



Sept. 17, 2006 (Vol. 6)

## God Hates Divorce

"I'm getting a divorce, but I don't plan to marry again" These words are being heard with increasing frequency. Usually the spokesman is thinking that God allows the right to divorce, but would disapprove remarriage. The truth is, however; Divorce itself is sinful unless it is for the cause of fornication.

- Consider Matthew 19:3-6. The question originally asked Jesus by the Pharisees was not concerning remarriage, but concerning divorce: "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus' reply to that question: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." It was only after further questioning that Jesus discussed the problem of remarriage and adultery.
- Consider Malachi 2:16. "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away." Even under the old covenant God did not approve of indiscriminate divorce. It is likely that the "tears" of verse 12 which "covered the altar" and caused the Lord to refuse their offering, were the tears of those who had been wrongfully put away.
- Consider Matthew 5:32. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery." Observe the words, "causeth her" or "maketh her" (ASV). This writer understands this verse to say that if one divorces his wife he places her in a position of temptation to commit adultery, and shares the guilt when she does commit adultery. On the other hand, if he puts her away for the cause of fornication, he has put her away legitimately, and shares no guilt in whatever adultery she may subsequently commit.

- Consider 1 Corinthians 7:10: "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband." Observe the word "command" or "charge" (ASV). The following verse (verse 11) does not negate or nullify this command, but simply recognizes that one might disobey the Lord's command (in which case he sins - 1 John 3:4), and states his options if he has disobeyed. Not only does the Lord command husband and wife to live together, but he commands them to meet one another's physical needs (1 Corinthians 7:3-5) and to love one another (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4-5)

If one companion in a marriage fails along these lines, the other must still be obedient to God, seeking to be what He would have him or her to be in the marriage relationship. Never should the thought of divorce or separation ever enter the mind unless fornication occurs. We are not suggesting that divorce itself is "adultery," but we are saying that **divorce for any cause other than fornication is sin**. Christians must not be influenced by the loose standards that prevail in the world in which they live.

- BH

A snippet from

### "Exposing Bill Reeves' Error"

By Jeff Belknap

Since it is impossible for a put away (unmarried) person to put asunder what is already separated, put away people enter into *adulterous* remarriages when they marry *another* while their bound mate lives (regardless of post-divorce sin). MARRIAGE is two becoming one flesh, DIVORCE is one flesh becoming two, and REMARRIAGE is two becoming one flesh (MDR). Hence, after a divorce (approved or not) there is NOT a marriage partner to "put away" (Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 15).

Dear reader:

- 1) If JESUS condemned as *adultery* the remarriage of the "innocent" put away person to *another* while their bound mate lives, and never spoke of or authorized any exemption to that decree [even when their living man/woman commits adultery *after the fact* of divorcing them (see Matthew 19:9a; Mark 10:11-12 and Luke 16:18a)],

2) And if THE APOSTLES never spoke of or authorized any exception to that pronouncement for the "innocent" *put away* person whose obligated mate commits post-divorce fornication,

3) Then it is inescapable that the "exception" that brother Reeves (and others) are advancing (adding) for innocent put away people whose bound mates subsequently commit fornication is from man and *not* from God.

To arrive at the "post-divorce 'putting away' for post-divorce fornication – and remarriage to *another*" doctrine, one MUST:

1) Accept, with NO biblical affirmation, that Jesus acknowledges a *distinction* between "innocent" put away people whose bound mates later commit fornication from those whose bound mates remain celibate,

2) Accept, with NO biblical affirmation, that a *post-divorce* "putting away" procedure (which the Bible knows nothing of) is capable of separating MORE THAN the "one flesh" relationship (which had already been sundered), and

3) Accept, with NO biblical affirmation, that the one who employs a post-divorce (mental) "putting away" procedure (and then tells people about it) is authorized to *remarry another* while their obligated mate lives, *contrary* to the unqualified statements made in Matthew 5:32b; 19:9b; Luke 16:18b. Cf. Romans 7:2-3.

Obviously, those who advocate post-divorce "putting away" must build upon a distinction (that is not found in God's word) between "innocent"

put away people for their doctrine to work. Let us recognize it for exactly what it is – a manmade invention. Therefore, this doctrine is nothing but a false hope for the "innocent" put away person! The entire theory of a possible *second* "putting away" for post-divorce fornication is a house of cards built upon nothing but a foundation of sand (Matthew 7:26-27).

(<http://www.mentaldivorce.com/mdrstudies/ExposingBillReevesError.htm>)

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Men's & Ladies Classes** - Every 2nd Sun. @ 5pm.
- **Door to Door** - Every Tuesday @ 6pm.
- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., Sept. 2, 16 & 30.
- **Business Meeting** – Sun. Sept. 24 @ 5pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.
- **GM in Knoxville** - Doug Hill, Nov. 17-19, 2006.
- **GM** - Jeff Smith, April 15-20, 2007.
- **GM** - R. McPherson, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - TBA April 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

## PRAY FOR

**Mag Bumbalough, Thelma Cunningham, Holly Jernigan** (Joyce Gardner's niece), **Mary Cox, John Ross Key** (Mary Cox's son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Misty Poteet, Rose Taylor, Dorris Williams, Horace Jones** (Doris William's brother), **Ocia Bell Jones** (Doris William's mother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Robert England, Pauline Hickey, Nanny Wtaker, Dylan Roberts** (grandson of Marilyn's friend), **Johanna Fletcher, Ed Williams, Debbie Gibbs** (relative of Thelma Klein), **Joe Smith** (cancer), **Barbara Poe** (liver cancer), **Jachie Tindle & Ann Hasty** (Both have cancer, relatives of Jo Miller & the Sims), **Quannie Garrett** (Lynn Regan's mother).

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