

to make to what Jesus said is quite complicated. *But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery...unless the divorcing party enters into another relationship first, in which case the other party can mentally divorce the other, giving the former party the Scriptural right to remarry.* Jesus didn't say this, and teaching this requires a huge addition to what Jesus did say.

Conclusion

Many views that are based on philosophy instead of Scripture have arisen. As Paul warned, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8). A view based on philosophy that cannot be directly supported by Scripture should be shunned.

Lest we forget, transgressors do not have God. Those who abide in the doctrine of Christ have both the Father and the Son (2 John 9). Those who add to the word of God have neither.

-RAB

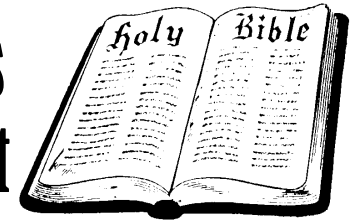
Prayer List

Keith Copeland	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Gene Shannon
David Depew	Sara Nance	

Area Meetings

Bill Hall, Gooch Lane, Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6
 Sewell Hall, Jordan Park, November 2-7
 Kenny Moorner, Westview, November 2 -5
 David Bonner, Pepper Road, December 5-7

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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Abiding In Doctrine & Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

The words spoken by John at the close of Revelation echo a principle firmly established throughout the Scriptures: God's word must be followed without additions or subtractions by His people.

Moses told the Israelites, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2).

Proverbs 30:5-6 instruct, "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar."

In spite of the numerous warnings in Scripture, men still commit the sin of transgression. John wrote, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God" (2 John 9a). Transgression is going beyond what God has instructed, adding to or taking away from what God has instructed in His word.

The problem of transgression can be seen in many areas of doctrine, including the teachings of man on marriage, divorce and remarriage.

Taking Away

Some have responded to the Bible teaching on marriage, divorce and remarriage by taking away what God has granted.

Inferences that can be drawn from Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 7 suggest that some at Corinth were forbidding marriage. Paul mentions a "present distress" in 1 Corinthians 7:26. Moreover, he argues that being married adds responsibilities that may limit one's ability to serve the Lord. He says, "He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord; how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world; how he may please his wife" (1 Corinthians 7:32b-33). Both of these factors might lead one to believe that remaining single was the right thing to do, and some at Corinth may have gone beyond this, arguing that it was wrong, sinful, to marry at all.

Paul corrects this error, saying, "But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned" (1 Corinthians 7:28a) and "But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry" (1 Corinthians 7:36).

God Himself said, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). God created marriage. Forbidding those never married and those Scripturally divorced from marrying is taking away from God's word a right He has granted them.

Adding To

The more grievous error today revolves around the opposite. Many read what God has written about marriage, divorce and remarriage and take positions that are require them to add to God's word.

Concerning Alien Sinners

When Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees about divorce, He

said, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 19:8-9). The words of Jesus are straightforward and clear on the matter.

Some preachers today teach that these words of Jesus don't apply to those who are not already Christians. Making this case requires a lengthy discussion of the nature of the covenants and laws. It also requires making an addition to the words of Jesus. Instead of "whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery," proponents must add to Jesus' words to say, *whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery... unless the divorce came before entrance into the kingdom.* Of course, Jesus didn't say this. No passage of Scripture says this. The argument is based on philosophy, and to make it, proponents must add clauses to what the Bible does say.

Concerning Mental Divorce

The mental divorce view requires similar additions. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 5:32). Here, Jesus emphasizes the consequences your actions may have on others. If you divorce your wife, except for sexual immorality, you put her in a situation where remarriage will make her an adulterous. The man who marries her will be an adulterer. Again, Jesus' words are straightforward and clear on the matter.

The mental divorce view states that God doesn't recognize the civil divorces at all except when sexual immorality is involved. Divorced couples remain married in God's sight. Therefore, when one partner enters into another relationship, the other partner can "mentally divorce" them and have the freedom to remarry Scripturally. Of course, there is no passage of Scripture that actually says this either. In fact, the addition that one has