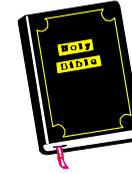


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

FALSE VIEWS OF DIVORCEMENT

The influence of sentiment has led many into error with respect to the breaking of the marriage bond. It seems that those who have studied this question have gone to two extremes. One extreme is that the bond of union cannot be severed except by death of one of the parties, and the other extreme is that there is a multitude of causes which justify the severance of the marriage relation.

Both of these extremes claim scriptural authority. The advocates of both have wrested the teachings of Christ to sustain their extreme positions. Both of these extremes cannot be true. It is possible for both to be false, but impossible for both to be true. We ought to know what the New Testament teaches on this question.

It should be remembered that Christ did not institute any new law on marriage and divorce. He did abrogate the law of Moses with its tolerations and placed marriage and divorce on the original basis. He placed marriage on its fundamental basis. He restored the law of God with respect to marriage. His teachings are clear enough and simple enough to be understood.

God wants man to understand His teachings on this question, and holds man responsible for every violation of the fundamental law of marriage. The fixed, irrevocable, and universal law of God should be recognized and obeyed. Christ emphasized it in His teachings and we would do well to be governed by it. This law of indissolubility is recognized by Christ and has been enforced by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

Man has granted — and grants — divorces on many grounds. There are many justifiable causes as far as man is concerned. "Desertion" is one of the common grounds for divorcement. "Penal servitude," or sentence to imprisonment for crime, is another cause. "Insanity" is another ground of divorce with man, and "Incompatibility" is another, which covers a variety of causes. "Drunkenness with cruelty" is still another cause in many countries for divorcement. "Adultery" is another cause.

So, in the estimation of man, there are many causes for breaking the marriage relation — that is, man has assigned many causes for breaking the fundamental law of human relationship in marriage. Since God is the author of this basic law, He and He alone can assign the reason for the dissolution of the union. The courts of the land dissolve many unions which God still holds as fundamental and binding. Human laws grant divorces for causes which God does not permit. — **(Continued on page 3)**

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 13 March 30, 2008

RECORDS 3/23/2008

SERMONS 3/30/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 62
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 131
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 60
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 54
CONTRIBUTION: \$2027

AM: Ed Kelleher
THE GREAT COMMISSION
PM: Donald Klieves
THE CHURCH, GOD'S DIVINE PATTERN

**“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;” - Mark 16:15,16**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS
Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** **Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning** (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), **Lynn Drago** (Jerry's sister) and **Phyllis Johnson**.
- **Don and Marcella Klieves** request prayers for Marcella's sister, **Penny Brown**, whose husband, **John**, has left her. The Klieves are greatly hurt by this.
- **Lamar Reeves** continues to be in severe pain with what may be general bone deterioration. Pray for his relief.
- The **Mannings** are at the Memphis School of Preaching Annual Lectures and Holly Wilson is returning from Hawaii and a friend's wedding.
- Prayers are requested for **Nell Hiott**, long time neighbor to the Parks, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in several major organs.
- Remember all these and **Dianne and Tiffany Dillard** as they recover from the loss of Paul, and **Ron Banks** and **Eddie Sheppard** as they all continue to fight illness, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak,
and not to please ourselves.

Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification." -Romans 15:1-2

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Gospel Meeting, starting next Friday, Twin City church with Eddie Craft.**
- The **youth** are meeting on a regular basis at the building, Mondays at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- Sister **Ruth Raines** needs folks to visit her at home on a regular basis.
- **Ladies** work on the **visual aids** every **Tuesday** 7:00 pm, at the building.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** **Ladies Day at West Columbia, Saturday April 12, 2008.**

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
Let this mind be in you, which also was in Christ Jesus:” - Philippians 2:5

**All the above (and below) are ways to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008**

NT BOOKS (27):

Matthew	1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter
Mark	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Luke	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
John	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
Acts	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Romans	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation

FALSE VIEWS ON DIVORCEMENT—(Continued from page 1)

Man's laws cannot change the mind of God or the fundamental law of God. Hence, man's laws cannot annul the marriage union which God has sanctioned. Marriage is a solemn oath of union in which both parties vow fidelity till death parts them. All the legislatures and teachings of men in the world cannot set aside the fundamental law of God.

Jesus said, “Everyone that putteth away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, maketh her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery” (Matt. 5:32). Later on in the earthly life of Jesus, the Pharisees tested him, asking, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” (Matt. 19:3). Here they meant to ask if one could put away his wife for "any cause." They thought there were many causes for which a man could put away his wife and give her a bill of divorcement.

Jesus plainly and simply said, "No!" He referred them to the fundamental law of marriage. “Have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt 19:4-6).

They then asked him, “Why then did Moses command to give a bill of divorcement, and to put her away?” (Matt. 19:7). Jesus answered them, saying, “Moses for your hardness of heart suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it hath not been so” (Matt. 19:8). Here Jesus restores the marriage relation back to its original and fundamental law. It matters not how many causes were granted under the law as grounds of divorcement, Jesus pushes these aside and places the marriage relation on its fundamental and basic law.

After restoring marriage to its original, fixed, universal law for the human family, Jesus then proceeded to teach them the one and only sin by which the union could be dissolved. “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery” (Matt. 19:9).

Why should one misunderstand this? Not only does Jesus bring marriage back to its original state and intention, but he plainly states that the only way by which the union may be broken. Whosoever, then, is married contrary to God's original law is in a state of adultery. Ignorance of God's law does not excuse one for disobeying it. His law is as old as the human race, and man has a record of that law. Hence, it is folly to be ignorant of it and sinful to violate it.

During the patriarchal and Jewish ages, God saw fit to tolerate some things that He does not tolerate now. The right and strict law, such as had been in the beginning while Adam and Eve were in the state of innocency, and before sin with all of its entailment had mad havoc of the human family, now has been restored.

The principles of Christianity with respect to the marriage and divorcement of people restore the lofty and holy relationship in marriage.

- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher