

August 25th – Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

“Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.” (1 Cor. 7:10-11)

These days, even in the church, there seems to be much confusion about marriage, divorce, and remarriage. The Bible is very clear that marriage was created by God Himself: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Jesus quoted these foundational words when he issued his own teaching on marriage. Jesus said, “So then, they (husband and wife) are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matt. 19:6). Many marriage vows include the phrase, “til death do us part.” Those words were taken directly from the words of Jesus. When a man and a woman marry, it is God’s will for them to remain together until one or both die.

That said, the Bible does grant two allowances for divorce. One is adultery (Matt. 5:32, 19:9) and the other is abandonment (1 Cor. 7:15). A person is not forced to divorce for these reasons. In fact, the Bible says that God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16) and wants us to seek reconciliation when possible (1 Cor. 7:15). Though God hates divorce, He does NOT hate divorced people. He died to save them just as He died to save everyone else.

While the Bible grants two allowances for divorce, even an “admissible” divorce doesn’t guarantee remarriage. Today’s verses show us there are two options once a divorce has taken place: remaining single or reconciling with the former spouse. The only exception to this would be the death of the former spouse: “A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives, but if her husband dies she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord” (1 Cor. 7:39).

Are you married? Be faithful to your spouse til death do you part! Are you divorced? Be reconciled to your former spouse or use your singleness for God’s glory! Never been married? Wait patiently for a spouse that loves the Lord and continue to use your singleness for Him!