

The Simple Truth Series #12

Marriage, Divorce,



and

Remarriage.

What does the Bible say?

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'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.

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1.

Introduction

The Bible clearly reveals the mind and Will of the Lord on Marriage and all that is associated with it, leaving no room for doubt or error, because the union between a man and a woman is a temporary 'type' (Until death us do part), of the union between Jesus Christ, and His Bride (His Church), which will last for all eternity.

If a marriage is in any way different than the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Bride, then we will get the larger eternal picture out of focus. Unfortunately, many 'Christians' ignore what the Bible says, and go with the current worldly trends, especially as regards divorce and remarriage, and may as well not even read the Bible, if they ever do?

2.

Marriage

The first thing we notice is the picture of Jesus Christ, and His Bride, male and female. A marriage takes place when a man and a woman promise themselves to each other. It isn't a legal contract between them, it's the giving of themselves freely to each other by choice. When they give themselves to each other, they both give up their old lives, to live a new life together. *'Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.'* (Genesis 2:24). They have become 'one.' Neither is single any longer, and neither can become single again, except *'death us do part,'* as they vow. The bride takes the husband's name, which shows they are now one, as a person takes Jesus Christ's name (Christian), when we promise ourselves to Him, and become His.

So, what are the roles of the husband and wife, in their marriage and home? St Paul clearly spelled them out in 1 Corinthians 11:3. *'But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.'* The order is, God, Christ, man, woman. Why is this? Because Christ was created for God, man was created for Christ (on the final day of creation), and woman was made for man (after creation was finished), when the Lord saw that man needed a *'helpmeet,'* or helper fit for him, and none of the animals were suitable.

After explaining this, in the next two verses, Paul explains how our hair is symbolic of

our relationship with our head. (V4). *'Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head,'* (Jesus Christ). (V5). *'But every woman that prayeth or prophesyeth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: (her husband), for that is even all one as if she were shaven.'* (Shaved). (V7). *'For the man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.'* (Man was made in the image of God, but woman was made in the image of man).

So, what is our covering? Verses 14 and 15 clearly explain that. *'Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.'* Women have tried scarves, hats, hoodies, and who knows what else, to cover themselves, but nothing else works outside the Will and Plan of God. A woman with short hair will never get into the Presence of God again, once she knows the Perfect Will of God. Neither will He hear her prayers.

We also find the parts husbands and wives are to play mirrored in Ephesians 5:22-25. *'Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.'* And verse 33, *'Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.'*

We must also look at men and women's Spiritual roles here, because they relate to the Spiritual 'Type,' of Jesus Christ and His Bride, His Church.

In 1 Corinthians 14, St Paul is teaching about Gifts and Ministries in the local Churches. In verses 34, and 35, he explains; *'Let your women keep silence in the Churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the Church.'*

This is also echoed in 1 Timothy 2:11-14. *'Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.'* To 'usurp' means to take an authority which is not yours.

The Pastor, is the God ordained authority in a local Church, and the highest office there is in this world. When the Lord calls a man as a Pastor, his wife is his *'helper fit,'* she is never called to Pastor with him. Any woman who becomes a 'Pastor' does it without the Lord, (usurps the authority), because she is saying she is equal with the man the Lord placed in this Office, when she is outside the Word, and Will, of God. In the Spiritual type, this represents Mankind demanding equality with Christ.

Then along came 'women's suffrage,' with women demanding 'equality' with men.

(Rejecting the 'headship' of their husbands, and demanding to be men themselves). Why were they doing this? Because they were rejecting the Headship of Jesus Christ over this world. When they were on the streets chanting, they were actually chanting, *"Away with this Man, we will not have Him to rule over us."* You only have to look where this led, to see what seed was being sown.

This was just another chapter in the age-old battle between Satan, and the Lord, with Satan telling mankind to deny the Word of God, the way he did to Eve. With this, the husband isn't any longer the 'head of the wife,' and in ungodly homes they are 'co-rulers.' When this was allowed to invade worldly 'Churches,' they couldn't see the spirit (Satan) behind it, and demanded equality in them. Of course, when they stepped outside the revealed Will of the Lord, it opened up a whole Pandora's box of ungodly choices, which finally led to women becoming 'Pastors,' in opposition to the Word, and Will, of the Lord.

The Lord Jesus is the *'Head of the Body, the Church,'* but when we deny this by our actions, we deny the Word of God, and this grieves the Spirit of Christ away. This is why so many 'Churches' are run without the Lord's Presence, because they rejected the Lord, when they rejected His order of God, Christ, man, women, and His Spirit left them.

Israel were led by the Lord through His Prophets. But then, they wanted a King to lead them instead, like the ungodly nations around them. Just as 'Churches' want to live and act the same as the ungodly people around them, when the Bible is the Christian's only rule for life, and conduct. *'Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord. And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.'* (1 Samuel 8:4-7).

