

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

Marriage is nearly as old as the human race. It was ordained by the Creator Himself. It was God's will that a man and a woman become one in marriage. No provision was made for either polygamy or divorce. Marriage was intended by God to be for life, ***"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh"*** (Genesis 2:24). Also study, Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39. His plan, as given in the beginning, was: "one man, one wife--for life!"

It was not long, however, until men departed from God's original plan. Polygamy began to be practiced (Genesis 4:19). When the Law of Moses was given to Israel, the people had become so hard-hearted that God permitted divorce, but only under certain conditions (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). Even then, God was not pleased with divorce. He said: ***"For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce"*** (Malachi 2:14-16).

When Jesus came into the world and gave His law for all mankind, He did not give a new and different law of marriage. Instead He called mankind back to God's original plan (Matthew 19:3-12). His commandment, ***"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate"*** is still God's will for us today!

The Lord allowed only **one** cause for divorce. This cause is sexual immorality on the part of one's marriage partner. Fornication on the part of a marriage partner gives the **innocent** partner the right to divorce and remarry. But **no such privilege is given to the guilty partner!** To divorce and remarry for other than the one Scriptural cause is to commit adultery. To marry one who has been divorced who was not the innocent party is to commit adultery. ***"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 19:9). Also read Matthew 5:31,32. Adulterers will **not** go to Heaven. They will spend eternity in Hell (1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 21:8). Those who are living in adultery must repent, stop committing adultery, and seek the Lord's forgiveness if they want to be saved.

The home is the basic unit of society. It is the function of the home to provide companionship, the satisfaction of basic human needs and the rearing and training of children. The community, the church, and the nation can only be strong when the home is strong. Many evil forces are seeking to destroy the home today. Among these evil forces are easy divorce laws, sexual immorality, false views of woman's role in society, but most of all, ignorance of, and a failure to obey God's law of marriage which is given in the Bible.

God's people must **never** compromise God's will on marriage! We have no right to change God's requirements! In a day when the world increasingly accepts divorce and remarriage for almost any cause, God's people must stand out as lights shining in darkness (Philippians 2:14,15). It is not our duty to be changed by the world's standards, but to bring the world to God's standards. Paul states in Romans 12:1,2, ***"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*** To this end, we should strive diligently to make our homes conform to God's righteous ways recorded in His Word. It is very important that we teach our children

that **marriage is for life** and **divorce is sinful** except for the one reason that Jesus gave. Let us never forget or forsake the divine admonition: *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4). God’s plan for marriage is still “one man, one wife, for life!”

Let us teach our children God’s will on marriage, divorce and remarriage. We must set an example for our children and for the world by following God’s plan for marriage!