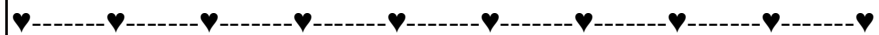


to know God's saving truth (John 8:32; 1 Thess. 5:21). Please let us be honest and upright in doing so. ♥



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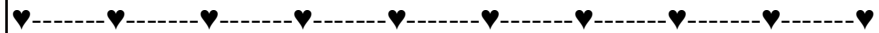
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GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear God's Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the truth (Mark 16:15, 16; Heb. 11:6)

Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3, 5)

Confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32)

Be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live a **faithful** life until death (Rev. 2:10b; 1 Tim. 4:7, 8)

Conversion accounts with some detail: Acts 2:37-42, 47; 8:5-13, 30-39; 9:6-18 cp. 22:16; 10:6, 44-48; 16:14, 15, 30-34.

♥ We admonish you: **believe** and **obey** the Lord (Heb. 5:8, 9) ♥



Who will be saved? Answer: Matt. 7:21



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

WOL

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God's Will on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

by Perry Sexton

In Genesis 2:18-24 we find God's sacred institution of marriage. It should be noted that God took one rib out of man and formed one woman: Adam's wife Eve. God did not take one rib out and discard it and then take another for the wife, nor did God take multiple ribs for multiple wives. Thus Adam proclaimed of the one woman from the one rib: "This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (vs.23,24). This is speaking of **only one wife for one man for one lifetime**. This is God's will which Jesus also sanctioned in Matthew 19:4-8, but some do not like it and rebel against God.

It is of great significance that our Lord Jesus went all the way back to "the beginning" concerning God's will on marriage (ibid) and also gave the warning "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." It is a very serious matter to twist Scripture, add to and take away from the Word of God in any matter and so it is very serious to teach error on the holy and sacred bond of marriage.

Could the Lord have made this any plainer: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"? Yet men, even today, twist and pervert Scriptures to their own destruction and to that of others (2 Peter 2:1-3; Matt. 15:14). Please note that Adam and Eve were not in the church and also that Jesus did not speak of just those in the church. It is clear from the Scriptures that only two things can sever this marriage bond which is of God: (1.) Death (Romans 7:2); or (2.) Jesus gave **the one and only exception**: "fornication" by one of the marriage mates (Matt. 19:9).

Death: Paul plainly said “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 7:3, read v.2 also).

Fornication: Jesus gave the one and only exception, false teachers notwithstanding (Matt. 19:9, below)! No one has ever successfully refuted this because it is true. In the case of fornication, the innocent party has the right (AUTHORITY FROM GOD) to marry only one who is eligible for marriage -- no adultery is committed in this second marriage. The guilty party does not have the right to marry another. In the case where fornication was not involved, if either party marries another they will be living in adultery. They can be forgiven of this only if they cease this adulterous relationship. **God’s repentance demands that the sin cease, otherwise no repentance has taken place.**

Paul reinforces this truth of God which is from the beginning: “And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife” (1 Cor. 7:10,11). Scripture could not be plainer for those who want the truth, but not all want the truth (cp. 2 Tim. 4:3,4). Such are discussed next.

Like those of this day, who have hard and unbelieving hearts, and will not accept God’s Word on marriage, divorce and remarriage (MDR): “The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? ⁴And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? ⁶Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ⁷They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ⁸He 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. ⁹And 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” (Matt. 19:3-9 cp. 5:31,32; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18).

In light of what Jesus said, why would anyone want to go back to what Moses said to try and justify man’s doctrine of MDR? **It shows**

the same hardness of heart! A disbelief and rebellious spirit toward God! Furthermore, Paul shows that anyone who would go back to the Law of Moses to justify anything is fallen from grace (Gal. 5:4). To fall from grace is to lose one’s salvation! All people in this Age are under the law of Christ, i.e., the New Testament.

What Jesus said is contrary to what Moses allowed (see Matt. 5:31,32), but Jesus is in perfect harmony to what Paul wrote (1 Cor. 7:10,11, above). Read and study Matthew 19:3-9 above. For clarity, let us leave out the except clause in verse 9 for a moment: “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, ..., and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” **This truth is inescapable!** And why anyone would want to escape the truth of God and thus escape His salvation is beyond me. Only truth can save (John 8:32). “Whosoever” is all inclusive just like God’s marriage law from the beginning is for all people everywhere. One cannot get around this. Do as Jesus did and also led us to do and go back to Genesis 2:18-24 and read and heed. Jesus, who has all authority (Matt. 28:18), is showing us God’s will on marriage and Jesus is giving the one and only exception to this rule for a divorce and remarriage to take place.

Very simply stated: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24); “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt. 19:6, see vs. 4,5); “And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife” (1 Cor. 7:10,11); “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” (Matt. 19:9); “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 7:3). If you have a doctrine wherein these verses are contradicted you have a doctrine of devils! You have not God and His Son (2 John 9).

It is our plea that all will study these things with an honest desire (Luke 8:15) to know God’s will. Wherein we disagree, let us reason together (cp. Isa. 1:18) and search the Scriptures together (Acts 17:11)