

**IF**  
**You Say**  
**“I Don’ t”**

*The Lord Seeks a Godly Seed*

## *Ephesians 5:31-32 (NLT)*

- 31) As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”
- 32) This is a **GREAT MYSTERY**, but it is an illustration of the way **CHRIST AND THE CHURCH ARE ONE**.

## *Some People Are UNFAITHFUL*

- There are those in the **ECCLESIA** who will prove to be **UNFAITHFUL**
- There are those who will be **UNFAITHFUL** in **MARRIAGE**
- This **DOESN'T** make it **RIGHT**, but it should be **EXPECTED**

## *GOD Is PRACTICAL*

- God **TOLERATES** things that He doesn't necessarily **APPROVE** of
- God **ALLOWS** things that He doesn't necessarily think are **GOOD** for us

## *Remember...*

- Just because God **ALLOWS** something, doesn't mean that it is the **RIGHT** thing to do
- Just because God **ALLOWS** for **DIVORCE, DOESN'T** mean that it is the **RIGHT** thing to do

## *Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)*

- 4) “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’
- 5) and 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?**
- 6) So they are **NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE.** Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

# *Bigamy*

- If, from the beginning, God's plan involved **ONE** man and **ONE** woman, then why does He allow **BIGAMY**?
- **BIGAMY** is an example of **TOLERANCE**
- It wasn't God's **IDEAL**, but it was **TOLERATED** by Him

## *GOD Is...*

- God is the **PROTECTOR** of the **DEFENSELESS**
- God **CARES** for the **INJURED** and the **OFFENDED**



## *Exodus 21:10-11 (NIV)*

- 10) If he marries another woman, **HE MUST NOT DEPRIVE THE FIRST ONE** of her food, clothing and marital rights.
- 11) If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money.

## *GOD Protects The Injured*

- The **RIGHTS** of the first wife were **NOT** to be reduced if a man took another wife
- God **TOLERATED** Bigamy, **BUT**, the tolerance was **CONDITIONAL** and **LIMITED**

## *Leviticus 18:18 (KJV)*

- 18) Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to **VEX HER**, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.

## *The Reason for Divorce*

- God **PROTECTS** the **INJURED**
- God instituted laws to **CONTROL** the practice of Bigamy, and allow for the **PROTECTION** of the rights of the first wife

## *Matthew 19:8 (KJV)*

- 8) 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.
- God **ALLOWED** this to happen, but again, He **CONTROLLED** it so that the **INJURED** would be **PROTECTED**

## *The Reason for Divorce*

- God **ALLOWED** Divorce, **NOT** because He thought that it was a **GOOD** thing, but because He is **PRACTICAL** enough to realize that it happens, and He wants to provide for the **PROTECTION** of the **INJURED** party

## *Matthew 19:7-9 (NIV)*

- 7) “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”
- 8) Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.
- 9) I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

## *Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV)*

- 21) “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘**DO NOT MURDER**, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’
- 22) But I tell you that **ANYONE WHO IS ANGRY WITH HIS BROTHER** will be subject to judgment.



## *The Law of Christ*

- Christ calls us to an even higher standard than the Law of Moses, **BUT** the difference is that he brought **GRACE** into our lives and provides for our weakness and sin

## *Numbers 5:12-22 (KJV)*

- We are living in a time of **GRACE**, **MERCY**, and **FORGIVENESS**, not **DIVINE RETRIBUTION** on someone who has fallen
- Let's *come alongside* and help them **THROUGH** the times of trouble, not forcing them to **STAY** in it forever

## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:1-2 (KJV)*

- 1) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman.
- 2) Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

## *Matthew 5:31-32 (NIV)*

- 31) “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’
- 32) But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, **EXCEPT FOR MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS**, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

# *The EXCEPTION Clause*

- **PORNEIA** = Marital Unfaithfulness
- Acts 15:20
- Acts 15:29
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:1
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:13
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:18
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:21
- Galatians 5:19
- Ephesians 5:3
- Colossians 3:5
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:3
- Revelation 2:21
- Revelation 9:21

## *The EXCEPTION Clause*

- If we understood this any other way, we would have to conclude that Jesus would be allowing Divorce in the case of Pre-Marital Unfaithfulness, but **NOT** in the more grievous case of Unfaithfulness **AFTER** having taken the vow of Marriage

## *Summary*

- Moses didn't **TEACH** Divorce, but rather **SUFFERED** it because of the hardness of human hearts
- The Law stated a man could put away his wife for **ALMOST ANY CAUSE, BUT** it also made certain provisions to **PROTECT** the **INJURED** Party

## *Summary*

- Jesus denounces the putting away of a wife in order to marry another, **EXCEPT** for the cause of **MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS**
- Thereby, Jesus calls us to a **HIGHER** calling, while still **PROTECTING** the **INJURED** Party when there is one



