

Message Notes

The Law, the Gospel and Divorce

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – “Preaching through the Bible is a dangerous thing!”

Today’s Message:
The Law, the Gospel and Divorce
Luke 16:16-18

The Big Idea – Luke 16:13

Idolatry = Abomination in God’s Sight
Luke 16:14-15

Law and Prophets

Up until John – Luke 16:16a
Through Today – Luke 16b-17
An Example: their flippant view of marriage – Lk 16:18

HUGE Issue – *Divorce and Remarriage*

SPECIAL NOTE: God’s Heart for Hurting People

A look at the Biblical Data

Old Testament

Genesis 2:24-25
Genesis 3:16
Deuteronomy 24:1-4
Jeremiah 2:1-3
Jeremiah 2:13
Jeremiah 3:6-8
Malachi 2:11-16

New Testament

Matthew 1:18-19
Mark 10:2-12
Matthew 19:9
Luke 16:18
Romans 7:1-3
1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39-40
Ephesians 5:25-32

Captain Obvious Statements:

1. Marriage was created to be an illustration of Christ and the Church.
2. It made not to end in divorce. No one goes into marriage looking forward to divorce.
3. God is divorced from his people Israel. He hates divorce knowing firsthand the pain that it causes.
4. Divorce is one of the most painful things a person can go through. It is why God takes the marriage covenant so seriously.
5. Divorce is not the problem. The breakdown of the marriage covenant is the problem.
6. Divorces happen in a fallen world.

MESSAGE NOTES - cont’d

Five Acceptable, Biblical (and contradictory!) Views:

1. No Divorce, No Remarriage under any circumstances.
2. Divorce is legitimate under certain circumstances (adultery or abandonment), but never Remarriage except back to the original spouse.
3. Divorce is legitimate under certain circumstances (adultery or abandonment), and therefore so is Remarriage of these cases.
4. Divorce is legitimate under serious circumstances (perhaps more than adultery/abandonment), and therefore so is Remarriage of these cases.
5. Divorce is legitimate under certain circumstances. However, no matter what the cause of the divorce is, remarriage may be possible with a repentant heart and as much of a spirit of reconciliation as is appropriate toward the previous spouse as to why the breakup happened.

Application – “Gospel Implications”

1. Marriage is an illustration of Christ’s love and commitment
2. Marriage is a lifelong covenant – take it seriously
3. If you go into marriage with a “we’ll divorce if things go bad” you are in deep trouble in this culture
4. There is no such thing as “Easy Divorce”
5. God hates divorce. Ask a person who has gone through it why.
6. Fight for your and other marriages is the price we pay to be brothers and sisters in Christ.
7. Grace, Love and Truth, without condemnation, need to be shown to those who have gone through divorce.
8. Act according to your “Biblical Conscience” on this issue with how you counsel others. However, be careful of coming across dogmatic in your view.

~~~~~ Luke 16:13-18

¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”

¹⁶“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. ¹⁷It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

¹⁸“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

The Gospel of
LUKE

Setting His Face to Jerusalem
Luke 9:51 to Luke 19:44

Luke 16:13-15

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Today's Message:
The Law, the Gospel and Divorce
Luke 16:16-18

THE LAW
AND
THE GOSPEL

The Big Idea

Luke 16:13

¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Idolatry = Abomination in God's sight

Luke 16:14-15

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Law and Prophets

Up until John

Luke 16:16a

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Law and Prophets

Through today

Luke 16:16b-17

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Law and Prophets

Example: their flippant view of marriage

Luke 16:18

¹⁸“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

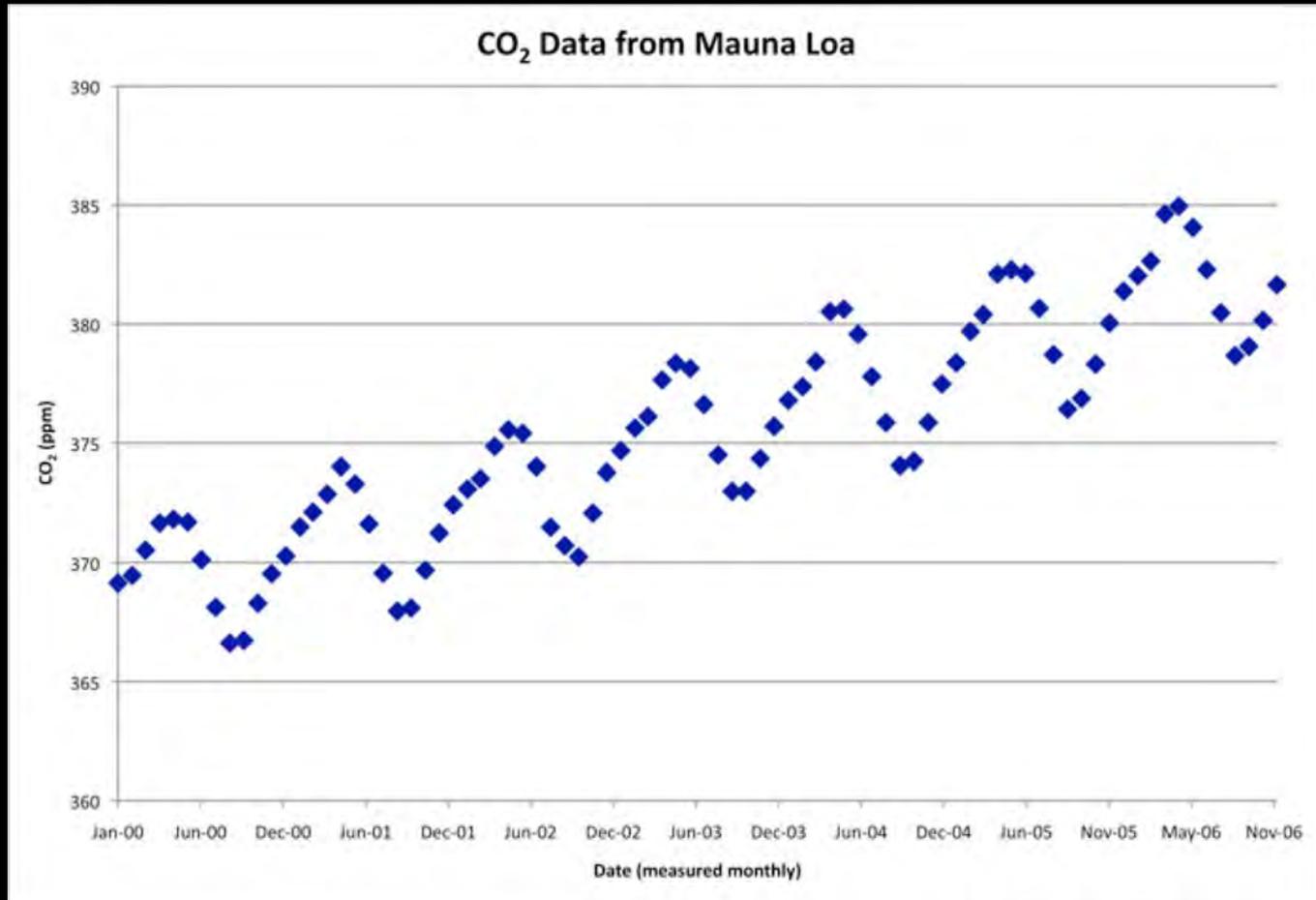
How does all of this relate to Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees? The language of abomination (v 15) is key. In Israel's Scriptures, the term "abomination" can be used to denote, among other things, idolatrous activity in general (e.g., Isa 1:13; 66:3), but also immoral financial dealings (Deut 25:16) and the act of remarrying a woman who has been divorced (Deut 24:4).

~ Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 604.



MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE

A look at the Biblical Data



OLD TESTAMANT



Books of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch - Genesis(50) - God creates the world, man sins, Israel goes to Egypt -

Exodus(40) - God rescues Israel from Egypt and give the Law. Moses builds the tabernacle -

Leviticus(27) - More Law for the priests and the people - Numbers(36) - God offers the Promised Land, Israel wanders 40 years in the wilderness - Deuteronomy(34) - Remembering what God did for His people

Historical Books - Joshua(24) - leads the people into the Promised Land - Judges(21) - God appoints 12 leaders to turn a rebellious people back to Him - Ruth(4) - One faithful woman saves God's people. 1 Samuel(31) - God's last judges and the the people's first kings - 2 Samuel(24) - David, the King - 1 Kings(22) - The history of Israel's kings - 2 Kings(25) - God sends prophets

to the kings - 1 Chronicles(29) - David's family tree - 2 Chronicles(36) - More leasons from the lives of the kings of Israel - Ezra(10) - God keeps his promise and restores Israel to the Promised Land - Nehemiah(13) - The last history. God uses one man to restore Jerusalem as the people return - Esther(10) - Faith and love of

two women leads to a kinsman redeemer - **Poetical Books** - Job(42) - God is glorified in even the worst of situations - Psalms(150) - God is praised in poetry and song - Proverbs(31) - God is the source for wisdom for each day - Ecclesiastes(12) - According to the Teacher, Live is meaningless without God - Song of

Solomon(8) - A husband and wife are made for each other, body and soul - **Major Prophets** - Isaiah(66) - The first prophetic book foretells the life and death of the coming Messiah. - Jeremiah(52) - warns people to repent of their sins and ask God's forgiveness even when they don't listen - Lamentations(5) - God is saddened over our sin and our choice of self-dstruction - Ezekiel(48) - Called as prophet and priest during the Babylon exile. Daniel(12) - Even in the lion's den, God

can be served - **Minor Prophets** - Hosea(14) - Prophet of Divine Love. Redeemed an unfaithful bride. - Joel(3) - Prophet of Pentecost. Warned of God's direct retribution against the sinful. - Amos(9) - A voice crying in the wilderness, calling northern Israel to repentance. - Obadiah(1) - Phophesised against the descendants of Esau who opposed God's people. - Jonah(4) - tries to avoid God's call, spends three days in the belly of a fish - Micah(7) - Another voice crying in the wilderness, calling southern Judah to repentance. - Nahum(3) - Predicts the fall of Jonah's Nineveh. - Habakkuk(3) - A dialog between the prophet and God from questioning to faith. - Zephaniah(3) - Judgment and salvation, extending to all nations. - Haggai(2) - Exorts the people to return to the mission of rebuilding the House of God - Zechariah(14) - Two books in one, the rebuilding of the temple then prophecy of the Messiah - Malachi(4) - Addresses the apostasy of Israel and the coming "messenger of the covenant"

A look at the Biblical Data

Genesis 2:24-25

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

A look at the Biblical Data

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

¹If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, ²and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, ³and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, ⁴then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD. Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.



The Divided Kingdom,
10th - 6th Century BCE

A look at the Biblical Data

Jeremiah 2:1-3

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:

“ ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. ³Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,’ ” declares the LORD.

A look at the Biblical Data

Jeremiah 2:13

¹³“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Jeremiah 3:6-8

⁶During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. ⁷I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. ⁸I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Malachi 2:11-16

¹⁰Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?

Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another? ¹¹Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. ¹²As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob – even though he brings offerings to the LORD Almighty.

A look at the Biblical Data

Malachi 2:11-16

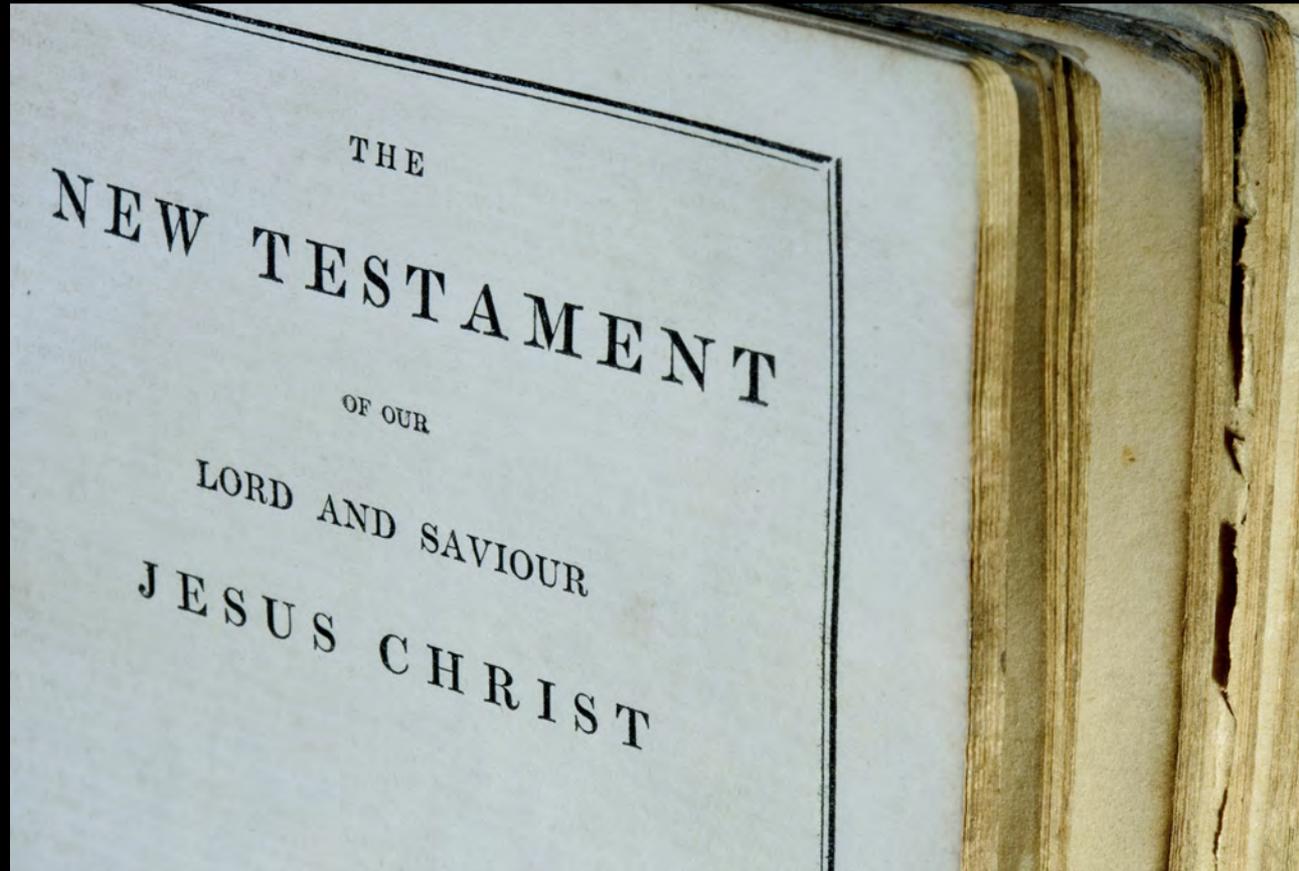
¹³Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

A look at the Biblical Data

Malachi 2:11-16

¹⁵Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. ¹⁶“I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel, “and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,” says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

NEW TESTAMANT



THE
NEW TESTAMENT
OF OUR
LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST

A look at the Biblical Data

Matthew 1:18-19

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

A look at the Biblical Data

Mark 10:2-12

