



## BIBLE TALK

**Mike King**

Question: There are so many views on marriage, divorce, and remarriage today; what am I to believe?

Answer: It is true that there are many views on the subject, most of which are confusing. My appeal to all is that a close examination of scripture be made, forgetting personal bias and conjecture of men. Let's see what the scriptures have to say.

God realized that it was not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18), so He instituted marriage, making it honorable (Heb. 13:4). Paul taught that marriage is God's creation and is "good" (1 Tim. 4:4). It being the handiwork of God, man should not assume the right to destroy it (put asunder) at his own discretion (Mt. 19:6). God was not in favor of divorce from the beginning, but because of the hardness of man's heart gave a writing of divorcement (Mt. 19:7-8). It was given to discourage and protect the marriage relationship from destruction. There are only two reasons for the dissolution of such a relationship: death of one of the marriage partners (Rom. 7:2) or sexual infidelity (Mt. 19:9). The destruction of the relationship constitutes one sin, unscriptural remarriage the other.

Content in Mt. 19:3-9 and Mt. 5:31-32 give the most complete explanation of the subject of remarriage. If a couple divorce without having the above reason (fornication), they then waive their right for remarriage. They must remain single or create an adulterous union by living with another to whom they are not entitled. Adultery, merely means, "an illicit or illegal sexual relationship." Illegal in that it is against God's laws. The above passages indicate that the "innocent" party is free to marry, where adultery has occurred against them. The "guilty" party has forfeited their rights for another in that they did not have a scriptural reason for divorce. It is safer and easier to mend and keep the marriage together than to run the risk of living in adultery and damning one's soul (1 Cor. 6:9).

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