

Jesus on Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 5:31-32

³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The cultural context: moral laxity regarding divorce

"It was also said ..."

24 "When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce ... (Deuteronomy 24:1a)

Two schools of thought:

The scriptural context: lust → adultery → divorce

What's the root issue (always)?

What's the cure for a lustful heart?

Is my heart's desire to find an "escape clause", or to work for faithfulness?

The text itself: a sample, not the sum of Jesus' teachings

"But I say to you ..."

Jesus is restoring the right sense of God's good _____ and _____ in marriage.

We already know what God thinks of divorce. _____.

Malachi 3:11-16 tells us ...

- 1) It is the breaking of a sacred _____ ("Breaking _____").
- 2) It brings _____ to our Christian witness.
- 3) It causes _____ to others.
- 4) It destroys the picture of covenantal faithfulness between _____ and the _____.

In light of all this, where do we look for a remedy?

"Be careful then to keep your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously." (Mal 2:16 LSV)

"So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously." (NASB)

"So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife." (NLT)

Implications and Applications:

Jesus _____ this exception clause because of the very _____ of marriage: It is a _____ union. Violating that union is "porneia" (translated here "_____").

Jesus _____ but does not _____ divorce for the cause of sexual infidelity. Adultery doesn't *necessarily* put a marriage beyond repair. God's _____ is great.

If there is no _____ cause for a divorce, and a person remarries, that is _____ (adultery).

If there is a legitimate _____ of marriage (divorce), then _____ may be possible.

Conclusion: Truth and Grace

What if I'm struggling in my marriage now?

What if I have sinned already?

What can I do proactively to guard my heart?