

ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The question was asked (and this will be a paraphrase) "If A and B marry then divorce for unscriptural reasons, then C (who has never been married) marries B and they are thus committing adultery, but they in turn divorce, may C then marry without sin?" Generally, questions like this are framed in order to make a sticky situation seem even more unbelievable, thus causing some to retreat from taking a strong stand against sinful divorce and remarriage. This is not the reason for this question, however. Look around and you will see just such situations taking place far too often. People can really make a mess of their lives and seemingly make hash out of God's law for marriage.

Let us first review what the Lord taught regarding divorce and remarriage. One who divorces for reasons other than the **ONE** given by Scripture, and marries again commits sin. The one to whom they marry commits sin also. The only way to cease this sin of adultery is to get out of that marital situation. Let us also be cautious when using the phrase "in the eyes of God." This does not appear in any text dealing with this problem. Confusion thus arises as to "who is married to whom?" in these cases. Please note, in the texts dealing with this, Jesus does call the union a "marriage." This does not mean however that it is legitimate. It is sinful in that such "marriage" is unlawful.

Now, when A and B divorced for unbiblical grounds, they sinned. Paul taught that they ought to reconcile. When B married C, the problem is compounded, but still manageable in that there is a solution. They must cease the adulterous sin by getting out of that marriage. As to the interloper (C), whether C was ignorant of the situation, ignorant of God's law or not, does not excuse him/her from sin. So long as C is married to one who is not a lawful mate, C sins. The only way to cease this sin is to get out of that situation. Let us say C learns the truth regarding this problem and divorces B. C is now in the same position he/she was **before** marrying B. Yes, C is free to marry lawfully now. Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Never try to justify an action by saying "well, I really believed or did or did not know or (whatever), so I can keep this new mate." Be certain of the facts before making any decisions or judgments regarding others.

SOULS FOR SALE OR TRADE!

Jesus said, "For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" (Matthew 16:26). Too many young people (well over 50%) are trading their souls for a husband or wife. They "fall in love" with a boy or girl who does not care one whit for the Lord, his church or salvation. The results? These are becoming less faithful and usually fall away from the faith!

Many try to justify their actions with this kind of thinking: "Well, I'll get him/her coming and converted after we are married." Such foolhardy dreaming! The vast **minority** are successful in this. If their future spouse is not interested in spiritual things before the wedding, what makes them think they will be interested afterwards? So, when found in this situation, too many "love husband or wife more than [Jesus]" (Lk.14:26). Oh what terrible risks are involved in this arrangement. It is a matter of one's own business of course, but it is **bad** business with eternal, damning consequences. The sad part is that this is not considered before "falling in love."

Young brethren and sisters, please do not marry a non-Christian. Do not even date steadily a non-Christian if possible--you know what can happen. Which would be worse, to go without a steady or mate for a few years until you find a Christian, or spend an eternity separate from God? When you think about the permanence, closeness, and duration of marriage, take plenty of time in choosing the right mate. It is far better to be single and wishing you were married, than to be married and wishing you were single. Marriage is **serious** business. It is not something we can get into and out of as we choose. **God** joins us together. Count the cost before entering the life of matrimony (Lk.14:28).

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth" (Psalms 96:9). This Psalm paints for us the "preview" of the kind of worship that God will desire from His saints. Much of what the New Testament teaches is the "antitype" (fulfillment) of what was pictured in the Old. This "beauty" from the Psalm comes from a word meaning "decoration; splendor; ornament." The "ornaments" of holiness ought to be indicative of one who wants to show forth their holiness and desire to worship and please God. Without doubt, the "splendor" of the holiness of the people, particularly of the Old Testament priests was seen in their dress. In fact, they were required to dress in a certain way. This is not to suggest that there is a certain "dress code" (as in items of clothing listed) found within the New Testament, but we certainly can conclude that a principle of what is proper attire is set forth.

Does God require the men to wear suits and ties and the ladies to wear dresses only? No, but does He set forth the principle of clean, modest and appropriate dress for the occasion at hand? Indeed! It is not surprising that God has set forth various instructions dealing with modesty and proper behavior and uses clothing as the "vehicle" or "medium" to set for these wishes. Consider: "And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright *and* pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:8). Imagery plays an important role in Biblical interpretation. The "beauty" of our holiness is seen in our "righteous acts" and is illustrated by the imagery of clothing. Now, there surely is a connection between these three: that is, our holiness, righteousness, and clothing.

Obviously, our dress will show to a great extent our attitude toward the actions in which we are engaged. How does one dress for bed at night? Is this what you wear to work or school? Is what you wear to work in the garden or on the car the same outfit you would wear to your friend's or loved one's funeral? We know how to dress for all kinds of occasions, but for some unknown reason, sometimes we will not give a "second thought" to what we wear when coming before the Lord of Glory in worship. We ought occasionally look at ourselves and truly ask if, while wearing clothes that are far below what our good, clean clothes would be, are we truly coming before the Lord "in the beauty of holiness"? Since we are the antitype of the Old Testament priest-hood (1 Peter 2:5,9), should we not be more careful how we dress ourselves when coming before Almighty God?

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
Phone: 614-830-0110
Website: www.ragerroad.org



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley James Grayson	614-751-1082 614-409-0941

August 9, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"If you call Jesus 'Lord,' do as he says!" James Grayson

Abbey Kay Haley arrived Tuesday, August 4 @ 1:04 am and weighed in at 5lbs.14oz. She and her mom are doing fine, and her dad and big brother are well too!

Please stay for the fellowship meal and the men's business meeting that follows directly after.

Picnic next Saturday, August 15, at Old Man's Cave. Meet at the main visitor's center before doing some hiking. We will have a lunch together at the picnic area of Ash Cave at about 11:30 am.

Question/Answer session in 3 weeks. Please turn in some questions in the question box for Robin to address.