

ask

ANYTHING

Divorce & Remarriage

November 15, 2020

Matthew 5:31-32; (ESV)

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 19:3-9

³And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” ⁴He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them

male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’ ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

INTRODUCTION

When would divorce be permissible? When is re-marriage acceptable?

Canadian societal view: divorce and remarriage are allowed anytime, for anybody, for anything.

Christian view #1: no divorce at all for anybody, not for any reason, or under any circumstance.

Christian view #2: divorce under certain circumstances is permissible but no remarriage is allowed.

Christian view #3: both divorce and remarriage are possible but only under certain circumstances.

First Century Jewish Views on Divorce

- Rabbi Shammai: divorce was only possible for adultery and divorce must take place when adultery occurs.
- Rabbi Hillel: divorce is permitted for even the slightest reason. The vast part of Jewish culture, and especially the Scribes and Pharisees followed this lenient view.

1. **We must take the permanence of marriage seriously because God created it to be an exclusive relationship that lasts a lifetime.**

Matthew 19:3-6

- God created marriage to be an exclusive relationship between a man and a woman.
- God created marriage to be a permanent relationship.

2. We must take the permanence of marriage seriously because even the grounds for divorce are a concession, not a command.

Matthew 19:7

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

Why did God give this law?

1. God gave this law to protect the dignity of women.
2. God gave this law to regulate a chaotic situation, not to endorse divorce.

Matthew 19:8

3. We must take the permanence of marriage seriously because, aside from the biblical exceptions, remarriage after divorce results in adultery.

Matthew 5:31-32

Three words of grace

1. to those who have been divorced because their spouse was sexually immoral.
2. to those who have been divorced, but not on biblical grounds and who have not remarried.
3. to those who have been divorced, but it was not on biblical grounds and who have remarried.

Two words of challenge

Challenge #1: the Church must receive divorced people with grace and truth.

Challenge #2: no matter the state of your marriage, pursue greater faithfulness with your spouse.