "some uncleanness" means in verse 1.

Now, in verse 2 it says, "And when she has departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife." She has the right to marry because he used a gimmick against her. He found some unclean thing in her. He wanted out of it and the reason is that she finds no favor in his eyes, which means her husband hates her. That's what that expression means. He has mental attitude sins.

Here's a principle for you: Verse 3 we have 'LH' for latter husband. That's husband #2. In verse 4 we have 'FH' for former husband, that's husband #1. So, she is defiled, that is defiled in the mind of husband number one. In other words, husband #1 is short-circuited sexually, because she's been with another man. So she's not defiled so far as her second marriage is concerned. She is right to marry this guy, but if this guy dies, she can't go back to husband #1, because he has been short-circuited. So in regard to her first husband she is defiled and then it says, "causes the land to sin."

In other words, when a maximum number of incompatible marriages exist, the sin will take many forms. A lot of times it takes the form of homosexuality. Sometimes it

takes on the form of lesbianism. Sometimes it's bestiality.

So we have a principle. Some uncleanness, in verse 1, is a gimmick. This guy doesn't like her anymore; he's found a way to get out. He's guilty, she's innocent. Verse 2, biblical divorce means the woman can marry someone else. But verses three and four, the exception is, she can't go back to the first one after she's married the second one, because the guy is short-circuited.

Divorce is permitted in the New Testament also, under certain conditions. We're talking marriage between two believers, or two unbelievers. See, there's nothing wrong with performing a service for two unbelievers. The only thing you can't do is mix the two. So divorce is permitted in the New Testament, under certain conditions. We'll give them to you: Adultery, Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:19. "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." "Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

If one person commits adultery, then the other person, if they want to, can divorce them and remarry. They have the right to remarry. Now before I tell you that, there's the principle they can forgive and forget. But they have to forget. If they don't forget, they're going to have a terrible situation, holding the other person to the fire. So, that's one of them.

Desertion is another one. 1 Corinthians 7:15, "And unto the married I command, yet not I but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband." Now desertion is very interesting because desertion can be mental. In other words, "As a man thinketh, so is he."

You'll see this a little later on because when the Lord interpreted the Ten Commandments, and they said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." He said, "I say to you, he that looks upon a woman with lust has committed adultery." So what he was talking

about is: It's what you think that counts, not what you do, because what you think precedes what you do.

In other words, you can desert someone mentally. You can be living with them and your mind is entirely with someone else. That is desertion. Usually mental desertion is followed by overt desertion. In other words you're divorced long before you're divorced. There are a lot of people living together, who are divorced, but they're staying together for other reasons. They're living under the same roof, but their mind is elsewhere. So it's actually ridiculous.

Another reason is a divorce gimmick. Deuteronomy 24:2. You can find some excuse, some gimmick to divorce a person, **but if you do, then that person is free to marry.** You're the guilty party.

Another one is implacability. Deuteronomy 24:3. You're a victim of a spouse's continual implacability, like hatred. In other words, if a person is completely implacable to you, as in Deuteronomy 24, there's no way you can have a relationship with them.

Now if a marriage is broken in a mixed marriage, God only allows it to be done by the unbelieving partner. 1 Corinthians 7:15 "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace." A mixed marriage is a believer marrying an unbeliever, which is probably the most horrible combination possible.

So marriage is a Divine Institution; many people think they should not be blamed for their weaknesses or their failures in the matter of marriage; however, you choose this marriage partner of your own free will, Divine Institution #1, and as such, marriage is your responsibility. When you ask someone to marry you and they say yes, the responsibility is with you and with them, too. **You have to take responsibility for your decisions.**

One of three things that can result when a marriage fails is this. First of all, sticking it out. This usually occurs because people stick it out because of the children. Couples simply

live in a rather grim fashion and gut it out and it's all done for the sake of the children. It's a ridiculous reason because your children then come under the framework of hypocrisy and they come under that environment and whether you know it or not, your kids know, even if you never argue, that there's something wrong. They can tell immediately. So what happens if a marriage fails, they stick it out and use some excuse.

