

divorced committeth adultery." Here the Lord lays great guilt upon the shoulders of the man who divorces his wife. Such a man causes his wife to commit adultery. He bears a large part of the responsibility for her sin of adultery that she will be committing when she remarries, as she most likely will. Also, the man who marries her is committing adultery. Thus, two very important truths come out of this verse. (1) **The man who divorces his wife causes her to commit adultery.** (2) **The man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.** I am sure that you notice above that our Lord included an exception, "*saving for the cause of fornication.*" That exception will be reviewed in detail later on in this study. For the moment, please notice that He did not make an exception for adultery. Fornication and adultery are two different things.

The next recorded words of Christ dealing with divorce appear in Luke 16:18. This is more toward the end of Christ's earthly ministry, and He is continually forced to confront the hypocritical Pharisees and Saducees. In the entire chapter 16 of Luke, the Lord is showing them that they themselves are sinners. Divorce and remarriage were common and acceptable among the majority of them. So after stating, "*and it is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the law to fail,*" He shows how that man who thought they were righteous were breaking the law. They were committing or condoning adultery. "*Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.*" In these words,

the Lord has brought out a third point to add to our list. (3) **The man who divorces his wife and remarries is committing adultery.**

The next words of Christ on our subject appear to have been spoken just a few days later, but in a different location. Our verses are found in the parallel passages of Matthew 19:1-12 and Mark 10:1-12. Here, the Pharisee bring up the issue, although their purpose is to tempt our Lord. they ask, "*Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?*" (Mat. 19:3). They appeal to the civil temporal law that the Lord permitted through Moses. But Christ appeals to the higher, moral law that was established on eternal principles back in the Garden of Eden. The Lord points out that the divine order, from creation until today is that one man should take one woman to be his wife, and cleave to her, for they are one flesh. Then He states very clearly, "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" Observe that this is the first time that the Lord is not speaking of remarriage or adultery. He is speaking only of divorce, and He expressly forbids it.

In public discussions and studies such as this, I am generally reluctant to discuss technicalities from the Greek text. But in this passage I find an extremely important note which should be pointed out. When the Lord spoke the words, "*let not man put asunder,*" He used a present imperative prohibition. But there are two types of prohibitions found in the Greek language. The aorist subjunctive prohibition would be...

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Bible Baptist Church Bulletin

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set (Prov. 22:28). Vol. 2, No. 15 27 September 2009

Divorce – The Unacceptable Alternative

By: Dan Roten

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). From the



the beginning God saw that companionship was necessary. He accordingly instituted marriage to be a source of blessing to man. And it has been just that for countless multitudes. But many others, whose number is rapidly growing, have seen their marriage turn disaster. Sadly for all, they have turned to divorce for relief. This trend is both heart-breaking and frightening.

Everyone realizes that divorce is common today, but perhaps few realize just how common. In 1890, one out of every 1,000 people participated in a divorce. But in 1978, a shocking one out of every 97 people in the U.S. participated in a divorce! In the 12 month period ending in June 1979, the ratio of marriages to divorces was not even 2 to 1.

Dare we ask why this could be? Certainly no thinking person would try to give a simple answer to that question, for the problem is obviously very complex. But I think we must confess that one of the reasons for the sky-rocketing rate of divorce is that the preachers of God's Word are no longer preaching God's hatred of this sin. Their silence has given tacit approval. And now many preachers, who have studied more psychology and counselling techniques than they have Bible, are "re-evaluating traditional prejudices" (old Bible convictions) and are seeking to "develop a spiritually healthy attitude toward divorce" (high sounding words to disguise their own compromise and situation ethics). Thus, they cover up their...

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Ministries

1. Bible Studies
2. Tract Drop
3. Door-Knocking
4. Personal Evangelism
5. Missions

Position

1. Independent
2. KJV 1611
3. Baptist
4. Old-Fashioned
5. Soulwinning
6. Premillennial
7. Non-Charismatic
8. Unaffiliated

Church Services

Sunday:

- 9:30 am — Sunday School
10:30 am — Worship Service
6:15 pm — Evening Service

Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

CHURCH TIMES

Sunday:

9:30 am — Sunday School
10:30 am — Worship Service
6:15 pm — Evening Service

Wednesday:

6:30 pm — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Saturday:

8:00 am — Door-Knocking & Tract Distribution

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- This BBC Bulletin can be downloaded online on biblebaptist.net.au/bbcbulletin.html
- Tract-Drop and Door-knocking on Saturday.
- Sunday & Wednesday Church services.
- Wisdom for Bro. Robert Javapro leading the Friday's Bible Study (6:30pm) for PNG folks in Kalgoorlie.

