

The Spartan Sower

The sower soweth the word... Mark 4:14



January 8th, 2006 (Vol. 6)

MARITAL MAYHEM

How many positions exist on marriage, divorce and remarriage? As the Lord said through Jeremiah 2:28, "According to the number of the cities are thy gods, O Judah"; we can pretty much say the same today. According to the number of preachers, there are different doctrines. For example:

- 1) The put away fornicator can marry a new mate (Bob Melear, Jack Freeman, Lowell Williams). But Jesus said: "...and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (Mt. 19:9b).
- 2) When the unbeliever divorces a believer, when there has been no fornication, the believer may get a new mate (James D. Bales, Jerry & Don Bassett). But Jesus said: "...and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (Mt. 19:9b).
- 3) Matthew 19:9 is "kingdom law" and applies only to Christians (E. C. Fuqua, Homer Hailey). But Jesus appealed to Genesis 2:24 - God's original creation, as the pattern for all mankind. He did not limit his law to just Christians (Matt. 19:6).
- 4) Others say that baptism sanctifies an adulterous marriage (Roy Hall, J. L. Dabney). If so, then what other sins are sanctified in baptism? Can money stolen from a bank be sanctified by baptism? Can homosexuality be sanctified? Such an idea destroys the concepts of sin and of repentance.
- 5) Some redefine adultery as a non-sexual covenant breaking (Olan Hicks, Jim Puterbaugh). In other words, "adultery" occurs only when you sign the divorce papers, have a new marriage ceremony, or both. These deny that it involves the sexual relationship. Thus, when you sign the paper and remarry, you committed adultery, but can now "repent" of that and must stay with the one you are

with... you wouldn't want to commit "adultery" again by divorcing again... But the word of God says that both putting away and remarrying are wrong (when you do not have scriptural cause Matt. 19:9) AND that **sexual** relationship with this new marriage partner is adultery. This is clear from Heb. 13:4 which refers to the marriage "bed".

6) The next one lets just call "the anytime cause" for divorce. This idea is that "Whenever adultery occurs" you can claim cause and put away your mate. The rub comes when they apply this to people who are *no longer married!* If the man puts away his wife, and no fornication took place, Matthew 19:9 says that neither have the right to marry another. "But," say some overly wise brethren, "if that man 10 years later remarries and commits adultery, she can now claim cause and put him away! Then she can marry another!"

But what is "cause" (Mt. 19:3, 5, 10)? Strong's 156 says: "FROM THE SAME AS 154; A CAUSE (AS IF ASKED FOR), I.E. (LOGICAL) REASON (MOTIVE, MATTER), (LEGAL) CRIME (ALLEGED OR PROVED):--ACCUSATION, CASE, CAUSE, CRIME, FAULT, (WH-)ERE(-FORE)." Notice, the cause, reason, case, crime or fault must be fornication. **If fornication has not happened**, how can it be the cause, case, fault or crime that brought about "putting away"? And, how is it that what happens AFTER the man puts away his wife becomes the "cause"?

Also what does the word "for" mean in "for fornication" (Matt. 19:9)? It means this: "A primary preposition; properly, meaning **superimposition** (of **time, place, order**, etc.)..." This word **imposes a timeframe and an order** to the events. Fornication **MUST** be the reason, cause for the putting away. If it is not, then **when** (*Note: Here is the timeframe imposed by the word "for"*) putting away occurs without cause present, it is NOT in harmony with Jesus' word and the exception would NOT be granted! So as brethren try to claim "cause" (and thereby the exception) AFTER a divorce has already occurred NOT for fornication - it is not to be believed. Who does this? Bill Reeves and Tim Haile.

There are many more theories out there. Some include additional "reasons" for divorce other than adultery. All of them are logically explained, and many appeal to emotions (for example: Can the abused wife divorce her evil husband to get legal protection?). And then after a divorce without cause, they work it out somehow to allow marriage to another. That is the bottom line, the common denominator. All these ideas seek to justify marriage to another after UNSCRIPTURAL divorce.

It seems that man thinks he knows better than God. It seems that many of our brethren think God surely meant to include this, that, or the other... and so they squeeze it in.

And anytime someone seeks to justify such a new doctrine – they begin spinning off other new doctrines to bolster the first one. Such as those who now justify (in principle) civil disobedience in matters of JUDGMENT. They say that man can disobey/ignore civil law regarding divorce & remarriage when it infringes upon the liberties God has granted for marriage & divorce & remarriage. But the only time we see civil disobedience authorized in the Bible is when the civil authorities require us to do something sinful (cf. Acts 4-5). In all other cases we are urged by God's word to submit to all the laws of man for the Lord's sake (1 Pet. 2:13).

Now considering all the mayhem created by men just on MDR, aren't you glad God revealed His word in writing so that you can read it for yourself and test all

- **Debate on Security of Believer** - Sparta Civic Center on March 24-25, 2006.

Pray For

Mag Bumbalough, Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Thelma Cunningham, Marci Miller (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Roger Kline, John Ross Key** (Mary Cox's son), **Ed Williams, Dorris Williams, Holly Jernigan** (Joyce Gardner's niece has cancer); **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Gail Sims, Nancy Lee** (Kathy Tenpenney's daughter-in-law), **Greg Capps, Kenny Streeval**.

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher's brother), **Cary Matheny**.

NOTES:

North Sparta church of Christ

359 North Spring St.
Sparta, Tennessee 38583
(931) 836-3321

*Place
Stamp
Here*

We Welcome You To All Our Services!

Sun. Bible Study 9 am

Sun. Morning Worship 10 am

Sun. Evening Worship 6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7pm

Speaking As The Oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11)

things (Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:20)?

God's word is not so complicated as men make it out to be. The one who puts away and the one who is put away are both addressed. And the sole cause for remarriage clearly given.

“AND I SAY UNTO YOU, WHOSOEVER SHALL PUT AWAY HIS WIFE, **EXCEPT IT BE FOR FORNICATION**, AND SHALL MARRY ANOTHER, COMMITTETH ADULTERY: **AND WHOSO MARRIETH HER WHICH IS PUT AWAY** DOTH COMMIT ADULTERY.” (MATT. 19:9)

Things To Remember

- **Men's Class / Ladies Class** - Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 2005 @ 7 pm.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun., Jan. 8th @ 5 pm.
- **Home Bible Study** - Jan. 21st