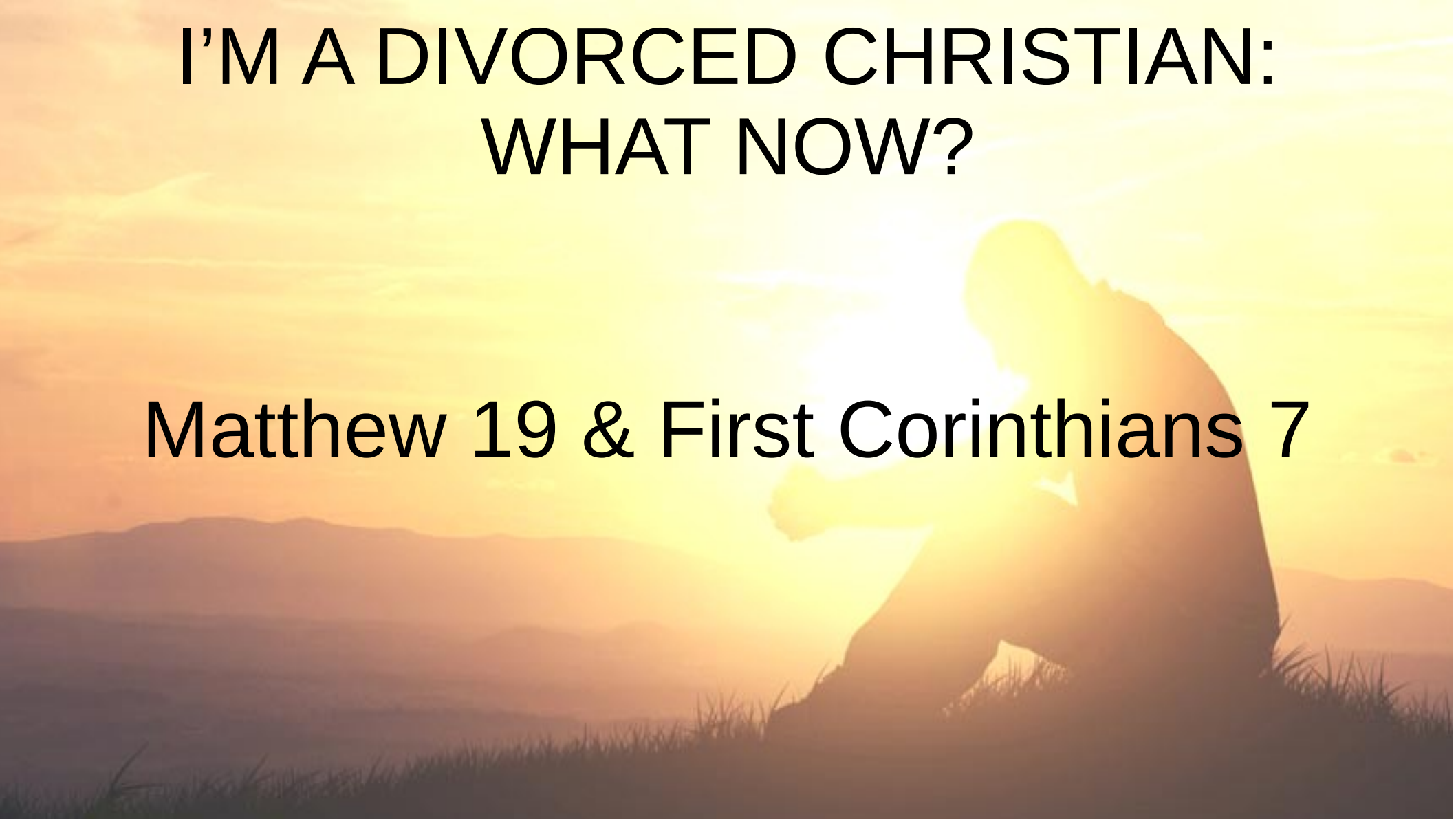


# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

Matthew 19 & First Corinthians 7



# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **This is such an important topic.**
- **It is also a touchy subject.**
- **There are a few things that I want to set straight from the get go:**
  - **# 1- Although, God hates divorce, he does not hate the divorcee.**
    - **It is important for us to remember that God hates many things.- Proverbs 6:16-19**

# **I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?**

- He is just as disappointed and hurt when we give into any sin.**
- He hates it when I am guilty of gossip or when I have impure thoughts. He hates unkindness and selfishness.**
- But for whatever reason some people judge divorce as a weightier sin.**

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **#2-That a divorced person is not demoted to secondary Christian status.**
  - **For people to think that way is NONSENSE!!!!**
  - **Frustrations that divorced people have expressed when it comes to their church family:**
    - **I just feel so guilty and ashamed.**
    - **I am caught between looks of pity and accusation.**

# **I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?**

- Where do I fit? It is awkward with the singles now but it is equally awkward being the third wheel with my married friends.**
- Where do I find time?**
- Church, we have got to do a better job of helping these Christians through this horrible, hurtful, and for many of them humiliating experience.**



# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **Where do I stand?**
  - **1. I have been unfaithful which led to the divorce. Remain unmarried or reconcile (Matt. 19:9).**
  - **2. My spouse was unfaithful which led to the divorce. Reconcile, remarry, or remain unmarried (Matt. 19:9).**
  - **3. My spouse and I divorced for irreconcilable differences. (incompatible, personality, financial issues)-Stay unmarried or reconcile (I Cor. 7:10-11).**

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **Where do I stand?**
  - **4. My spouse and I divorced because of abuse (physical, verbal, substance).**
  - **5. My spouse and I divorced because of some type of illness (physical or mental).**
  - **6. My spouse and I divorced because of some family tragedy.**
- **Each of these are the same as #3. (I Cor. 7:10-11)**

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **Where do I stand?**
  - **What about I Cor. 7:12-16 and an unbelieving spouse? Interpret in light of Matt. 19:9 and vs 16.**
  - **I realize that people will say, that you are being judgmental, insensitive and completely detached.**
  - **I can truly say that I don't always understand God's reasons or decisions. That doesn't mean I can teach against them or replace them.**



# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **What should I remember?**
  - **That when interpreting these passages, there can be no contradictions. The Holy Spirit is not confused!!**
  - **What he guided Matthew to write from Jesus and what he guided Paul to write in his epistles will complement and supplement but never contradict.**

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **What should I remember?**
  - **We live in a fallen world and not everything in our life will be fair.**
    - **People will say, “It’s not fair that I can’t have a relationship like everyone else.”**
    - **There are times when we will have to make sacrifices and experience unwanted circumstances. Think of Christ and Paul.**
    - **This may be the cross that you have to carry.**

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **What should I remember?**
  - **Don't let sexuality and physical relationships become your idol.**
  - **We've done that in America. The liberation of sexuality in all its forms has become the focus of American democracy.**
  - **Sex, the one thing that we can't live without, and shouldn't have to. Therefore, we must devise a way so that everyone can. That's not scriptural.**

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **What should I remember?**
  - I can't do it. In other words, "God, you are not enough."
  - But, that is not the case. It can be done!! Listen to Christ and Paul again:
    - Matt. 19:10-12
    - I Cor. 7:10-12
    - They wouldn't say it if it weren't possible.

# I'M A DIVORCED CHRISTIAN: WHAT NOW?

- **What should I do?**
  - **POUR YOURSELF INTO THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM.- Matt. 19:12**
  - **FOCUS ON YOUR FAMILY.- I Cor. 7:13-16**
  - **WORK ON BEING HOLY IN BODY AND SPIRIT.**
    - **I Cor. 7:32-34**
  - **GIVE YOUR UNDIVIDED DEVOTION TO THE LORD.**
    - **I Cor. 7:35**