

# A Generation Who Knows

## *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*

(Matthew 19:1-12)

- Introduction:
1. Never has there been a time in the history of our society when divorce was so commonplace.
  2. In years past, divorce carried with it a heavy stigma.
  3. As we begin, allow me to say this: Divorce is an emotional issue. But let us not allow our emotions to cloud our vision regarding what God had said on this subject.
  4. Also, allow me to say this: This is not a blanket condemnation of all who have suffered through a divorce.
    - a. Some have divorced and remarried because of their spouse's fornication.
    - b. Some have, against their will, been put away by their spouse.
    - c. I personally feel that sometimes we have been so quick to condemn divorce, that we have unintentionally failed to reassure and comfort those who have divorced but who are innocent in God's eyes.
  5. Let's consider what Jesus said about MDR from Matthew 19:1-12.

### **I. The Pharisees were trying (testing) Jesus (19:3).**

- A. In order to understand how this question could be considered a "test" to Jesus, one must understand the background of Jewish thought and interpretation.
- B. (Deuteronomy 24:1).
  1. The school of Hillel - divorce for any cause.
  2. The school of Shammai - divorce for adultery.
- C. To take a stand on such a controversial issue would alienate Jesus from one group or the other.
- D. Also consider what happened when John spoke out against Herod's marriage (Matthew 14:1-4).

### **II. God's original plan (Matthew 19:4-6)**

- A. Marriage is constituted by male and female.
- B. Marriage is not homosexual.
- C. Their relationship is intended by God to last for life.

### **III. An Alteration of God's original plan (Matthew 19:7-8)**

- A. During the Old Covenant, divorce was permitted.
- B. The reason: the hardness of their hearts.
- C. It was never God' ideal; "from the beginning it was not so."
- D. Why did God allow it if He didn't like it?
- E. (Acts 17:30-31).

**IV. Christ's teaching on marriage and divorce (19:9)**

- A. Whoever puts away his wife and marries another commits adultery.
- B. "Commits"-present tense meaning "keeps on committing adultery".
- C. On exception (fornication) sexual immorality.
- D. Any passage that is interpreted in such a way that is in conflict with this plain passage is wrongly interpreted.

**V. The disciple's response (19:10)**

- A. They say that if this is true, that it is better for a man not to even marry.
- B. Does it not seem strange that men today just cannot seem to understand this passage, when its meaning was so apparent to the disciples of Christ?

**VI. Jesus' response to the disciples' statement (19:11-12)**

- A. He says that all can accept this statement.
  - 1. "This statement"-not Jesus's statement.
  - 2. The disciple's statement.
- B. Not everyone is suited to live a single life.
- C. However, some are suited for single life.
  - 1. Eunuchs who are born.
  - 2. Eunuchs who are made by man.
  - 3. Eunuchs who have made themselves so for the kingdom's sake.

- Conclusion:
- 1. The teachings of Christ on this vital issue are not really that difficult at all.
  - 2. The difficulty resides primarily in the hearts of those who are attempting to circumvent God's will on this subject.
  - 3. How do we solve the divorce dilemma? Decide to confirm ourselves to this statement, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."