The main problem with marriages where this is the standard, (the man and woman being co-rulers), is that they are telling the world that mankind is now equal with the Lord. Jesus Christ is no longer the *'head of the man'* but mankind is now equal with Him, which is again what Satan offered to Eve in Eden, when he promised; *'ye shall be as gods,'* if she disobeyed the Lord. If we want the Lord's blessing, and Presence, we must always be obedient to His Will.

3.

Divorce

When we become a Christian, we become Eternal, because the Eternal One, Jesus Christ, is living in us. *'And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.'* (1 John 5:11-12). We have become part of Him, because He has become part of us. *'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?'* Because we now have Eternal life, we are as Eternal as the Lord is, and we can never be without Eternal life. We will step out of this earthly body, when it dies, but we have another body to step into, *'eternal in the heavens.'* (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Once we are saved, we are saved for eternity. *'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* (Romans 8:35-39). Nothing can separate us from His love. We cannot lose our salvation, and become unsaved again, to be lost.

This is mirrored in the marriage vows, when a couple promise themselves to each other, *"Till death us do part."* They are 'one' as long as they are both living. *'The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.'* (1 Corinthians 7:39).

'For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of the husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.' (Romans 7:2-3).

'For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that He hateth putting away, (Divorce).' (Malachi 2: 16). The reason the Lord 'hates' divorce, is because it is outside His Will. If two people can divorce and become single again, then a Christian can lose Eternal Life, and become unsaved again, which is impossible. How can a person who has eternal life die? They can't, ever.

People often say, "God's a good God, He doesn't want anyone to be unhappy." That's true, He doesn't want us to be unhappy. That's why He wants us to make right choices, because, there are some choices we make, that can never be reversed once they're

made. E.g. Killing someone, pregnancy, or take the case of Esau, who sold his birth right to Jacob, and could not get it back, *'though he sought it carefully, with tears.'* (Hebrews 12:17).

So, can a man or woman separate from their spouse, if they find life together is unbearable? Yes, they can. Paul told us that in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11. *'And to the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But, and if she (or he) depart let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.'* And, what are her, or his, options after separating from their spouse? *'Let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband.'* These are the only two options available. Marrying again is never an option.

The Pharisees asked Jesus about divorce, as recorded in Matthew 19:3-9. *'The Pharisees also came unto Him, tempting Him, and saying unto Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away (divorce) his wife for every cause? And He answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that He that made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto Him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.'*

In the last few lines there, the Lord restored marriage to the position it had when it was originally instituted in the Garden of Eden. *'Whosoever shall put away his wife and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.'*

Why don't our Churches teach what the Bible reveals the Will of God to be? Ask the Ministers. They are the ones supposedly teaching their congregations how to live lives pleasing to the Lord. I'm sure with some it's because they don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. Others won't say anything that may cause people to leave their Churches. Some honestly may never have even thought about it. But the majority seem happy to just go along with what the ungodly 'world' makes of divorce and remarriage, not caring what the Lord thinks of it. This is a sad state of affairs, because the Lord reminded us in Mark 7:6-7, *'Well hath Esaias (Isaiah) prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.'*

4.

Remarriage

The only grounds that are given in the Bible for remarriage, after divorce, are told by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 19:9. *'And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away (divorced) doth commit adultery.'*

Fornication is sex between a couple who *aren't* married; whereas adultery, is sex between a couple, where either of them *is*, or has *been* married, and still has a living spouse. If a man marries a woman in good faith, believing she is pure (a virgin), but finds she isn't, (has committed fornication), then according to the Lord, he can divorce her, and remarry. But, if he married her knowing she wasn't pure, then he cannot claim this Scripture as grounds for divorce and remarriage.

Can a woman divorce her husband, or be divorced, and remarry? No, according to the Lord, and St Paul. She can remarry legally, if her husband is dead, as the Lord and Paul both explained, but if she remarries while she still has a living husband, she is living in adultery. Why is this?

Because of the 'type,' of Jesus Christ and His Bride. The reason why a woman cannot divorce and remarry, is because the Lord does not recognise divorce. In divorce we are saying that a Christian can separate themselves from Christ, (become unsaved again), and become a Buddhist, or part of some other religious sect, and be lost, which can never happen. How can a person who has become a 'new creation' return to being the old creation? They cannot, any more than a butterfly can return to being a caterpillar again. They are, and always will be, Eternal.

The Spiritual grounds for a man to divorce and remarry are also recognised here. If a man, (or woman), has been a devotee, of a religion outside of Christ, (a Buddhist, or any other 'impure' religion), then they are free to denounce that, and become a Christian, and the Lord will recognise it.

