

# Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage

## Lesson #6

# Question:

Can an unlawful divorce and remarriage be made acceptable?

# The Position Some Take

- One may sin by divorcing his/her spouse and marrying another, but if this same person is baptized into Christ (cleansed, forgiven), he/she can continue in this relationship (one that Jesus calls adultery).
- **Different** from position discussed in lesson 5, that a non-Christian is not subject to Christ's teaching on divorce and remarriage.

# Different Ways This is Argued

- If God requires people in an adulterous marriage to separate, it means He is unwilling to forgive adultery.
- “Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called” (1 Corinthians 7:20).
- The second marriage is not a sinful state; only the acts of divorce and remarriage were sinful.
  - It was wrong to steal that car, but it’s okay to possess it and drive it. Just make sure that while you drive it you repent of stealing it.

# Biblical Answers to this Position

- What about this business of remaining in the same calling?
  - 1 Corinthians 7:17–20.
  - Yes, stay where you are, IF it allows you to keep the commandments of God (v. 19).
  - Slave or free, Jew or Gentile, married or unmarried—one can serve God acceptably in all these situations.
  - But not in adultery. Mark 6:17–18.

# Biblical Answers to this Position

- Does repentance require everyone EXCEPT the adulterer to stop his sinful activities?
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
  - Could one continue in a homosexual relationship, continue getting drunk, continue stealing, etc.?
  - What about someone who's committing adultery without the legal sanction of marriage?
  - What of a Christian who seeks forgiveness? Can he/she continue in adultery?

# Biblical Answers to this Position

- God is ready and willing to forgive those who are baptized into Christ, but only those who repent.
  - Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:19–20.
  - 2 Corinthians 7:9–11 (regret AND reform)
  - If you have divorced unlawfully, seek to be reconciled (1 Corinthians 7:10–11).
  - Can't keep what is not lawfully yours (Mark 6:17–18).
  - Unlawful marriages ending in separation is not without Biblical precedent (Ezra 10:3).

# Final Objection

- “Why don’t we just go ahead and baptize them, and let God sort it out in the end?”
  - Ezekiel 3:18–19.