

## The Life of Christ

### Sermon on the Mount >> Personal Relationships (Continued)

#### **Matthew 5:27-32**

#### **Divorce as Adultery**

vs 27-28

Lust = Adultery (example of David)

vs 29-30

Almost parenthetical – the true cost of our sins

vs 31-32

Divorce a preparatory act of Adultery

Context: Writing of Divorce > Woman, not just verbal like neighbors!

Context: Question and Motive – “for any reason”

- Sexual immorality only
- Any reason at all

### More on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

Deuteronomy 24:1, 2-4

The command cited by Jesus is all in verse one.

(Leviticus 18-20, Deuteronomy 20-24)

Other OT passages list types of sexual sins or give regulations and penalties under Mosaic law, but are not particularly relevant to this discussion.

Matthew 19:3-9 = Luke 16:18 = Mark 10:2-9

Jesus expounds on divorce and remarriage as adultery

Mark 10:10-12

Disciples follow-up privately a little later

Matthew 19:10-12 >> I Corinthians 7:1-9

Jesus on celibacy, Paul expounds

I Corinthians 7:10-16

Christian marriage to unsaved, avoid divorce peacefully

I Corinthians 7:25-40

Benefits of celibacy, sinlessness of marriage

### To sum up:

- Divorce is considered adulterous unless it is a response to fornication or adultery, or in the case that both marriage partners are not Christians.
- Christian divorcees may be reconciled, but under Mosaic Law this was forbidden if there was an intervening marriage – the act is called an abomination.
- Remarriage, other than reconciliation above, is adulterous – I believe that this indicates an improper relationship or lust, which is the cause, or a causal factor, in the divorce. I do not believe that this applies when the remarriage is a later event unrelated to lust or relationship which existed at the time of the divorce.
- Remarried couples are never called to divorce to “end living in sin of adultery-based marriage,” but rather, all marriages are encouraged to continue in faithful relationship.
- Celibacy is promoted by Jesus (and later quoted and expounded on by Paul), but married men who have raised up their children are required as deacons, elders, and Sanhedrin (Paul)

**Consider:** Sanctity of Marriage (Genesis 2:24), this is primarily a protection for women (and children) and a restraint on male sex-drive. Also, marriage is a vow to God, and to each other, by the betrothed couple and should be honored.

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Study, Obey, Teach – Ezra 7:10 *For Ezra had set his heart to SEEK the law of Jehovah, and to DO it, and to TEACH in Israel statutes and ordinances. (ASV)*