

Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage

Lesson #5

Review

- Lesson #1
 - Outlined 3 major **objectives** for this study.
 - Gave 3 reasons for why this **study** is so important.
 - Discussed both the **wrong way** and the **right way** to settle issues on divorce and remarriage.
- Lesson #2
 - Read all the **passages** that seem to have the most bearing on the subjects of marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

Review

- Lesson #3
 - We covered objective #1—to see both marriage and divorce through the eyes of God.
 - We also dealt with objective #2 by answering the question, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” (Matthew 19:3).
 - The answer was a resounding NO!
 - Jesus gives one cause for divorce, and that’s adultery.

Review

- In Lesson #4
 - While the first two objectives were still in play...
 - We focused primarily on objective #3—to answer the question, who can marry again lawfully, or with God’s approval?
 - To answer that question we visually illustrated the teaching of Jesus from these passages: Romans 7:1-4; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-15.
- So who can marry again with God’s approval?
 - One whose spouse has died, **and** one who divorces his/her spouse because of fornication.

In This Lesson (#5)

- We need to consider some teachings on this subject that **conflict** with the teaching of Jesus.
- This one appeared on most people's radar back in 1990 when brother Homer Hailey wrote a book entitled, "The Divorced and Remarried Who Would Come to God."
- According to him, God's law on marriage, the very law we've been discussing in previous lessons, applies only to Christians; it applies only to those who have agreed to accept the terms of the New Covenant.

Hailey's Explanation

- “A covenant and the laws of the covenant are bound only on those who under the covenant” (*The Divorced and Remarried Who Would Come to God*,” p. 24).
- “The part of the new covenant law which is addressed to the alien is that by which he obtains remission of sins and is translated into His kingdom” (p. 52).

So how do people become sinners?

- They are subject to what Hailey calls “a universal moral law.”
- “This was the law transgressed by the Israelites before Sinai, and the law under which all the unregenerate (unsaved—BG) people live and transgress today” (p. 46).
- Romans 1:20.
- “The people of the world are under a system of law other than Christ’s new covenant. They are under the universal moral law of God, and the violation of this law makes one a sinner” (p. 37).

What about Acts 24:24-25?

- “When Paul appeared before Felix and Drusilla ‘he reasoned of righteousness [the righteousness set forth in the gospel], and self-control, and the judgment to come’ (Acts 24:25), thus in preaching the gospel he preached the judgment; but this is not to say that those of the world would be judged by the gospel, though they would be judged by their attitude toward it” (p. 29).

How does this impact divorce and remarriage?

- Specific restrictions on divorce and remarriage in passages like Matthew 19 are never directed to the sinner (the person apart from Christ).
- Therefore, when a person becomes a Christian, no matter how many times they've divorced and remarried, they can stay with their present companion.
- At this point the person is subject to Christ's teaching and must remain with his/her companion, unless his/her companion commits adultery.

Two Questions to Answer

- Did Christ direct his teaching on divorce and remarriage to **all men**?
- More generally, did Christ direct the teaching of the new covenant (or testament) to **all men**?

Teaching on Divorce and Remarriage

- Read carefully through Matthew 19:3-10.
 - Please note the references to “man,” the fact that Jesus points us back to the beginning (to creation), and to the use of “whoever.”

His Teaching in General

- John 8:28, 26.
- John 12:47-50.
- John 16:7-8, 12-15.
- 1 Timothy 1:8-11.
- Jesus is not just the Head of the church; He is Lord and King of all. His will extends to all men.
 - John 17:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20.

Conclusion

- If one who desires to become a Christian is in an unlawful marriage, one that constitutes adultery, we must urge them to repent.
- And that most certainly will involve them dissolving this unlawful marriage.
- That's what their Lord and King and Savior says, and if they love Him and want to please Him, that's exactly what they'll do.