

Divorce is a Sin

Jesus says divorce is a sin. It seems to be remarriage that is the sin more than the divorce itself, but it's pretty clear that Jesus took a pretty tough stand against divorce.

Where does that leave Christians? Living in sin, many. I know there are millions of Christians who got divorced and then remarried. Surely they have read the Bible, and therefore they must know the following passages quite well. That doesn't seem to stop them, though. Why is that? Christians think their faith is such a wonderful thing. But when it gets right down to it, that isn't what motivates them. Believers and non-believers are motivated by the same things. Were that not so, Christian divorce and remarriage would be a very rare event.

Here is Biblical proof that divorce is a sin, especially when followed by remarriage. Devout, pious Christians simply ignore these passages and pretend they aren't there.

Mark 10:2-12:

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife

and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:3-9:

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” They said to him, “Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?” He said to them, “It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.”

Matthew 5:31-32:

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Note that Matthew includes the phrase "except for unchastity", which is missing from Mark. That's a pretty important exception to the rule. Why would Mark omit it? Or maybe it's just another insertion by a scribe who felt the omniscient God needed his help to get the story straight.

Are there really so many unfaithful Christian spouses to explain all the Christian divorces? If so, that doesn't say much for Christianity, does it?

I'm aware that there is a passage in the Old Testament that also deals with divorce, but I don't think it has much relevance to today. However, here it is so you can make of it what you will.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4:

Suppose a man enters into marriage with a woman, but she does not please him because he finds something objectionable about her, and so he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house; she then leaves his house and goes off to become another man's wife. Then suppose the second man dislikes her, writes her a bill of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house (or the second man who married her dies); her first husband, who sent her away, is not permitted to take her again to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that would be abhorrent to the Lord, and you shall not bring guilt on the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession.