

# The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those  
Whose Live's Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12

Matthew 5:31,32

*"Divorce - The Problem,  
Consequences, Cause & Solution"*

# The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those  
Whose Live's Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12

*Having dealt with the subjects of "murder" (21-26) & "adultery" (27-30), Jesus continues His discussion of marriage and the principle of love by addressing a grievous violation of love - the matter of "divorce" (31-32)*

# *Divorce and Remarriage*

- ◆ **A Controversial Subject!!**
- ◆ **An Emotional Subject!!**
- ◆ **A Personal Subject!!**
- ◆ **An Extremely Important Subject!!!!!!**
- ◆ **A Subject That Needs To Be Addressed Often!**
- ◆ **Marriage Is A Divine Institution and is Governed By The Laws Of God –**



# "Divorce - The Problem"

## Destroys God's Institution

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be **joined** to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

to impinge, i.e. cling or adhere; ... abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.

# "Divorce - The Problem"

## Destroys God's Institution

Matthew 19:6 (NKJV)

So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has **joined** together, let not man separate."

συζευγνυμι <4801>: ... properly, "to fasten to one yoke, yoke together" - "to join together, unite": of the marriage tie, Mat 19:6; Mk 10:9 Thayer - Greek-English Lexicon of the NT

# "Divorce - The Problem"

**Divorce Statistics In America For Marriage**  
Marriage / Divorce statistics (in percent)

**First  
Marriage**

**45% - 50%**

**Second  
Marriage**

**60% - 67%**

**Third  
Marriage**

**70% - 73%**

# The Sermon On The Mount

## **Matthew 5:31,32 (NKJV)**

31 “Furthermore it has been said,  
‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give  
her a certificate of divorce.’

32 But I say to you that whoever divorces  
his wife for any reason except sexual  
immorality causes her to commit adultery;  
and whoever marries a woman who is  
divorced commits adultery.

# The Sermon On The Mount

*You have heard that it was said to those of old,*

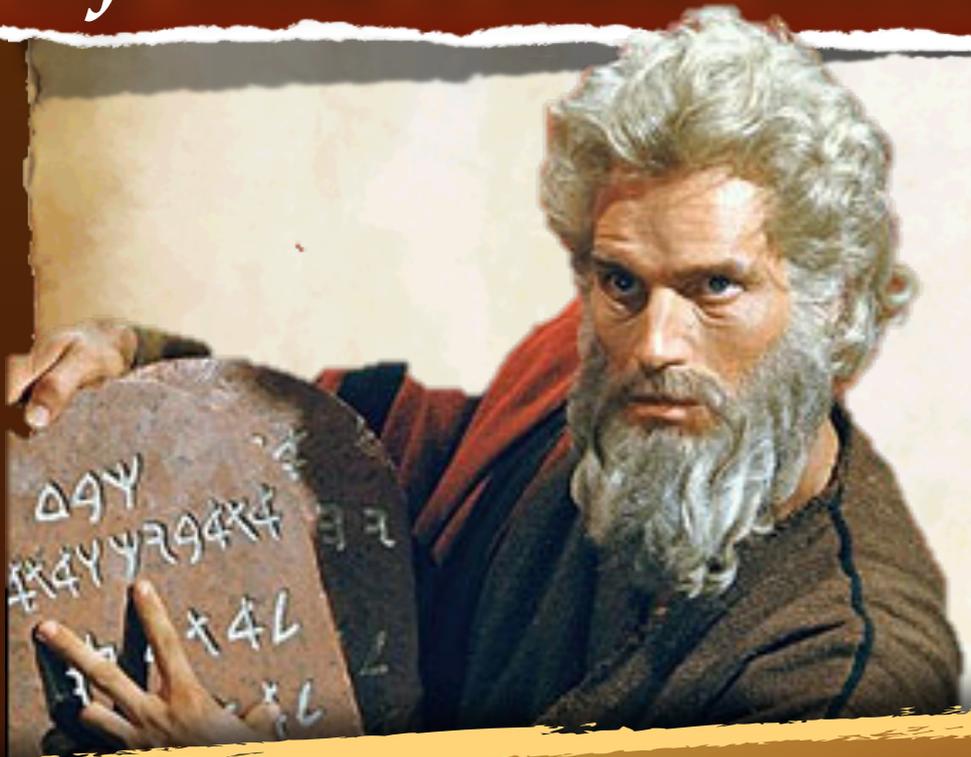


**Jesus did not set himself against the law of Moses, but against the false and pernicious interpretations of the law prevalent in his time.**

- 21** 'You shall not murder, . . .
- 27** 'You shall not commit adultery.'  
 . . .
- 31** 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' . . .
- 33** 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' . . .
- 38** 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' . . .
- 43** 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' . . .

# The Sermon On The Mount

The "Traditional Interpretation And Application" ...  
Of God's Law Governing Divorce - (31; Deut 24:1-4)



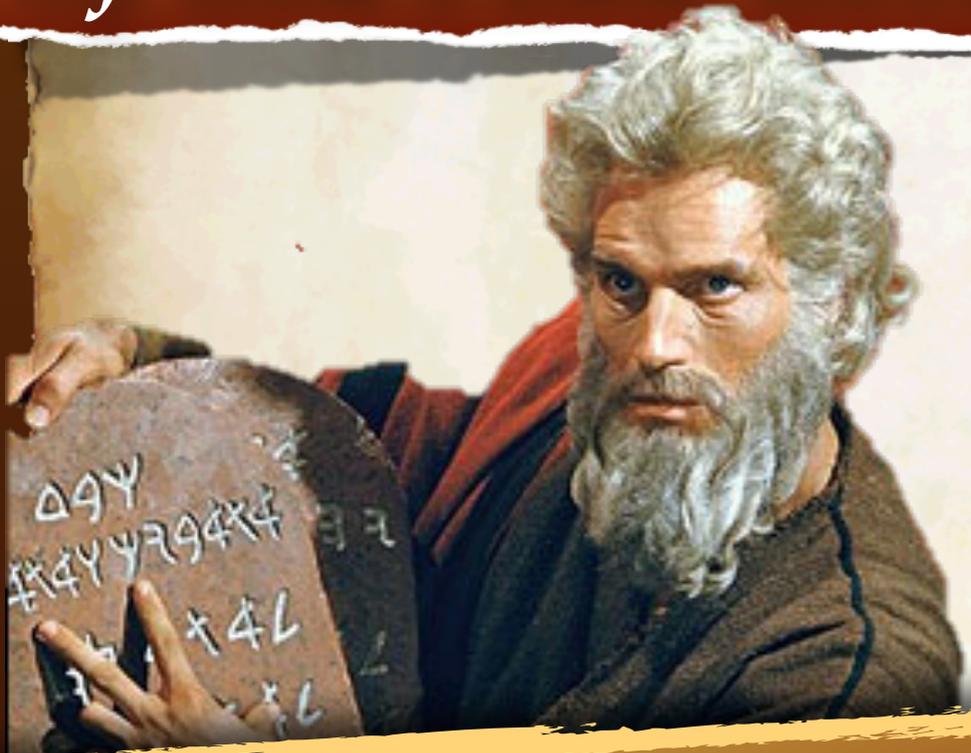
**Matthew 5:31 (NKJV)**

31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

- ◆ The scribes and Pharisees focused on the "Divorce"- Seeing it as a "Divine right" - Deut 24:1-4
- \* **Hillel** – emphasized the phrase, "*finds no favor in his eyes*" allowing divorce for anything displeasing to him.
- \* **Shammai** – emphasized the phrase "*found some uncleanness in her*" and limited it to adultery.
- \* **Akiba** - allowed divorce if he found another woman more appealing.

# The Sermon On The Mount

*The "Traditional Interpretation And Application" ...  
Of God's Law Governing Divorce - (31; Deut 24:1-4)*



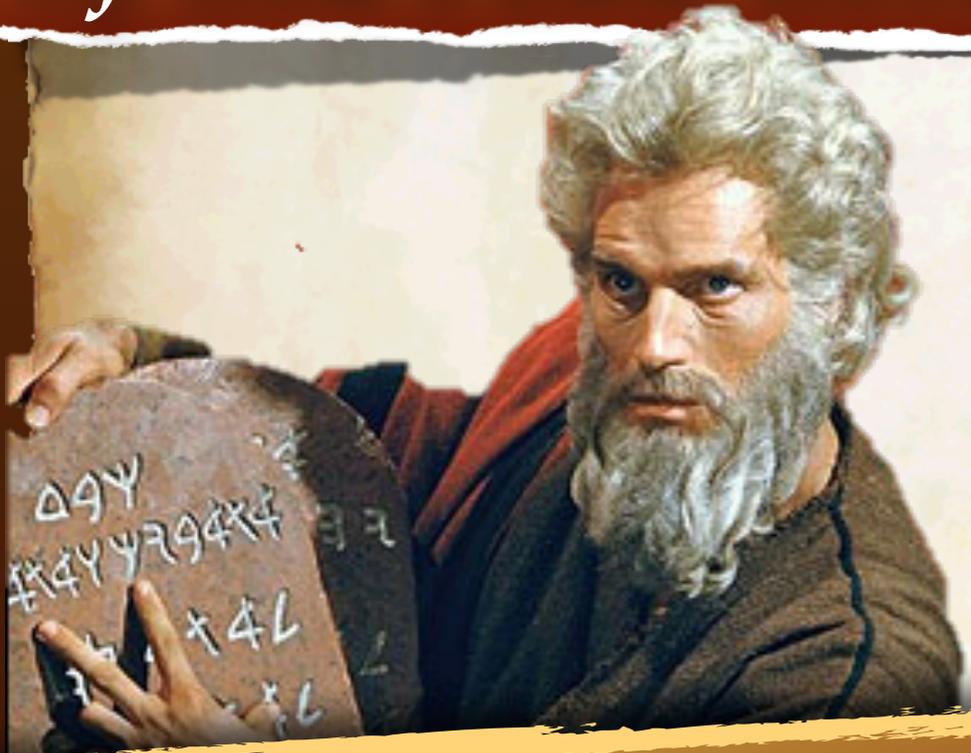
**Matthew 5:31 (NKJV)**

31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

- ◆ The scribes and Pharisees focused on the "Divorce"- Seeing it as a "Divine right" - Deut 24:1-4
- \* It appears that the most of the Scribes and Pharisees held the views Hillel - (cf Mat. 19:3,7)
- \* They were far less concerned with the unholy causes of divorce and its unholy consequences for the victim than for the proper form.
- \* Again, their disregard for moral principle is revealed.

# The Sermon On The Mount

*The "Traditional Interpretation And Application" ...  
Of God's Law Governing Divorce - (31; Deut 24:1-4)*



**Matthew 5:31 (NKJV)**

31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

- ◆ **Moses "permitted it"** - The law was given in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 to govern their failure to follow God's original design of marriage.
- ◆ In Matthew 19:7,8, Jesus clarifies the reason they had been given the law pertaining to divorce – it was because of their hardness of heart.
- ◆ It was given to check their sin - not to induce and encourage it - and to provide protection for the woman.

# The Sermon On The Mount

*"But I say to you . . ."*



## **Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)**

<sup>32</sup> But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

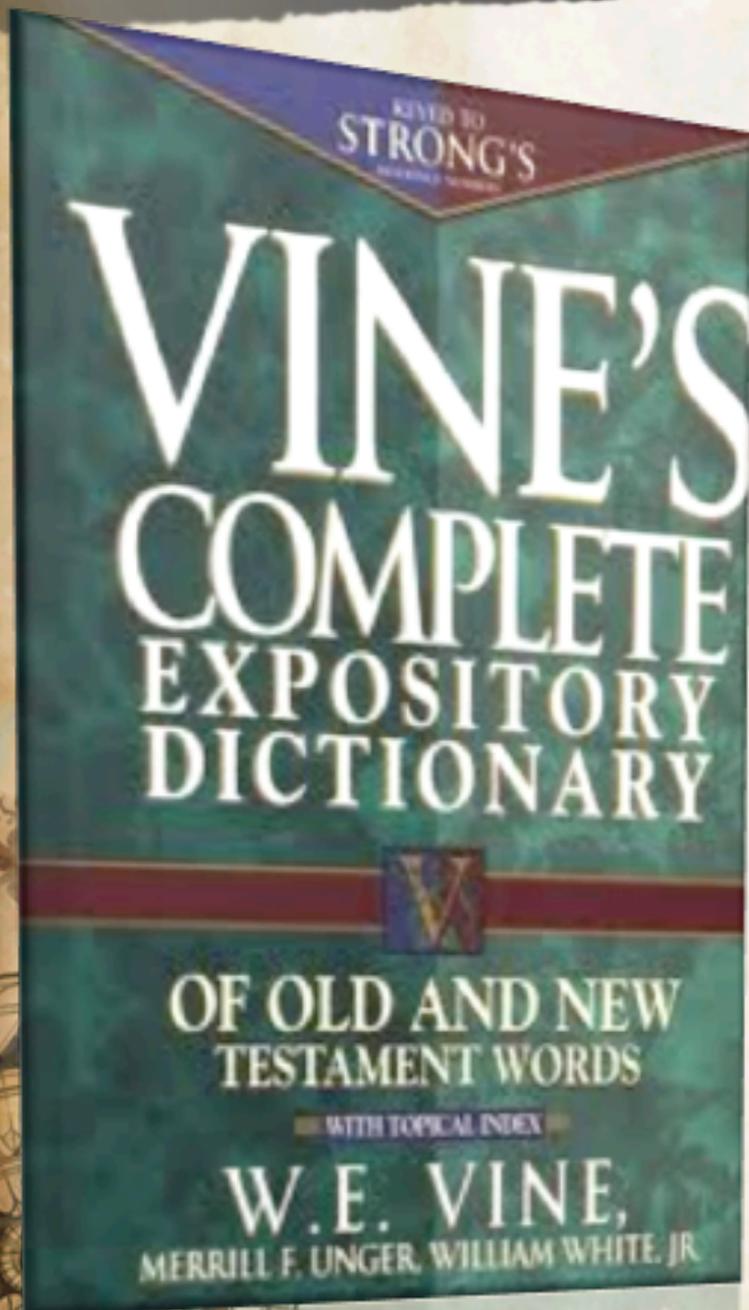
### ◆ **There Is But One Justifiable Cause For Divorce**

- ✳ Just as there was a justifiable basis for righteous indignation there is a justifiable basis for divorce . . . .
- ✳ The only acceptable grounds for divorce is **FORNICATION**

# The Sermon On The Mount

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*“except sexual immorality . . .”*

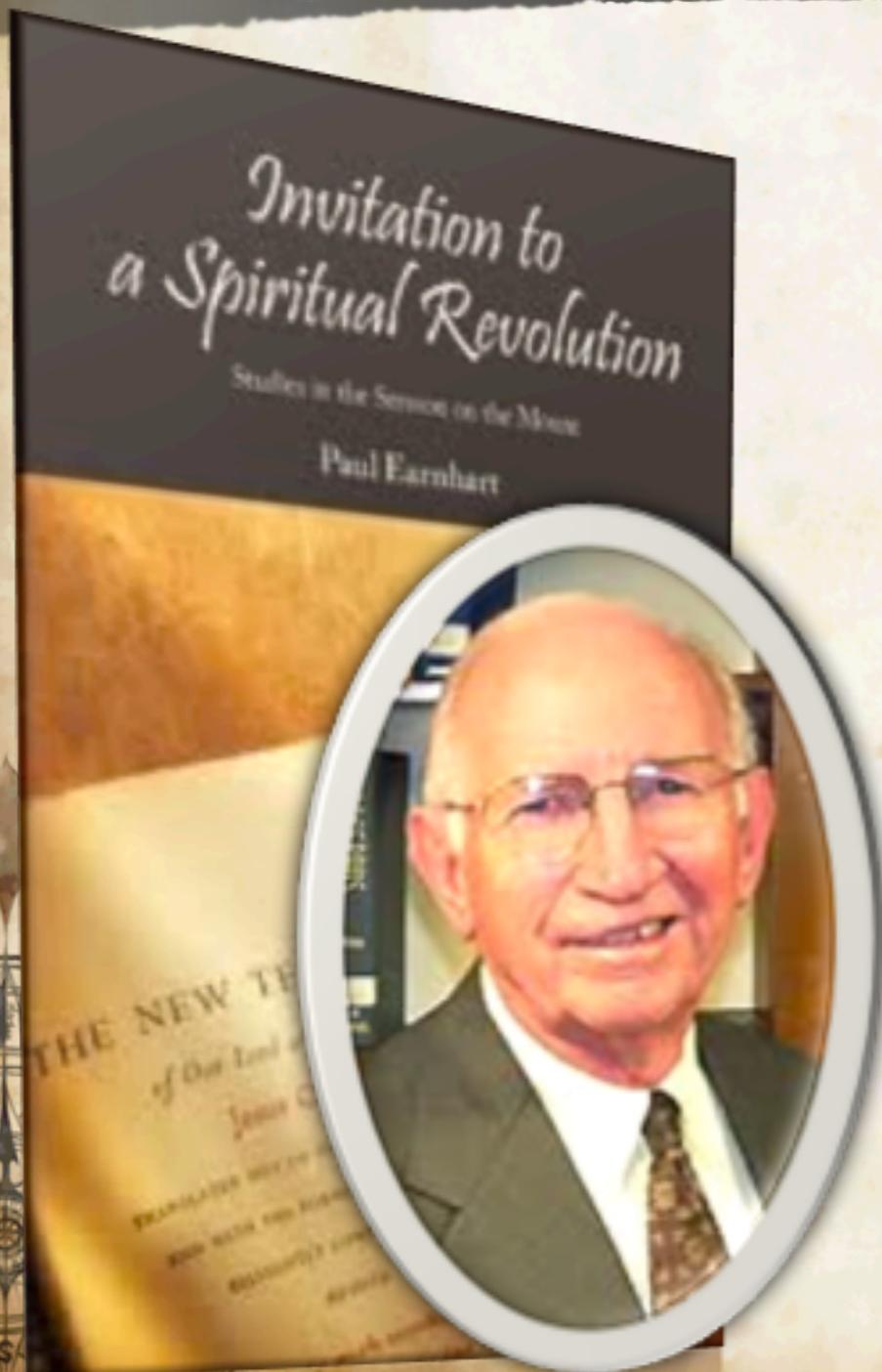


## **Fornication**

<G4202> πορνεία, porneia is used (a) of illicit sexual intercourse, . . . in Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:9 it stands for, or includes, adultery; it is distinguished from it in Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:21; Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words.

# The Sermon On The Mount

*“except sexual immorality . . .”*



Text  
“To this we feel compelled to add that even in cases where fornication has occurred the redemptive love of the kingdom would seem to counsel mercy and reconciliation where possible. Divorce was never a commandment. Love is”  
*Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 48*

# The Sermon On The Mount

*“causes her to commit adultery . . .”*



## **Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)**

<sup>32</sup> But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

- ◆ **He opens his wife to great temptation - (1 Cor 7:8-9)**
- ✳ If she seeks to satisfy her desires outside of marriage, she sins - (Heb 13:4)
- ✳ If she marries again, she sins - (Rom 7:1-3)
- ✳ Jesus is showing that it is wrong, loveless and treacherous for a man to open his wife to such jeopardy - (Mal. 2:14)

# The Sermon On The Mount

*“causes her to commit adultery . . .”*



## **Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)**

<sup>32</sup> But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

◆ **Jesus focuses on the principle rather than procedure**

- ✳ Any man who cast out his faithful wife commits a loveless act and shares in her sin if she yields to temptation, (her remarriage is assumed)
- ✳ The only exception is divorce on the grounds of fornication, in which case she would already be what an unlawful divorce would tempt her to become.

# The Sermon On The Mount

*“whoever marries a woman who is divorced . . .”*