Church Bulletin

For those who have prayer requests, Christian articles, poems, or announcements for inclusion in the next issue of the Church Bulletin, please ring or email Ethel Macale.
 Deadline: Friday, 5:00 pm.
 Phone: (08) 9022 8323
 Email: ethel@macale.org

- Need for church car
- Church services at Bible Baptist Church, Kalgoorlie.
- Pastor Eugene Macale's ministries' financial needs: Bible Baptist Mission (Liloan, Southern Leyte, Philippines).
- Dondoy (Pastor Macale's brother) from alcoholism.
- Edna, Pastor Eugene Macale's sister-in-law, for complete healing of her stage-4 cancer.
- Kylie Mell's (Chris' wife) healing from multiple sclerosis.
- Financial needs of Bible Baptist Church, Talisay, Cebu under Pastor Gemmo Suberano.
- Pray for Pastor Romy Macale's teaching job's security in KBCHS.
- Pray for the needs of our new Bible Baptist Church members: Bro. Jerry Penie & his wife.
- Pray for our new Christians for baptism.
- Travelling mercies of BBC Kalgoorlie members to attend the Baptist Fellowship Meetings in Calvary Baptist Church, Armadale, WA on Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2009.

Websites worth visiting:

<http://www.biblebaptist.net.au>
<http://www.oldkjv.org>
<http://www.macale.org>
<http://www.av1611.info>
<http://www.biblebaptist.ph>

Divorce...

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...won participation in the tragedy and piously declare, "Let's not impose a rigid set of legalistic standards, but rather minister grace." All the while they are ministering Antinomianism (an ancient heresy of lawlessness), rather than Biblical grace, in absolute disobedience to Rom. 6:1-2,15. Citing Rom. 6:14 they cry, "We're under grace, not law!" Yet they ignore the first half of the same verse which declares, "*For sin shall not have dominion over you.*" Grace does not destroy or annul the moral law and absolute divine standards of God. Rather, it gives a new motivation (love to Christ) and ability (by regeneration and the indwelling Holy Spirit) so that we might walk "*being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ*" I Cor. 9:21.

Jesus preached grace and truth in contrast to the Mosaic law (Jn. 1:17), but He never sought to set aside the moral law of God. To the contrary, He often expounded upon it. In doing so He was not preaching some new "kingdom law," but was clarifying the divine standard of God's law against which men transgress when they sin (I Jn. 3:4). That standard is absolute and unchanging, regardless of the dispensation of time, since it is determined by the unchanging holiness of God.

My purpose in writing this article is to lead anyone who reads it to the conviction that divorce is not an acceptable alternative. To resolve any problem, a person must weigh the alternatives, then discard the unacceptable and pursue the acceptable. Likewise, couples with serious marital problems are finally

faced with only two alternatives—resolution of the problems, or else divorce. If Christians will come to unanimous agreement that divorce is not an acceptable alternative, then they can give themselves wholeheartedly to resolving the problems that they are faced with. My earnest prayer and desire is that broken homes might be rebuilt and strengthened, rather than divided and destroyed by divorce. That must begin with the firm conviction that divorce is not an acceptable alternative, especially for Christians.

To begin our Scripture study of this subject, let us go to the Sermon on the Mount which our Lord preached early in His ministry. In Matthew 5:17-20, the Lord begins speaking of the law. In verses 21-32, He takes two examples from the moral law of God, as found in the Ten Commandments, and comments upon them. In verses 21-26, He is speaking of the practical applications of the prohibition against murder, and in verses 27-32 He is giving practical applications of the seventh commandment, "*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*"

Our Lord's first words concerning divorce are found in that last division that I mentioned, where His subject is adultery. In verse 28, He shows that adultery is a sin of the heart. In verses 29-30 he gives a physical illustration to emphasize man's need of a changed heart. Then, still dealing with adultery, the Lord brings up divorce in verses 31-32. "*It hath been said, whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is*