Secondly, there's a difference biblically between the concept of divorce and what the state says about separation. The state says you can separate on anything and you can divorce on anything. Today you don't have to have hardly any grounds.

For example, suppose you have a husband that beats his wife continually, suppose her life is in danger. What do you do with that? Do you just stay there and die a martyr's death? Right? No, you do not! See that's keeping you from "growing in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ." You become punch drunk. That's a marriage that God hasn't put together. That's not honoring to the Lord at all. The word "divorce" means freedom to remarry.

Remember the Bible gives the right of divorce with the freedom to remarry (Deuteronomy 24), with one exception, you can't go back to the first one because of the short circuit.

In certain cases, a woman has to leave Divine Institution #2, Marriage, to get back under Divine Institution #1, Free Will. Divine Institution #1 is Free Will and you have to make free will decisions as far as the Lord is concerned. If in your married life, you can't make decisions because of implacability, hatred, or physical abuse...some men are so motivated that they remove any volition from the wife and the result is, she becomes a slave. Being the head of the house does not give a man the right to enslave his wife. He's not the head of the human race. See, there's a chain of command. Jesus Christ is the Head. He has placed man as the authority over the family, but this man who is actually a mediator in that situation cannot keep his

family from having a relationship with the Lord.

The Right to Remarriage

When the union of two believers or two unbelievers is broken, there are five principles which apply concerning the right of remarriage.

All things before salvation are blotted out...at the moment of salvation. All right, if you've accepted Christ as your Saviour, everything that happened previously to that is over because you're a new person IN CHRIST..."old things have passed away". You're a new person.

So all things before salvation are blotted out at the moment of salvation. Isaiah 43:25, "I even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins no more". If an unbeliever has married and divorced 14 times, before salvation and at the moment of salvation he's single, he can marry again. Any number of marriages and divorces are blotted out at the moment of salvation. Psalm 103:3, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases".

A believer's life starts at the moment of salvation. No Christian has the right to penalize other Christians for something which occurred before salvation, or at any other time. Romans 8:33 "Who shall lay anything against God's elect? It is God that justifieth." That's the first principle. Everything before salvation is wiped out.

The second principle is divorce because of the other party committing adultery. Matthew 5:32 "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication causeth her to commit adultery and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." The innocent person has the right of remarriage.

The third principle is desertion. 1 Corinthians 7:15 "And unto the married I command, yet not I but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband."

The fourth principle is being a victim of a divorce gimmick and/or a victim of your spouse's continual implacability, like hatred.

The fifth principle is death. Romans 7:2, "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth, but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband." 1 Corinthians 7:8,9, "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I, but if they cannot contain, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn." Death destroys a marriage bond, but it does not destroy the love in the marriage. Love is a mental attitude.

So, whenever there is a bonafide basis for divorce, the principle of Deuteronomy 24:1-4 applies the right of remarriage. Whenever someone divorces for other than a biblical cause, the remarriage amounts to adultery.

The first nine commandments as stated in Exodus deal with primarily overt activity. "Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal". When the Lord Jesus Christ did the commentary on the Ten Commandments in Matthew, the Sermon on the Mount, He said sin goes beyond the overt act. Sin exists in the mental attitude as well. That's Matthew 5:27,28, "You have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you that whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart." So if you've married against God's will, that is an unbeliever, or a wrongly divorced person, the

doctrine of status quo supersedes the sin part of the problem.

In other words, do not break it up, acknowledge your failure, get back in fellowship, don't look back, learn the Word of God, stay filled with the Holy Spirit and use the principle of winning that other person to the Lord. If a couple hears the doctrine of Right Man/Right Woman, and they decide they

have married the wrong person they are not to break up their marriage, but remain in the status quo and keep on taking in the Word of God.

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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