

THE BULLETIN—VOL 46, NUMBER 13, March 22, 2020

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: cancelled

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

**GOD LOVES US
WHAT WILL HE NOT DO FOR US?
WHAT WILL WE NOT DO FOR HIM?**

**“But God commendeth his love toward us,
in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8**

**"It is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18
(but make sure it's the RIGHT thing!)**

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Any Time On Request
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time man wanted

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WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 divorce. "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 divorce. "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)**

"it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Merrie Chrismus, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Stephanie Rigney.

- **Pat** is still not getting any relief from being dizzy.
- **Barbara Reeder** has family visiting and needs some help with food. Her phone number is 834-4265.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia that we will grow in love for Him and each other.

“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” - Matthew 26:39

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Pray** for our preacher search, that a sound, zealous man be found.
- **Ethan Allen** has asked to be considered for the work of evangelist here.

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.” - 1 Corinthians 12:18.

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” - Romans

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Until further notice, the 10 AM Sunday Bible Study, 6 PM Sunday Assembly and the 7 PM Wed. Bible Study are suspended.

Lord willing, the church doors will be open at 11 AM Sunday for the worship assembly. There will be singing, the Lord's supper, preaching and prayers. However, not many are expected to attend due to themselves being at risk, or having family members who are at risk. We completely understand and sympathize with this. It is purely an individual decision. We encourage people to choose prudently and prayerfully, and whatever the decision we pray God will bless you.

We hope to provide a live streaming web broadcast of our assembly that members may participate in from home. Check the church website for the latest information. Pray the Lord will be merciful.

“And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them “ - Acts 20:7

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYETH

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” - Revelation 3:4-6

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 made 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