



“Divorce and Remarriage – Part 2”

Matthew 5:31-32

02-12-2012

→ Warm up...

1. How did you spend your Super Bowl Sunday?
2. Into which lake did Jesus tell His disciples to throw their net on the right side of the boat?

→ Introduction... Last week we covered some questions regarding divorce and remarriage. This week we will again cover some of the same topics and see if our answers have changed after looking deeper into God’s Word.

→ Explore it... Read Matt 5:31-32

1. What is God’s view of marriage and what is our response to His view, especially in difficult marriages? See 1 Peter 3:1-7, Eph 5:22-30.
2. Even when adultery has been committed, what overriding principle should Christians apply to the situation?
 - a. 2 Cor 5:9
 - b. 2 Tim 2:15
 - c. Matt 6:14-15
 - d. Luke 17:3-5
3. Discuss what should be done in the following situations. Assume both are Christians unless otherwise stated.
 - a. My spouse is making life miserable for me. I resolve not to remarry. Is it OK to divorce him/her and get some relief? Is the answer different if your spouse is not a Christian? See 1 Corinthians 7:10-16.
 - b. Is a legal separation Ok rather than getting a divorce?
 - c. My spouse would not reconcile and divorced me. No adultery has been committed by either of us. (Provide biblical references for your answers.)
 - i. Have I sinned?
 - ii. When am I free to remarry?

- iii. I'm the one who initiated the divorce; what should I do?
- iv. How might the answers change if the spouse who left was not a Christian?
- d. My spouse committed adultery and we couldn't reconcile, ending in divorce. Am I free to remarry?
- e. What if I'm divorced and remarried unbiblically – should I divorce my current spouse?
 - i. Does Ezra 9:10-15, 10:3-5 apply? Explain why or why not.
 - ii. Does Deut 24:1-4 apply? Explain why or why not.
- 4. What can I do to remain in a marriage that dysfunctional (see question 3.a)?
 - a. Rom 8:28-29
 - b. 1 Peter 1:6-7
 - c. Prov 3:5-6
 - d. What else?
- 5. I don't care what the Bible says, I want out of this marriage and I know God will forgive me. What's the worst that can happen? See Prov 1:20-33 and Is 30:8-18.

➔ **Apply it...** As you think back on this lesson – answer these questions personally with I, me, and my ...

1. Relationships thrive not because the guilty are punished but relationships thrive because the innocent are merciful. What can we do as individuals or a church to help those who are victims of a divorce?
2. If you have caused a divorce, what can you do to find forgiveness from God and your former spouse?
3. If you know someone contemplating divorce, what can you do to help the situation?

➔ **Pray it...** Dear Lord, I pray for the marriages in Your Body. I pray that You would grant us mercy and grace to live such holy lives dedicated to You and to our spouses that the world would sit up and take notice. I pray that those living together outside of marriage, seeking to end their marriage, or causing harm in their marriage would see Your plan and understand how such actions cast derision on Your name. Lord, forgive us for tolerating second best and give us hearts to please You.