## **Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)**

<sup>32</sup> But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

- ◆ **An unlawful divorce also opens the door for a third party to sin - (Mat. 19:9)**
- ✳ Subsequent unions following divorce--for all parties (*other than the innocent victim of a marriage breached by fornication*) --constitute adulterous relationships -

# The Sermon On The Mount

## Who Is Guilty of Adultery?



### Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)

<sup>32</sup> But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

- ◆ The man, who puts away his wife for any cause other than fornication and marries another - (Mat. 5:32; 19:9; Mk 5:11; Lk 16:18)
- ◆ The man who marries a woman that has been put away, [*lawfully or not*] - (Mat. 5:32; 19:9; Mk 10:11; Luke 16:18)
- ◆ The unlawfully divorced woman who is married to another man, [*as long as her first husband lives*] - (Mat. 5:32; Rom 7:1-3)

# The Sermon On The Mount

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## *Unlawful Divorce Is Wrong (SIN)*



- ◆ **A loveless act** - it does NOT have the best interest of the spouse in mind - pushing them into sin.
- ◆ **A dishonorable act** - violates the marriage covenant - breaks the vows made when married.
- ◆ **A destructive act** - the life of the put away person - the life of another who may marry the put away person - the lives of children involved - society suffers - God's name is blasphemed.

## *God Hates Divorce*

### **Malachi 2:14-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

<sup>15</sup> But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

<sup>16</sup> "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."



# The Sermon On The Mount

## *Unlawful Divorce Is Wrong (SIN)*

The command? “Do NOT put away - do NOT divorce.”

The parenthetical phrase? What to do if the sin of divorce occurs!-

The phrase “if she does depart” permits divorce no more than “but if you sin” permits sin - (cf I John 2:1,2)

### **Answering Objections:**

What about 1 Cor. 7:10,10? “Paul taught that it was ok to divorce as long as you remain unmarried.”

# The Sermon On The Mount

## Unlawful Divorce Is Wrong (SIN)

(doulow): to make a slave, reduce to bondage - denotes a "servile condition."