The Lord hates divorce, (Malachi 2:6), and does not recognise it when a marriage is supposedly ended by mankind. (*What God has joined together, let not man put asunder*). In His sight the spouses are still married, and if they remarry, they are still married to their former spouse, and committing adultery with their second one. This is what St Paul is talking about in 1 Timothy 3:2, *'A bishop then must be...the husband of one wife.'* And in 3:12, *'Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife.'* If a person has been married, divorced, and married a second time, then in God's sight they have two wives, and cannot be a bishop or deacon, because of the Spiritual significance of remarrying.

What can we say of remarriage, (for any man or woman), outside of fornication? It is adultery, for everyone, whether they are unbelievers, or 'Christians,' as the Lord and St Paul both explained:

Matthew 19:9, *'Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.'*

Romans 7:3, *'So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress.'*

So, what is the position in the Lord's sight, of those who have remarried, and are living in adultery before Him? We are told plainly in the Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10. *'Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,....shall inherit the kingdom of God.'* Though Paul did give us hope in verse 11, when he said, *'And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.'*

5.

What can we do now? Hope.

"Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the Will of My Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? and in Thy Name have cast out devils? and in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21-23).

When we step outside the revealed Will of God, we are beyond His grace, and the only hope we have is in His mercy. Hope is something which may or may not happen, but we 'hope' it will. Is there any hope then? Paul gave us a glimpse of it in 1 Corinthians 9:11, when he said, *'and such were some of you.'* For unbelievers, who have not accepted Calvary as the atonement for their sins, whether adulterers or not, there is no hope anyway. They are lost Eternally.

Some Christian's complain about those who have slept around, before they became Christians; then marry, after they become Christians, and are free. What they forget is that those people were playing 'Russian roulette.' If they had died while sleeping around, they would be lost for Eternity. The grace of God forgave them, because there are no 'big' sins, and 'little' sins; their fornication was no worse than someone else's 'little white lie.' It's all filthy rotten sin in the eyes of God, and all worthy of damnation.

For those, who have been told by their 'Minister' they can remarry' their 'Minister'

will also have to answer (Bear their guilt), for them before the Lord.

For those who have been remarried, and unknowingly commit adultery, their hope is found in two Scriptures;

Matthew 3:28-29. *'Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith so ever they shall blaspheme: but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.'*

And 1 John 1:7. *'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.'*

Many people say, "God loves the sinner, but hates the sin." That is not true. We are told in Psalm 7:11, *'God is angry with the wicked (sinners) every day.'* The first sin in the Garden of Eden separated the whole human race from their Creator, and caused every sorrow, sickness, heartache, and death, that has ever happened. Your sin will separate you from Him for Eternity, unless you repent, and make it right.

Adultery is a physical, and Spiritual sin, it not only defiles you physically, but it also perverts the Will of God, by saying, that purity, and filth are equal before Him, which is a lie. As Hebrews 12:14 encourages us, *'Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man (or woman) shall see the Lord.'*

We are separated from this world to be a 'Holy people' serving a Holy God. After all, He never chose an ornate marble Temple to live in, He chose Godly men and women, as we are told in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. *'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.'*

The Lord has not given any of us any special permission to show the way out of this mess, so, I will relate what the Scriptures suggest. If you have been divorced and remarried as Christians, then you now know what the Bible says about it, and what you do about it is between you and the Lord.

When a remnant of Israel returned to Jerusalem, from the captivity in Babylon, they rebuilt the Temple, and chose to honour the Lord, by living according to His Will, and Word; to make everything right, that had caused the captivity. One thing they had done was to marry into the ungodly nations around them. This was not just the people, but also the Priests, and Levites. Ezra's advice to them is found in Ezra 10:10-11;

'And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.'

Now therefore make confession unto the LORD GOD of your fathers, and do His pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.'

We find the peoples response to this in verse 19;

'And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.'

Admittedly, this is not adultery, it was the Israelites defiling their separated status. But a way was made for them to be restored to a right relationship with the Lord, which is what we also need.

If one divorced their spouse today, to restore them to a position within the Will of God, would it work? They cannot remarry their former spouse after Divorce, according to the Scripture. And what if they have children to their second spouse? I, for one, could not say with any certainty that it would help, because two wrongs never make a right.

The only way out with some certainty, is to repent of acting contrary to the revealed Will of God, pray until His Presence comes to you, then make it right with Him, by claiming 1 John 1:9. *'If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'* We do need both forgiveness and cleansing, because our sin does defile the temple of God, and interrupt our Fellowship with Him.

For the future? We cannot make the same mistakes again. We must now live with the choices we have made, put our whole hearts into our marriages, and always be thankful for the Lord's tender mercies to us. As Paul stated, *'such were some of you.'* Once it is made right, we must keep our mistakes in the past, and move forward, living every day, and in all we do, to the glory of God alone.

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