

“Marriages That Help People Go To Hell” (I)

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Text: Matthew 19:9

**Theme: Divorce and remarriage: a study of
Matthew 19.**

Introduction:

1. Whom we marry will have a tremendous impact upon where we will spend eternity.
 - a. The issue of lawfulness. Do we have a scriptural right to be married, and to the person we want to marry?
 - b. The issue of influence.
 - 1) If the person we marry has a tremendous love for the Lord, his word and his church, it stands to reason that we will have a greater likelihood of being faithful and ultimately entering into heaven.
 - 2) But, if the person is not a Christian, particularly if antagonistic to spiritual values, or, if a Christian, but unfaithful to the Lord, his word and his church, it stands to reason that we will have a greater likelihood of being unfaithful and ultimately not going to heaven.
2. Hell is certainly a terrible place, especially as contrasted with heaven.
 - a. But it is a fact, some will go there- Matthew 25:41,46.
 - b. Revelation 21:8.
3. Eternity is simply too long to end up in hell.

4. But some will undoubtedly go there because of their marital relationships.
 - a. Syllogism:
 - 1) Major: God has laws on marriage, divorce and remarriage which can be transgressed- e.g., Matthew 19:9.
 - 2) Minor: Sin is a transgression of God's laws - I John 3:4.
 - 3) Conclusion: It is possible to sin as regards God's teachings on marriage.
 - b. Syllogism:
 - 1) Major: Sin, if not repented of, brings spiritual death, i.e. eternity in hell Romans 6:23; Luke 13:3; Matthew 25:46.
 - 2) Minor: People can sin as regards God's teachings on marriage, divorce and remarriage - above syllogism.
 - 3) Conclusion: People can so sin as regards God's teachings on marriage, divorce and remarriage as to end up in hell if the sin is not repented of.
4. These syllogisms establish the importance of the discussion.
 - a. A lot of folks, who disregard the Biblical teachings on the subject, have contracted sinful relationships.
 - b. And it gets to be very emotional because so many families have been affected.
 - c. The cure is to teach people about this before they marry and command that they obey the will of the Lord.
 - d. Will be considering mainly two passages Matthew 19 (this lesson) and I Corinthians 7 (a lesson to follow).

Discussion:

- I. What Christ said Matthew 19:1-12 (context: Jesus has been going about preaching "the gospel of the kingdom.")
 - A. The temptation - v.1-3.
 1. Can a person divorce for every cause?
 2. Moses allowed it (at least in their distorted view of Deuteronomy 24).

3. Apparently, they had already heard Jesus' teaching on the subject - Matthew 5:31,32 (cf. Mark 10:11,12; Luke 16:18 - the same is said for the woman though the exceptive clause is not included).
- B. Jesus' response.
1. Went beyond Moses on back to the beginning - vv.4,5.
 - a. This was never God's intention.
 - b. But, by allowing them to have their folly, they could hopefully see the pitifulness of what they desired.
 - c. We also see it today – all the heartache and misery that is associated with failed marriages and divorces and remarriages.
 - 1) The circuses of days gone by use to have their “freak shows” (physically deformed).
 - 2) Today, we see the spiritual “freak shows” (like Maury Povich and Rikki Lake), people spiritually deformed.
 2. What God joins together, one is not to put asunder - v.6.
 - a. There is a tremendous contrast between what Christ is teaching and what they are wanting to uphold.
 - 1) The great joy of marriage that God intends for the human race.
 - 2) As compared to free divorce and remarriage with all its heartaches and miseries, as these Pharisees are wanting to cling to.
 - b. Except for fornication - v.9.
 - c. Divorce and remarriage on some other grounds constitutes adultery.
- C. What do we understand the Lord to say?
1. There is a permanence in marriage - v.6.
 - a. Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:39.
 - b. In answer to divorce.
 - c. True from the beginning.

2. Divorce and remarriage for reasons other than fornication constitutes adultery - v.9; Romans 7:3.

- a. Marriage is bound for life.
- b. A remarriage is an adulterous relationship.
- c. So what should people do about it?
 - 1) What do we tell people who are living together who have never been married?
 - 2) Adultery simply cannot be tolerated - I Corinthians 7:9-11.

D. But some find it very hard to accept, Matthew 23:12.

1. They are neither the first nor the last who find the teachings of the Lord difficult.
2. See John 8:60-66ff.
 - a. They found the Lord's teachings hard to bear and walked with him no more.
 - b. Many today follow the example of these deserters.

II. Objections: many try to get around this teaching.

A. Baptism will forgive the sin.

1. I Corinthians 7:20.
2. Answer: Yes, baptism forgives sin but it does not redefine it.
 - a. One cannot continue in a relationship which is wrong in and of itself (e.g. homosexual marriages). [Opt. File GF-19 for pictures and articles on this point].
 - b. Surely the marriages that are to be continued here are those "whom God has joined together."
 - 1) Matthew 19:6.
 - 2) Otherwise, are we also to think that homosexual marriages can continue (as in those countries and states that allow that)?

B. The passage applies to Christians only.

1. James 4:17 ; I Corinthians 7:15.
2. Answer: James 4:17 is taken out of context (quit preaching if so). God's law on marriage has been *from the beginning*.

3. Marriage is not a “Christian institution”
 - a. Cannot non-Christians divorce on the grounds of fornication?
 - b. Other questions:
 - 1) Are people unmarried (though supposedly married) before becoming Christians?
 - 2) Suppose only one mate is a Christian, can one live in adultery and the other not?
 - 3) If his teachings on divorce and remarriage only apply to the Christian, why not his statements about marriage? Verse 9 is but a commentary on verse 6.
4. Alien sinners are amenable to the laws of God - **I**Corinthians**7**:9-11; Romans**7**:23.
 - a. The only law of God in the world today is the law and demands of Christ.
 - b. The Moses allowance was for the Jews and that law is no longer.
- C. Just the legal steps of divorcing and remarrying are what constitute adultery, not the continuing relationship
 1. Under this view, people repent by stopping divorcing and remarrying.
 2. Sex not necessarily involved.
 3. Answer: Biblically, people marry for sex (one reason). To marry without sex in mind is a distortion. So sex is implied.
 - a. **I**Corinthians**7**:1-5.
 - b. The word “Adultery” itself implies sexual activity.
 - c. The sexual activity of the remarriage is what makes it constitute adultery.
 - d. [Opt. - comment on supposed mistranslation of the middle voice in the original - see book by Edwards]
- D. Can’t “live” in adultery - this is an act-
 1. Briefly discuss linear aspect of “moichatai.”
 2. Colossians**3**:5-7.
 3. Compare with the spiritual adultery of Jews and even folks today.

4. The adultery of Matthew 19:9 is the entire remarried relationship and not just the legal steps of divorce and remarriage.
 - a. There is the ongoing anticipation of sexual activity within the marriage.
 - b. It is in that sense that people “live” in adultery (cf. with the idolatry of the Jews).

Conclusion:

1. We must observe what God has said regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage.
2. It will play a great role in determining where we will spend eternity.
3. Must surely get out of those situations that God does not approve of.
 - a. IISamuelI8:27; 25:44; IISamuelII3:13-16.
 - b. EzraII0 (even when children are involved).
 - c. MarkII:18.
4. Can't answer all the questions regarding every scenario.
 - a. But we must avoid chaos in the church about it.
 - b. One important thing to do is to accept people's word on what they contend their situation is.
5. Yes, many will find it difficult to accept what the Lord has said.
 - a. But we know that his teachings are for our good, JohnII:63.
 - b. Marriage, as God intends it, is of such value to the human race that it makes very good sense that God would protect it with strict teachings – for our benefit.

Invitation: