

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: Does God approve divorce for every cause?

There is likely not a family in our land that has not been touched by the devastating effects of divorce. Broken marriages are eroding the moral fabric of our nation. Divorce is costly, and not just from the standpoint of legal fees and alimony. It costs husbands and wives all sorts of heartache and grief. It generally puts children in a position where they are made to choose between mother and dad. Children from broken homes often wind up with broken marriages, since this is what they saw as they were growing up. Worse than all of this is the sad reality that divorce can and will cause many to lose their souls. We live in a time of “no-fault” divorce and breaking of the marriage bond due to “irreconcilable differences.” Does God condone such ill-treatment of the institution of marriage?

Jesus stated, “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” (Matthew 19:9). From the very beginning, God intended for one man and one woman to be joined in marriage for life (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:1-3). The Jews began to give writings of divorcement for any cause (Matthew 19:3, 7), but God never intended for the marriage vow to be treated so flippantly. The Divine rule is “whosoever shall put away his wife and shall marry another committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” Simply stated, when the marriage bond is broken, and one remarries, he/she is involved in a continual state of adultery. However, God in His infinite wisdom knew there would be some who would be unfaithful to their marriage vows (Matthew 19:8), and so He gave an exception to His law regarding marriage. The only exception is for the cause of fornication. The innocent party has the right to divorce and remarry another. The guilty party must live a life of continued celibacy (Matthew 19:10-12). The vow is “till death do us part,” not “as long as our love shall last.” What God has united, let not man divide (Matthew 19:6)!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please contact us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.