



Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage



I. Why Study MDR?

1. Evil influences on young people

Society

Peers

Family

2. Unmarried people must be reminded to choose with care; agree on basics
3. Married people often look for way out
4. Every marriage can improve



I. Why Study MDR?

II. What Did Jesus Say?

The issue is not: is divorce possible? (Mt.19:3)

- The debate: on what grounds?
- The desire: *testing Him*
- The danger:

Controversy among scholars

Contradiction of Scriptures

Condemnation by spiteful

1. Controversy among scholars

- **Shammai:** Cannot divorce wife unless he finds unchastity in her. . . (not necessarily adultery)
- **Hillel:** Trivial divorce
 - Spoils dish for him
 - Talks too loud
 - **Akiba:** even if he found another fairer than she

Josephus (a Pharisee)


- “I divorced my wife, being displeased at her behavior” (*Life*, 76)
- “He who desires to be divorced from the wife who is living with him for any cause whatsoever – and with mortals many such may arise...” (*Ant.* 4.8.23)



1. Controversy among scholars

2. Contradiction of scripture

- **If Jesus dismisses / denies Dt. 24, or condemns divorce, He will lose . . .**
 - **Many followers**
 - **Much credibility**

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1. Controversy among scholars
 2. Contradiction of scripture

3. Condemnation by spiteful

- Is it lawful?* → **Mt.14:4**
- Led to John's execution; perhaps...**

Jesus' reply (4)

- Appeals to Gn.1:27 – creation principle
 - *Have you not read...?*
 - *At the beginning...*
 - *Male and Female*: one has one.

“If it had been His will that he should put this one away and bring in another, when He had made one man, He would have formed many women” – Chrysostom

Jesus' reply (5)

- Appeals to Gn.2:24, creation ordinance
 - ***Leave*** father and mother
 - ***Joined*** to wife. Unity of soul: sympathy, interest, purpose
 - ***Two...become one flesh***

**No longer two singles
A married oneness**

Jesus' reply (6)

- ***So then...no longer*** what they were (two separate individuals)
- **Now bound in closest, most intimate relationship . . . *Therefore* . . .**
 - ***What*** (not *whom*)
 - ***God joined***: God-cemented unity
 - ***Let not man separate.***

Unnatural

Rebellion

But Moses said... (7)

- “Moses supported divorce”
- Actually: Moses limited its evils

Not
“command”
but
concession
(Mal.2:16)

Certificate:
Drawn up
Witnessed
Served
“made it ~~right~~”
legal

Jesus' final reply (8)

- ***Hardness*** = Israel rebelled against God
- ***Permitted*** (corrects *command*, v.7)
 - True command: Mt.14:4

**Sin can be so vile
that divorce is a
lesser of two evils**

Concerning Dt.24:1-4

**Without Dt.24, husband can divorce wife,
put her out...**

If she tries to remarry, “she’s my wife!”

A contrast

- 1**If you don't want your wife, divorce.
- 2**If you want a divorce, you must give her divorce notice...but think about it. Once she remarries, you can't get her back.

Back to the beginning (8)

He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning **it was not so.**

- 1. Divorce departed from God's original plan**
- 2. It '*has not been so*' continuously from the beginning to the present**

Jesus' final reply (9)

- “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”
- **Only one lawful divorce: *for fornication***

Mt.5:31-32
Wife's adultery

Mt.19:9
Husband's adultery

The disciples' dilemma (10-12)

- 10-11, *this saying*

Jesus' words:
**Do not apply
to eunuchs**

Disciples' words:
**Not all should
live as eunuchs**


- 12, three kinds of eunuchs



I. Why Study MDR?

II. What Did Jesus Say?

III. So What?

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1. Preachers still look for loopholes
 2. Unhappily married want a way out
 3. Marriage and family are basis of healthy society and church
 4. If family is wrong, nothing is right

To avoid MDR:

1 Respect Scripture

2 Healthy marriage

A healthy marriage requires . . .

- 1. Biblical foundation. Mt.19:9 – eligible?**
- 2. Vigilant selection. Mt.19:4-6**
- 3. Diligent preparation. Tit.2. Mature?**
- 4. Godly exertion. Ep.5**