

Mark 10:1-9 – Divided on Divorce (离婚)

Vincent, Clarke, Rienecker, Gill, Family, Geneva, TSK, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, PNT, Poole, Robertson, Henry, JFB, Calvin, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I would venture (冒险) to guess that everyone here knows someone who was divorced. This is a sad reality of our culture. People today largely believe that man is product of evolution (进化论) ...so if someone better comes along – richer, more educated, or better looking, they may leave their spouse and marry that other person... Because they don't believe in God, they could make changes like these without any violating of their morals.

What is sad is that many churches have changed their own teaching on divorce. But why would churches change their teaching on divorce? There are 2 main reasons: First, **some people want an excuse to marry other spouses and would likely leave the church** if they are not permitted to be divorced, so the church leaders acquiesce to their pressure. Second, **church leaders believe that the biblical doctrine (教义) of divorce is outdated and believe it must be updated.**

Well what does God say? Let us rightly divide the Word on this subject of divorce.

Our headings are:

The Question about Divorce

The Correction about Divorce

The Prevention of Divorce

Our goals are: **That as covenant children of God, you will be moved to labor to preserve yours and your neighbor's marriage, knowing the heinousness (邪恶) of divorce and blessedness of Christian marriages.**

Question about Divorce

1 Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.

1. Wherever Jesus went he attracted crowds who wanted to hear his Good News of how they could be saved from their sins, as well as to experience and witness Jesus' miracles to strengthen their faith.

2 The Pharisees (法利赛人) came and asked Him, "**Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife** [for any crime]?" testing Him.

2. But not all people wanted to hear his Good News and experience and witness his great miracles.

The Pharisees wanted to trap (陷害) Jesus so **they could have him executed (被处决)** and **win back** their followers that they were losing to Jesus in order to get back their power and wealth they were losing.

3. So the Pharisees used one of their traditions in order to trap Jesus: Their tradition on divorce.

They asked Jesus if it were lawful to divorce for **any reason**. (Other account)

3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

4. Instead of answering their question directly (which would have gotten him in trouble), Jesus asked them a question instead.

He knew their hearts – hearts that were bent on evil.

4 They said, "**Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce**, and to **dismiss her**."

5. The Pharisees responded that Moses permitted divorce as long as a certificate was written.

And according to Rabbi Hillel, a famous Jewish rabbi, a man could divorce his wife for putting too much salt in the food, or over roasting the meat. Another rabbi said that a woman could be divorced for dinner being late. Rabbi, Akiba, said that a man could divorce his wife if he found a more attractive woman.

6. Lessons:

a. Many people love divorce because it is their alternative to polygamy (多配偶制). But in a way, it is polygamy. It is simply serial polygamy; it is having one wife after another.

b. Because men like divorce, they look for any kind of reason for divorce. Today the most common reason for divorce is "irreconcilable (不可调和的) differences." That means anything! It is no different from the made up and frivolous (轻率的) reasons that came from the Jews and other false religions.

The Correction about Divorce

5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the **hardness of your heart** he wrote you this

precept (规范) .6 "**But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'**

1. Jesus pointed out that Moses believed that divorced was only permitted for sexual sins (性犯罪), but he only introduced a temporary process of writing a Bill of Divorce to avoid chaos, for people's hearts were hard.

Remember it was Moses who wrote the Genesis – Deuteronomy, so he knew what God taught from creation. He knew that God did not permit his people to divorce **except for sexual immorality**. So Moses' Bill of Divorce **did not give approval of the divorce**, as the Pharisees were claiming, **it was only the fact of the divorce**.

2. Moses permitted a Bill of Divorce so that:

a. A man would think about his actions as he wrote his divorce papers, see his sin, and repent.

b. A man would have to get witnesses (见证人) who, after reading his letter of divorce, might caution him, against his foolish reasons for desiring a divorce.

c. A man would not kill his wife or be cruel to her so he would be free to remarry,

d. His wife would have protection – a legal statement saying why she was divorced for non-adultery reasons. If one spouse were guilty, he was executed and the innocent party was free to remarry. In such cases there was no need for divorce.

Moses tried to ensure that divorce was not easy...as it is a violent act...one that rips apart flesh... as the two become one at marriage. Moses knew that divorce was against nature. It is not normal to rip off parts of your flesh.

Malachi 2:16 "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 (奸诈地) ."

3. Christ, in order to show how divorce was very restricted, corrected their perverted (堕落的) view of divorce in 2 ways.

a. Sexual sins is reason for divorce.

Matthew 19:9-11 - 9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, **commits adultery (奸淫)**; 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." **11** But He said to them, "**All cannot accept this saying**, but only those to whom it has been given:

All kinds of sexual sins: adultery (奸淫), bestiality (人兽交合), homosexuality (同性性行为), incest (乱伦), etc.

b. Abandonment (遗弃, 抛弃) is reason for divorce.

Look at how the Lord taught this through the Apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbeliever (不信主的人) departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

No one in the normal course of life has ground for abandoning his wife or her husband for any great length of time.

4. Historically, one never reads of Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, or Isaac divorcing their wives.

God created one man and gave him the rule: A man would leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife – singular.

5. Lessons:

a. Watch out for frivolous reasons for divorce...when people try to paint a picture of how wicked their spouse is. Always evaluate what people say with the Word of God. You might hear people say: "You don't know what I have to put up with." "You wouldn't oppose my divorce if you had to live with him...or her." These might invoke your sympathies, but they are not reasons for divorce.

b. If you have marriage issues, ask for counseling. This is God's cure. Don't take the death sentence on the marriage. Get God's treatment.

The Prevention of Divorce

7 'For this reason a man shall **leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife**, 8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 "Therefore what God has joined together, **let not man separate.**"

1. Christ not only corrected the Jews about their false view of divorce, he also instructed them in ways of preventing divorce.

2. What are those ways?

a. Christ reminded them that divorce is a violent act. The two people become one flesh. How can the ripping apart of the flesh not be a violent unnatural act? The very nature of the marriage union militates (产生作用或影响) against divorce. When one sees blood one is less likely to be involved in such an activity.

b. Christ reminded them that marriage is a Divine institution (神圣的制度) and should not be tampered (被篡改) with in any way, but be used to advance Christ's cause in the world. No one should try to improperly separate married people. Great blessings come on a nation with faithful marriages, for with faithful marriages come faithful churches. With faithful churches comes faith worship.

3. There is one final thing of note as we examine divorce: Divorce is not an unpardonable (不能被原谅的) sin.

So even if someone were improperly divorced and remarried, if you ask for forgiveness, the Lord will forgive you. Just as God would not permit a man to divorce his wives if he were guilty of polygamy, even so God would not demand that a man who recognizes his sins and repents of it... divorce his wife. To abandon such wives would be a greater sin.

4. Lessons:

a. Those ministers (神职人员), churches, or individuals who support frivolous divorce will be forcefully dealt with by God. Regardless of how much a church member might be nice, or how much you might like them, supporting unbiblical divorce is sin. Churches must refuse excuses like: "We are different." "It's for her good." "It's for the children sake." "We can't communicate anymore." "We've grown apart." "This marriage should not have taken place in the first place." God is not pleased with such excuses.

b. Watch out for things that drive couples apart. Learn to work on your own problems and then help your spouse with his. If the problem is lust, then help each other to keep your eyes on each other and off of others. Learn of the benefits of "drinking water from your own cistern" as Solomon wrote. If someone does not provide for his spouse, he should learn to do so. If someone is too busy and ignoring the other, help him to take warning! **You must diligently work to safeguard your marriage.** Marriage is the foundation of the church and society. If marriage fails, the church and society will fail.

c. Since marriage is a Divine institution, Premier Wynne and all the judges who have tampered with it (either by permitting marriages between forbidden parties, or by working to give frivolous divorces) will be severely judged by God. (This is good reason to pray for these who have offended God in this way.)

d. Even when someone commits adultery there is no "requirement" of divorce. Forgiveness and restoration (重新建立) is a viable (可行的) and loving action that should be considered. And even if the innocent party sues (起诉) for divorce, he is still obligated (有义务的) to forgive the one who sins and confesses his sin.

Conclusion:

Jesus used the attempted trick (诡计) by the Jews to correct one of their most corrupted teachings: the teaching on divorce. The Jews used what was nothing more than a temporary permission by Moses to avoid confusion and treated it as a law. **Jesus taught them that the permission wasn't a law and he proceeded to teach them the law.** He then taught that divorce was a violent action that was only permitted for sexual immorality (不道德), but that faithful marriages were a benefit to family, a blessing to the church, and ultimately, brings praise to our God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. So don't think for a minute that divorce is permitted for all the improper reasons that our Supreme Court (最高法院) says, or because some churches say it is okay. They aren't God, they only pretend to be. Divorce is only permitted for the sins outlined clearly in the Bible.

2. You have to be prepared to work for the prevention of divorce. You must remind yourself that divorce is a violent act. Remember God's warning not to touch marriage laws as marriage is a Divine institution. Remind yourself that divorce is not the only answer to adultery. Remember that you can find help among the elders for help in your marriage. Remove yourself from a church that is willing to accept any frivolous reasons for divorce. If you do these things, then divorce rates, particularly among evangelicals (福音派), would not be high and much glory would come to Christ and much good to the family.

3. Marriage between you and your spouse ought to be like the unity that exists between Christ and his church. And consider that price that Christ paid for your freedom...he shed his blood on the cross for sinners. In fact, it was his sacrifice on the cross that gave you the will to die to yourself and live for the good of your spouse!

Finally, to my non-Christian friend, you cannot enjoy the blessings of a Christian marriage, the closest thing to heaven on earth, unless you have a new heart. Christ promised that he would take your heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh...a heart that is living in obedience to God's law. Then you can truly enjoy all the fullness of God's blessings to you and your family and bring glory to him at the same time.