

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Part 2: An Inspired Sermon by Paul

I Corinthians 7:10-16

Introduction:

- A. What makes a marriage holy?
 - 1. Is it the p_____?
 - 2. Is it the w_____ celebration?
 - 3. Is it submitting to God's w_____ about marriage?
- B. Last message – Paul summarized the Lord's teachings on divorce and remarriage (vv. 10,11) and we looked at what Jesus said as recorded in Matthew 5 and 19.
 - 1. The words are to be applied to b_____ who are married to one another.
 - 2. Only sexual immorality was given as grounds for d_____ (or better understood as terminating the marriage relationship)
- C. Today's message addresses marriage between a believer and an unbeliever.
 - 1. Paul writes in verse 12 – *But to the rest I say, not the Lord*
 - a. This means that this is a subject that Jesus did not t_____ to His apostles during His earthly ministry.
 - b. This does NOT mean that this is a mere o_____ that we can either receive or reject.
 - c. Paul wrote under the i_____ of the Holy Spirit (see verse 40) and therefore is God's word.

Situation #1 – Divorce in a spiritually “mixed” marriage

- A. A spiritually mixed marriage is not s_____
 - 1. As the gospel spread to the Gentiles, sometimes whole h_____ were saved. But many times only one of the spouses accepted Christ.
 - 2. God did forbid people to enter into mixed marriages
 - a. Deut 7:3,4 – Israelites were not to marry p_____ worshippers.
 - 1) This was not forbidding interr_____ marriages (Boaz, an Israelite, married Ruth, a Moabite)
 - 2) This was forbidding Israelites from marrying non-worshippers of Yahweh because the believer might follow other g_____ as Deut 7:4 states.
 - b. 2 Cor 6:14 – gives the p_____ for a believer not to enter into a marriage with an unbeliever
 - 3. Some Corinthians may have thought that “spiritually-mixed” marriages should be d_____.

- B. Paul first gives an example of a believing husband married to an unbelieving wife (v. 12)
1. Condition - if the wife agrees to l_____ with him.
 2. Command – the husband must not _____
 - a. NIV translates as divorce, which in our minds is a one-time l_____ action.
 - b. This word is in the present tense, speaking of an on_____ action.
 - c. Paul is referring to doing things that have the effect of s_____ away the wife from the marriage relation (KJV and NAS – send away; NLT – leave)
 - 1) The word is translated as l_____ behind in Matt 4:20.
 - 2) The word is translated as yielding up or letting g_____ in Matt 27:50.
 - 3) The word is often translated as f_____ as in 1 Jn 1:9.
- C. Paul secondly gives an example of a believing wife married to an unbelieving husband (v. 13)
1. Condition – if the husband agrees to l_____ with her.
 2. Command – the wife must not _____ (present tense)
- D. The principle behind a believer staying married to an unbeliever
1. The principle of s_____ion (v. 14)
 - a. The word means to be set a_____ from the world.
 - b. God sees the marriage and the family as h_____ because of the believing spouse’s faith in the Lord.
 2. The principle of s_____ion (v. 16) – as the unbeliever sees the faith of the believing spouse in action, it could bring him/her to Christ.
- E. What if the unbelieving spouse does things to end the marriage relation? (v. 15)
1. The believer must a_____ it.
 2. The believer is not in b_____ but released from the marriage.
 3. God has called believers to be at p_____ with all people, which is the principle behind the above action.

Situation #2 – Legal divorce as the only option

- A. Ongoing p_____ abuse - Filing for legal divorce is not the sin; the abuse is.
- B. Ongoing unf_____ - Filing for legal divorce is not the sin; the affair is.

C. Abandonment – Filing for legal divorce is not the sin

Situation #3 – Remarriage of those legally divorced

A. When is a believer released from the bonds (vows) of marriage?

1. At the d_____ of the spouse (v. 39)
2. By the o_____ actions of the spouse that have the intent or effect of terminating the marriage relation (v. 15)

B. When a person is released from the bonds of marriage, that person is f_____ to remarry a believer (v. 39).

C. What if you were an unbeliever when you got divorced and are now single?

1. At the point of faith, you became a n_____ creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17) – the old has passed away.
2. At the point of faith, the old you was c_____ with Christ (Rom 6:12) – the old you is dead.
3. Therefore, the new you is free to marry.