Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage – Part 4

Adam Willingham · 1 Corinthians 7:12–16 · Series: **Marriage**

INTRODUCTION

- We don't have two separate sets of instructions, sets of rules. We have two applications of the same rule, and the rule is divorce is wrong.
- Paul is just making an application that Jesus did not specifically make.
- If they could just remember what Jesus said, and that's it, period. Divorce is wrong, the only exception is adultery.

1 If the Unbeliever Stays

1 Corinthians 7:12–14

- If any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.
- And it's no different if you're married to an unbeliever. The same thing that applies generally applies specifically. Divorce is still wrong.
- God recognizes the mixed marriage between a believer and an unbeliever as a holy union.
- Therefore, the unbelief of a spouse is no ground for divorce.

2 You Might Be Able to Convert Them

1 Corinthians 7:16; 1 Peter 3:1–2

- For how do you know, a wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, a husband, whether you will save your wife?
- Why not divorce the unbeliever? Because you might be able to convert them.
- If you divorce them, you give up all chance of you having an influence to be able to convert that person.
- Don't give up hope. Paul seems here to be giving the Christians who are married to non-Christians hope.

3 Not Marriage as a Means of Evangelism

1 Corinthians 7:39; 1 Corinthians 7:35

- Paul is not encouraging marriage as a means of evangelism.
- But if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes only in the Lord.
- I don't think that God demands it so that it's a sin if you don't, but he really wants you to.
- You put yourself in a world of trouble by choosing somebody who's not a Christian.

4 If the Unbeliever Leaves

1 Corinthians 7:15; Romans 12:18

- Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave. The brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.
- If the unbeliever insists on divorcing, the believer is not at fault by letting him leave.
- So if it comes between a decision to serve the Lord and preserve the marriage, you serve the Lord. And let the unbeliever depart.
- Free to do what? Free to let him leave.
- Make the best of such a situation as peacefully as possible.
- The important thing isn't our temporal happiness. The important thing is whether we go to heaven.

5 Verse 15 Does Not Teach the Pauline Privilege

1 Corinthians 7:39; 1 Corinthians 7:11; Matthew 5:32

- They take that not under bondage to mean that the marriage bond is dissolved.
- A wife is bound as long as her husband lives.
- If your spouse commits adultery, you then have a choice to dissolve that marriage bond by divorcing them and going and remarrying somebody else. That's the only exception.
- Everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of unchastity or adultery, makes her commit adultery.
- Scripture does not conflict Scripture. God does not contradict Himself.

MY NOTES