

Marriage: A Practical Theology

LESSON 11: NO-FAULT DIVORCE?

Intro:

BIG IDEA: God creates a _____ in marriage that only He can _____.

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.” **Matthew 19**

The Divorce Debate

- In Jesus' day there was a debate between rabbinical schools centering on Deut. 24.
- The focus was on one word, here translated “_____.”
- Seems connected to _____, but is a different word than in Gen. 3.
- It appears in Deuteronomy 23 in a context of _____ and _____ fluids.
- Genesis 9:22-23 uses it 3 times to refer to Noah's _____ while passed out _____.
- Ex. 20:26 priest were not to climb steps to the altar lest their ‘_____’ be seen.
- Leviticus 20 it is used 24 times to refer to forbidden _____.
- Rabbi Hillel: _____ that displeased a husband: cooking, weight-gain...
- Rabbi Shammai: permitted only upon _____.

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some **indecent** in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, ... **Deuteronomy 24**

¹⁴ Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything **indecent** among you and turn away from you. **Deuteronomy 23**

God Creates a Union

- God _____ the two together so they become one _____. Not just a _____ status.
- The next words are vital: _____ must not _____ them!
- Man doesn't _____ them, and man cannot _____ them.
- Marriage is a _____ mandate, a common _____ institution, regulated by God.

When God Breaks the Union

- The Pharisees responded with a gross misinterpretation. “Moses _____.”
- A certificate of divorce was to make it a _____ event so we wouldn’t be charged.
- They were _____, in certain situations, to issue this certificate.
- Indecency is a _____ for divorce, but does not _____ divorce.
- Jesus uses the word ‘*porneia*’ to describe the _____ for divorce.
- Refers to any sexual activity _____ the context of _____.

As If Dead

- Leviticus 18: the sexual practices of the nations that God’s _____ didn’t permit.
- While _____ in Egypt, Canaan or Corinth they were not _____ in Israel.
- They would feel the temptation, _____ & _____, to adopt these practices.
- The gospel freed Gentile believers from the sexual _____ they experienced.

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **1**

Corinthians 6

- Leviticus 20: stressed God’s holiness, gave them the penalty for these immoral acts.
- Adultery, incest, bestiality, homosexuality etc. _____ - _____ sins!
- Premarital sex: penalized by a fine, unless discovered after marriage. _____-sentence sin.
- **The Point:** if your spouse committed any of these sins they were put to _____.
- Your marriage was over and you could _____.
- They were _____ (not required) to divorce their spouse and _____ again.

Pre-marital Porneia

- Today virginity is often the cause of shame.
- In Israel it was prized because God prized _____. It mirrored our _____ to God.
- Virginity is about fidelity to a future _____ despite the desire for present _____.
- Deuteronomy 22: instructions about the _____ of _____ & penalty for taking it.
- If a husband falsely accuses his wife he was _____, fined & unable to _____ her.
- If the charge was _____, she was to be taken her parents’ door and _____!

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- _____ virgins, treated as married, would be guilty of _____ & stoned.
- If she is in the countryside, only the _____ is killed. Assume _____ not adultery.
- If two _____ lovers, he pays her father & they are married w/out _____.
- Tell your _____, if you have them, prior to _____ or marriage.

Post-Marital Porneia

- Disconnected families and early _____ => sexual addiction is “_____.”
- Sexual _____, voyeurism, adultery & _____
- Our culture _____ & _____ post-marital sexual sin.

Why People Stray

- _____ issues => sinful _____.
- **Power:** men may stray to feel powerful, perverting “_____ & _____.”
- _____ & rape are different avenue to experiencing power of another person.
- Some use their power to gain _____.
- **Avoiding Responsibility:** Sex w/out responsibility of a _____ relationship.
- **Avoiding Pain:** using sex to _____ painful _____.
- **Loneliness:** perversion of her call to “_____ *the earth.*” Lack of relational _____.

“Lust produces bad sex, because it denies relationship. Lust turns the other person into an object, a thing, a non-person.” **Richard Foster**

“Adultery is not merely sex with the wrong person; it is union with someone that will never require us to face our sinfulness or draw forth our glory so that we are more and more in awe of God.” **Allender and Longman**

Back to Matthew 19

- Bitter irony: divorce not _____ in sexual sin will _____ in sexual sin!
- We complicate things by trying to undo _____ marriages (Deut. 24).
- Divorce is caused by _____.
- The sexual sinner may _____ to _____ and rebuild _____ with their spouse.
- Sometimes the sexual sinner wants to _____ their spouse AND _____ their sin.
- Sometimes the sexual sinner _____ their spouse to _____ their sin.
- The cross means that repentance is met with _____ => _____.
- Their repentance does not REQUIRE _____ of the marriage. BUT ...
- Sometimes the hard heart belongs to the _____ spouse. Lack of forgiveness.

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- _____ poisons the relationship so that _____ can't be rebuilt.
- The church should help them _____ the sins committed against them AND forgive.
- Forgiving them is living like the _____ is true. Forgiving them may be very painful.

“All divorces are caused by sin; but not all divorces are sinful.” **Jay Adams**

Conclusion: