

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

(AN INDUCTIVE STUDY)

I. **PLEASE READ** carefully the following passages of Scripture:

Genesis 2:23,23; 6:2

Exodus 20:14

Deuteronomy 22:13-30; 24:1-4

Hosea 1:2-2:23

Malachi 2:14-16

Matthew 1:18-20; 19:1-12

Mark 10:1-12

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7; 16:18

John 4:1-29

Romans 7:1-3

I Corinthians 7:10-16; 13:1-13

Ephesians 5:22-33

II. **SUMMARIZE** each of these passages in your own words.

III. **ANSWER** the following questions:

1. Are you willing to approach God's Word on this subject with meekness and humility, knowing that He is the Judge with Whom we must address all matters and that Christ is our Lord to Whom we must submit our lives (II Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17)? If not, why not?

2. Genesis 2:24 records God's words concerning the Divine institution of marriage. Who weds two together in marriage? What are the steps required in establishing a marriage? Are these requirements normative?

3. What are the purposes of marriage (Gen. 2:18,24; Hosea 1-2; Isa. 50:1; Jer. 3:1-14; Ezek. 16:15- 63; Eph. 5:31-33; Rev. 19:7-10; 21:9-27)?

4. Why does the Mosaic Law (Ex. 19:5,6; 20:14) forbid adultery specifically? Why was the death penalty applied to those who committed adultery (Lev. 20:10, 22-26)?

5. How is the adulterer in the New Testament treated differently (Jn. 8:1-11) by our Lord? Why?

6. If death was the penalty for adultery in the Old Testament then does adultery automatically terminate a marriage in the New Testament (Rom. 7:1-3)? Explain.

7. What is Christ's definition of adultery (Mt. 5:27-32)?

8. What consequences of intermarriage with the heathen were predicted by God in Deuteronomy 7:1-4? How were these later fulfilled in Israel's history (Judg. 3:5, 6; I Kgs. 11:1-8; Ezra 9:1,2)?

9. Because the covenant community of Israel yielded to temptation of intermarriage with the surrounding pagan peoples, especially after the Babylonian captivity during the times of Ezra and Nehemiah, what severe action did Nehemiah take against the offenders (Neh. 13:25-28)?

17. When was a man never, "all his days" permitted to "put away" his wife (Deut. 22:13-19; 28-29)?

18. Considering the different circumstances and consequences cited in Deuteronomy 22 what do you think the phrase "some uncleanness" does not mean? Do you have an idea what it may mean?

19. How does Jesus explain the Mosaic concession recorded in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (Mt. 19:7-9; Mk. 10:4-6)?

20. Jesus allows divorce for only one cause - *porneia* (translated "fornication"). Is it probable that this word refers to adultery considering both the context of Matthew 19 and what you have already studied (Cf. Deut. 22, 24)?

21. What is the context of Matthew 19:1-12? How did the disciples react to Jesus' teaching on divorce? Why?

22. Is Matthew and Mark recording the same encounter between Jesus and the Pharisees on the subject of divorce? What evidence are you able to submit to support your conclusion? What is the significance of this?
24. Are those who remarry following a divorce living in perpetual adultery (Mt. 5:32; Mk. 10:11, 12; Rom. 7:3)? Explain.
25. Explain John the Baptist's position on divorce and remarriage. What happened to him because he taught this position (Lk. 3:19-20; Mt. 14:1-12; Mk. 6:14)?

26. There were two, well-defined positions held by the Pharisees in N.T. times: The School of Hillel taught that a man may put away his wife "for any cause" and The School of Shammai taught that a man may only put away his wife "for adultery." How does Jesus' teaching "exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees" (Mt. 5:20, 27-32; 19:3-9)?
27. Explain the betrothal custom of biblical times (Mt.. 1:18-25). Could *porneia* possibly refer to unfaithfulness during the betrothal period? What are the pros and cons?
28. What major idea is Paul developing in Romans 7:1-6? How is the subject of marriage a fitting metaphor?
29. What light does Paul's illustration from the marriage union recorded in Romans 7:2, 3 shed on his view of marriage and its termination?

33. Identify the three reasons Paul states in I Corinthians 7:14-16 for preserving the marriage union with an unbelieving partner.
34. Does I Corinthians 7:15 teach that divorce and marriage following divorce is permitted in the event of desertion? Explain.
35. How does I Corinthians 7:27 fit the context of 7:25-35? Is Paul implying in verse 27 that some divorced persons may in fact remarry without sin? Why or why not?
36. Does salvation remove the consequences of divorce if committed prior to being saved (II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:7, 8)? Why or why not? Does this same logic apply to the consequences of other sins?

37. Are the characteristics set forth in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 qualifications for office, objectives or ideal standards for which those in office are to strive? Why?
38. What is meant by the phrase "husband of one wife"?
39. Can divorce and/or divorce and remarriage be forgiven (Jn. 4:17-26; 8:1-10)? What is required for forgiveness (Prov. 28:13; I Jn. 1:9)?
40. What place of ministry within the body of Christ can a divorced person legitimately have? Cite biblical principles and/or passages.

If you have seriously studied these questions and have thoughtfully and prayerfully answered them biblically; if you have conscientiously allowed God to speak through His Word without bias; if you have attempted to harmonize your interpretation of the text in such a way that no scripture is at variance with any other, and if you have arrived at a conclusion that is more than an academic conclusion, but a personal conviction, then CONGRATULATIONS! Praise the Lord for His wisdom and understanding and you are to be commended for your diligence and hard work!

For further studies and information on this subject contact:

Harry L. Morgan, M.A., M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.
Sanctitas@aol.com
www.TRUTHtransforms.com