²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking,
“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

³“What did Moses command you?” he replied.

⁴They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Mark 10:2-12

⁵“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. ⁶“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Mark 10:2-12

¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Matthew 19:9

³Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Matthew 19:9

⁷“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Luke 16:18

¹⁸“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

A look at the Biblical Data

Romans 7:1-3

¹Do you not know, brothers – for I am speaking to men who know the law – that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? ²For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

A look at the Biblical Data

1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39-40

¹⁰To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

A look at the Biblical Data

1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39-40

¹²To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

A look at the Biblical Data

1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39-40

¹⁵But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

A look at the Biblical Data

1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39-40

³⁹A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. ⁴⁰In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is — and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

A look at the Biblical Data

Ephesians 5:25-32

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.





Captain Obvious Statements

1. Marriage was created to be an illustration of Christ and the Church.
2. It made not to end in divorce. No one goes into marriage looking forward to divorce.
3. God is divorced from his people Israel. He hates divorce knowing firsthand the pain that it causes.
4. Divorce is one of the most painful, unnatural things a person can go through. It is why God takes marriage so seriously.
5. Divorce is not the problem. The breakdown of the marriage covenant is the problem.
6. Divorces happen in a fallen world.

Five Acceptable, Biblical (and yet contradictory!) Views:

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1. No Divorce, No Remarriage under any circumstances.

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The view stated simply:

Jesus commands that marriage is a life-long, covenant between a man and a woman which creates a “one flesh” union. This union is impossible for anyone to break but God. As a result, there is no such thing as divorce in God’s eyes, and therefore any remarriage that does not involve the death of the other spouse (or remarriage to the original spouse) is adultery.

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1. *No Divorce, No Remarriage under any circumstances.*

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 16:18

¹⁸“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

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The view stated simply:

Jesus commands that marriage is a life-long, covenant between a man and a woman which creates a “one flesh” union. This union is impossible for anyone to break but God. However, there are circumstances (desertion and sexual sin) that can dissolve the marriage. A person cannot remarry, however, until the death of the spouse.

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KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

¹⁰To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

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- 3. Divorce is legitimate under certain circumstances (adultery or abandonment), and therefore so is Remarriage of these cases.*

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The view stated simply:

Jesus says that purpose of marriage is a life-long, covenant between a man and a woman which creates a “one flesh” union. It is a picture of God’s relationship with his people. However, even God is a divorcee, so divorce must be legitimate in certain covenant breaking behaviors, namely desertion of the spouse and adultery. In these cases, and these cases alone, the divorce is allowed (though not preferred), and therefore so is remarriage.

“Legitimate Divorce always allows for Legitimate Remarriage”

Five Acceptable, Biblical (and yet contradictory!) Views:

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KEY PASSAGES:

Matthew 19:7-9

⁷“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

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1 Corinthians 7:15

¹⁵But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

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4. Divorce is legitimate under serious circumstances (perhaps more than adultery/abandonment), and therefore so is Remarriage of these cases.

The view stated simply:

Very similar to #3 except that the New Testament is not “exhaustive” in its teaching on the justice issues involved with the matters of divorce. It seems like Jesus says “only sexual sin” but Paul adds “desertion.” Therefore, we need to be wise in our judgments about what is a legitimate divorce.

Five Acceptable, Biblical (and yet contradictory!) Views:

5. *Divorce is legitimate under certain circumstances. However, no matter what the cause of the divorce is, Remarriage may be possible with a repentant heart and as much of a spirit of reconciliation as is appropriate toward the previous spouse.*

View #5 stated simply:

(SAME AS #3 or# 4 here) Jesus says that purpose of marriage is a life-long, covenant between a man and a woman which creates a “one flesh” union. It is a picture of God’s relationship with his people. However, even God is a divorcee, so divorce must be legitimate in certain covenant breaking behaviors, namely desertion of the spouse and adultery. In these cases, the divorce is allowed (though not preferred), and therefore so is remarriage. In addition, the cultural and religious setting in which Jesus and Paul teaching was against the “Divorce for Any Cause” ideas very prevalent in Jewish and Roman thought. In those cases of easy divorce, no one should participate in the encouragement or officiating of a “I need a better wife” type marriage.

View #5 stated simply:

However, with all that said, there are many complicating and sinful patterns that have happened to bring about many divorces. In those cases, divorce is not unforgiveable. Reconciliation with the original spouse should be sought. If not given, even to the “guilty party” and time has passed in order for repentance and as much reconciliation as possible to happen, and the matters are brought to the Cross of Christ for forgiveness, remarriage is allowed.

Five Acceptable, Biblical (and yet contradictory!) Views:

KEY PASSAGE:

John 4:15-18

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

Gospel Implications...

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1. Marriage is an illustration of Christ's love and commitment

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6. Fight for your and other marriages is the price we pay to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

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