# *Adultery*

- Adultery **BREAKS** the Marriage Covenant and **DESTROYS** the Vows
- God views Adultery so serious that **HE** considers the Marriage Covenant dissolved by it

## *Jeremiah 3:8 (KJV)*

- 8) And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery **I HAD PUT HER AWAY**, and **GIVEN HER A BILL OF DIVORCE**; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

## *Hosea 2:2 (KJV)*

- 2) Plead with your mother, plead: for **SHE IS NOT MY WIFE, NEITHER AM I HER HUSBAND**: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

## *Jeremiah 31:32 (KJV)*

32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I **WAS** an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

## *Is God Hard Hearted? NO!*

- God divorced his people on the only grounds permissible:  
**UNFAITHFULNESS**
- It **IS** Hard Hearted to divorce your spouse for “*any reason whatsoever*”, but the **EXCEPTION** to that is **UNFAITHFULNESS**

## *The Lord Hateth Putting Away*

Adultery is a breach both of the covenant and of the spiritual and physical union which underlies it. It is because the Lord's ideal of marriage is so high that adultery is so odious, and so catastrophic in its results, for it means that the lofty ideal has been besmirched, the solemn covenant dishonored, and the spiritual principles repudiated.

## *The Lord Hateth Putting Away*

The **EXCEPTIVE CLAUSE** recognizes not just the collapse of physical restraint; it is the horrified response to the cruel and fleshly blow, which has defiled something spiritual and holy. **IN NO WAY IS IT A LOWERING OF THE IDEAL**; if anything, it heightens the ideal and clothes it with greater sanctity.

## *Innocent?*

- When a Marriage fails, it is **USUALLY** the results of **TWO** People's actions
- There is hardly ever an **INNOCENT** Party in a Divorce
- But, **NOTHING** is **JUSTIFICATION** for Adultery and the desecration of Vows



## *Repentance and Reconciliation*

- IF a man or woman is UNFAITHFUL to their spouse, they are expected to REPENT
- IF we are REPENTANT we can find FORGIVENESS in Christ

## *Repentance and Reconciliation*

- Therefore, **IF** there is **UNFAITHFULNESS** in a Marriage “In Christ”
- And **IF** there is **REPENTANCE**
- Both Parties are expected to **RECONCILE**

## *Repentance and Reconciliation*

- The **UNFAITHFUL** is expected to show **REPENTANCE**, and the **INJURED** is expected to show **FORGIVENESS**
- Each case is **UNIQUE**
- Consider the **REPENTANT ATTITUDE**

## *Repentance and Reconciliation*

- Acceptance back into Fellowship does **NOT** mean their behavior is condoned, but merely that their **REPENTANCE** is recognized
- Just because the **ECCLESIA** accepts them, that doesn't mean they are accepted at **JUDGMENT**

## *Matthew 19:6 (KJV)*

- 6) So they are no longer two, but one.  
Therefore what God has joined together, **LET  
MAN NOT SEPARATE.**
- This verse does **NOT** say that man **CANNOT** separate
  - It says that man **SHOULD NOT** Separate

## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:10-11 (Message)*

- 10) And if you are married, **STAY MARRIED**. This is the Master's command, not mine.
- 11) If a wife should leave her husband, she must either **REMAIN SINGLE** or else **COME BACK AND MAKE THINGS RIGHT** with him. And a husband has no right to get rid of his wife.

## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:12-13 (NLT)*

- 12) Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is an unbeliever and she is willing to continue living with him, **HE MUST NOT LEAVE HER.**
- 13) And if a Christian woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is willing to continue living with her, **SHE MUST NOT LEAVE HIM.**

## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:14 (NLT)*

- 14) For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not have a godly influence, but now they are set apart for him.



## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:15 (NLT)*

- 15) But if the husband or wife who isn't a Christian insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the **CHRISTIAN HUSBAND OR WIFE IS NOT REQUIRED TO STAY WITH THEM**, for God wants his children to live in peace.

## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:16 (Message)*

- 16) You never know, wife: The way you handle this might bring your husband not only back to you but to God. You never know, husband: The way you handle this might bring your wife not only back to you but to God.

## *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:17 (Message)*

- 17) And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. **GOD, NOT YOUR MARITAL STATUS DEFINES YOUR LIFE.** Don't think I'm being harder on you than on the others. I give this same counsel in all the churches.

## *IF You Say “I Don’t”*

- God is **PRACTICAL**
- God **CARES** for the **INJURED** and the **OFFENDED**
- God calls us to a **HIGHER CALLING**, but because **HE LOVES US** so much He makes allowances for us if we fail