

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 9-10-25
Matthew Chapter 19 Part 8
Marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We finished the second part of Paul's opening answer about singleness and marriage.
 - a) Verse 6 - Paul is seeking to avoid any confusion.
 - b) Verse 7 – every person has their “proper gift of God.”
 - c) Verses 8-9 - consider singleness, but if you cannot contain, then marry.
- 2) Paul in speaking to believers identified God's desire concerning marriage.
 - a) Verse 10 – General rule – do not divorce.
 - b) Verse 11 – remain unmarried and seek reconciliation.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Paul begins to address the second group.

2. Paul addresses the second group. I Cor. 7:12-16

a. Verse 12 –

- 1) Just to be clear – Paul is speaking of a believer who is married to an unbeliever.
- 2) “to the rest speak I, not the Lord.” – Jesus did not speak to this specific situation.
- 3) The gospel is going forth, people are being saved, and lives are being changed –
 - a) What should the believer do?
- 4) A question arises in the believer's mind.
 - a) Are they unequally yoked?
 - b) What should they do?

b. Verse 13 –

- 1) This principle applies regardless of whether the believer is the husband or the wife.
 - a) Why should they not divorce?

c. Verse 14 –

- 1) Listen to the Amplified version of verse 14.
- 2) “sanctified” – speaks of being consecrated, made holy. Made acceptable to God.
 - a) The unbelieving spouse is near to God because of their union with the believing spouse.
 - b) “your children unclean” – children of people who do not worship the true God.
 - c) “but now are they holy” – The influence of the believing parent sets them apart –
- 3) This verse shows the potential influence the believing spouse can have.
- 4) This is a unique situation.
 - a) As we arrive at verse 15, we reach a point of decision.

d. Verse 15 –

- 1) The unbeliever reaches a point where they say they have had enough.
- 2) “But if the unbelieving depart, let them depart” –
 - a) What is the hope here?
 - b) All divorces stem from sin, but not all divorces are sinful.
 - c) What do we learn here?

- 3) "a brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases."
 - a) "is not under bondage" – not enslaved.
 - b) What happened here? The bonds of marriage have been removed.
 - c) What about reconciliation in this situation?
 - d) "but God hath called us to peace."

e. Some additional thoughts here:

- 1) One of the hardest circumstances you could come against in this context would be an unbelieving husband and a believing wife. Why?
 - a) Consider some of the struggles this creates...
- 2) Sometimes in this scenario the question is asked about separation. Is it biblical?
 - a) Separation can be warranted if –
 - b) Separation can also be dangerous –
- 3) Why did Paul use the phrase, "in such cases"?

f. Verse 16 –

- 1) Believer, remain with them for there is hope that if the unbeliever will stay, they will respond to the Gospel.
 - a) This could be a very challenging time for the believer.

3. Why did Paul use this example?

- a. This might blow your mind.
 - 1) This is simply my perspective here.
 - a) The best teaching comes from our life.
 - 2) I believe it is highly probably that Paul was married at one time.
 - 3) Philippians 3:5-6 –
 - a) How did Paul describe himself?
 - b) According to the Talmud – "Any unmarried man may not be a teacher." Kiddushin 29b
 - 4) Other things to consider.

4. Tonight's Take Away:

- a. Keep in mind our goal -