133 times in N.T., never refers to marriage bond.

A different Greek word for being "bound" in marriage - *deo* .. which means "to tie, bind." (1 Cor. 7:27, 39; Rom 7:2 ).

### Answering Objections:

\* What about 1 Cor. 7:10,10? *"Paul taught that it was ok to divorce as long as you remain unmarried."*

What about 1 Cor. 7:15? *"Paul said that those who are deserted by an unbelieving spouse is no longer in bondage."*

# The Sermon On The Mount

## Unlawful Divorce Is Wrong (SIN)

The departure of the unbelieving spouse releases a person from spousal duties, but it does not sever the tie of marriage.

Hold to Christ, even if it means being deserted by one's unbelieving spouse.

### Answering Objections:

- \* What about 1 Cor. 7:10,10? *“Paul taught that it was ok to divorce as long as you remain unmarried.”*
- What about 1 Cor. 7:15? *“Paul said that those who are deserted by an unbelieving spouse is no longer in bondage.”*

# The Sermon On The Mount

## Unlawful Divorce Is Wrong (SIN)

Would not mention this argument had I not heard it used several times because it is so absurd.

Lawful marriages must not be forbidden - but how absurd to argue that unlawful ones should be permitted!

### Answering Objections:

- \* What about 1 Cor. 7:10,10? *“Paul taught that it was ok to divorce as long as you remain unmarried.”*
- \* What about 1 Cor. 7:15? *“Paul said that those who are deserted by an unbelieving spouse is no longer in bondage.”*
- What about 1 Tim 4:1-3? *“Paul wrote that those who forbid marriage teaches a doctrine of demons”*

# *The Preservation of Marriage*

...is not determined by  
the perfection of your  
partner, but the level of  
**YOUR COMMITMENT** to them  
and the Lord.



# The Preservation of Marriage

◆ **I \_\_\_\_\_, take thee \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife / husband,**

✦ to have and to hold from this day forward,

✦ for richer or poorer,

✦ in sickness and in health,

✦ to love and to cherish,

✦ till in death we part, -

Mal 2:13-16

Ecccl 5:1-6

Mat 5:31,32

Mat 19:3-9

1 Cor 7:10,11

# The Preservation of Marriage

Luke 14:28  
(NKJV)

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it--

## ◆ **The cost of commitment**

- \* Spouse paralyzed?
- \* Bad accident and disfigured?
- \* Sickness?
- \* Weight gain?
- \* Job loss? / Financial Problems?
- \* Marriage problems?
- \* Getting older?

# The Preservation of Marriage



**Marriage Is  
About  
“Another!”**

- ✦ **Commitment -**
- ✦ **Communication -**
- ✦ **Control Self -**
- ✦ **Consideration -**
- ✦ **Compromise -**
- ✦ **Contentment -**
- ✦ **Carry Your Load -**

# The Preservation of Marriage



**Marriage Is  
About  
“Another!”**

- \* **Golden Rule** - (Mt. 7:12)
- \* **Respect & submit** - (Eph. 5:23-33, 1 Tim. 3:11)
- \* **Honesty** - (Eph 4:25)
- \* **Bring happiness** - (Deut. 24:5)
- \* **Understand** - (1 Pet. 3:7)
- \* **Private time** - (Prov. 5:18)
- \* **Love each other** - (Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4)

# *The Preservation of Marriage*

**Marriage Is A  
Divine Institution  
and is Governed  
By The Laws Of  
God –**



# *The Preservation of Marriage*

**Marriage Is  
Intended To Be A  
Life-Long Union  
Between One  
Man and One  
Woman**



# *The Preservation of Marriage*

**God Hates  
Divorce!**



# *Sin Involved In Every Divorce*



*Problems will come!*



*Agree beforehand that divorce  
is not going to be the answer!*



# *Focus On Our Failures & Attitudes Instead of Our Spouse's*



*As long as the Lord's will is  
respected by both parties —*

**Divorce will not come!  
Only Happiness & Success**



# The Sermon On The Mount

*Divorce - The Problem, The Consequences, Causes & Solution*

**Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared May 2-5, 2012

Preached May 6, 2012

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## **Matthew 19:3-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”

<sup>4</sup> And He answered and said to them, “**Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female,*’<sup>5</sup> and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’?**”

## **Matthew 19:3-10 (NKJV)**

**6** So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

**7** They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” **8** He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

## **Matthew 19:3-10 (NKJV)**

**9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”**

**10 His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry.”**