

# Mandates to the Married

(1 Corinthians 7:15-16)

# Spiritual minds seek to save the lost

- Gal.6<sup>1</sup> Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- 1 Co.5<sup>5</sup> deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- 7<sup>16</sup> For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

I. Why are these issues so serious?

# Souls at stake...

- Jn.8<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- False doctrine leads to wrong practices.

# Stinking thinking abounds...

- School: we are animals
- Peers: every is doing 'it'
- Parents: TV, electronics, books, magazines ... much of it blasphemes; some tolerate it as entertainment
- Christians<sup>(?)</sup>: some add to problem, not solution

# Mt. 19

Perversions of scripture common in Lord's day

3: what a question . . . (4-6)

7: what a perversion . . .

8-9: Jesus found it necessary to . . .

- Refute their error
- Reply / replace with truth

10-12: pervasive perversions: even disciples are affected. Leads to fornication, immorality, frivolous divorce

## 2 Pt.3:16

Perversions lead to serious consequences –

1. Fornication.
2. Living together.
3. Frivolous divorce.

# Attitudes and actions show contempt for...

1. God's law. Mal.2:14-16
2. Personal responsibility. Ep.5:22ff.
3. Mate's destiny. Mt.5:32
4. Own destiny. Mt.5:32; 18:6-7; 19:9.
5. Lord's name. Ro.2:22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery?  
... 24 For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

## 2 Pt.3:16

Perversions lead to serious consequences –

1. Fornication.
2. Living together.
3. Frivolous divorce.
4. Adultery.

# Adultery

- Some consider adultery a one-time action – not a state in which one lives
- False inference: one can repent of the ‘act’ of adultery, then remain with spouse of his choice
- Contrast way the word was used –
  - Mt.12<sup>39</sup> An evil and **adulterous** generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
  - Ja.4<sup>4</sup> Adulterers and **adulteresses**! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

# Adultery

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- False inference: one can repent of the ‘act’ of adultery, then remain with spouse of his choice
- Contrast way the word was used –
  - 2 Pt.2<sup>14</sup> having eyes full of **adultery** and that cannot cease from sin...

# Adultery defined

- Bound to one, joined to another.
- Ro.7<sup>2</sup> For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. <sup>3</sup> So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an **adulteress**; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

# Adultery

- Statement of fact:
- Col.3<sup>5</sup> Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: **fornication**, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> **in which** you yourselves once **walked** when you **lived in them**

I. Why are these issues so serious?

**II.** What to do about mixed marriage  
with unwilling mate? (15-16)

12: unbeliever agrees to live with believer...

- 15: will NOT stay.

  - If unbeliever leaves, let him leave.

- If forced to choose between Lord and mate, choose Lord.

- If divorce is unavoidable (*mate insists on leaving*), there is no authority for either to marry another [*she did not put him away for fornication*, Mt. 19:9].

- Only way for innocent put away one to be married: 1. Reconcile, or 2. Death of spouse.

“The believer is not under bondage”

- This is not the different word ‘bound’ (in vv. 27, 39; Ro.7:2-3)
    - Believer is still bound by the marriage covenant even if s/he is deserted.
    - The word binds people whether the relationship remains or not (Ro.7).
    - Though all contact is broken with former mate, neither is free to remarry another; those who remarry are adulterers.
- [Vine, *bind*]

“The believer is not under bondage”

- This is the word ‘bondage’ (v.15)
- Bondage requires contact with the person that one is bound to...
  - Here, one is ‘not under bondage’
    - ESV: enslaved. [Vine, bondage]
- Def.: make a slave of; reduce to bondage (v.23: slaves) – “You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”

“The believer is not under bondage”

Bondage: eight times in NT. Short list –

- Ac.7:6 Israel in Egypt; bondage ceased at exodus.
- Ro.6:18, 22 became slaves of righteousness and of God.
- 1 Co.9:19 slave / servant to all – Paul accommodated himself to social / personal circumstances of people he tried to teach. Cf. Ro.1:14-15.

There were circumstances when  
Paul's bondage ceased –

- Ac.13:....44-46 (= Mt.10:1-15)
- 1 Co.7:15 – *not a slave* to unbelieving spouse who wants to leave.
  - Can't prevent divorce; still no authority for remarriage [v.11 still applies].
  - ESV: *not enslaved*
  - YLT: *not under servitude*

# “The believer is not under bondage”

- Perfect tense: present state resulting from past action – (cf. 2 Tim.1:12)
  - Believer was not in bondage (before the departure)...and not in bondage (after it)
  - But they were married.
  - Therefore the bondage here is not the marriage. [They were not in bondage as a slave.]

“The believer is not under bondage”

- “...in such cases”
  - Opposite of 12-13: this unbeliever leaves because of believing spouse’s faith.
  - Passage does not say the desertion gives a “Pauline privilege” to the believer to remarry another.

## Verse 16 –

- Subject: effort to save the unbeliever.
- Two possible views –
  1. To promote peace, accept the unbeliever's decision to leave.
    - Believer is not bound to renounce the faith for sake of the unbeliever – Bengel.
    - This would imply that the Corinthians wanted to save the marriage.

## Verse 16 –

- Subject: effort to save the unbeliever.
- Two possible views –
  1. To promote peace, accept the unbeliever's decision to leave.
  2. To promote peace, put up with the unbeliever in the hope that you can lead him to the Lord.
    - May imply a difficult marriage.

# Conclusion

- When divorce is not permitted, neither is remarriage (Ro.7:3).
  - “Christ’s law forbids putting away (1 Co.7:10ff) but does not forbid the one put away to accept dismissal” – Findlay.
- V. 11 – remain unmarried or be reconciled...
  - One who reaches a conclusion without proper biblical evidence leaves himself without a right to object to any position.
  - “I believe” often means “I want.”