

Kingdom Citizens, Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 5:31-32

Why did Jesus talk about divorce?

- **Divorce was a topic of debate in Jesus' own day.**
 - **Rabbi Shammai**
 - **Rabbi Hillel**
 - **Rabbi Akiba**
 - **Deut. 24:1-4**

- **Jesus wanted Kingdom Citizens to have a different perspective on marriage, women, and divorce.**

What did Jesus say about divorce?

- ◎ **He calls for a fulfillment of the marriage vows.**
 - **Matt. 19:3-12**
 - **Mark 10:1-12**
 - **He moves the questioning of the Pharisees and Scribes from Deut. 24:1-4 to Genesis 2:24**
- ◎ **He *permits* divorce on one ground.**

Are there other Scriptures that speak about divorce?

◎ Ezra

- Ezra 10

◎ Paul

- Romans 7:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 7:12-16
 - He permits divorce if the unbelieving spouse desires to leave.

The goal of the Kingdom Citizen

- ◎ **Faithfulness in and to the marriage.**

What about remarriage?

○ **Once divorced**

- **Stay unmarried or reconcile to the spouse.**
 - **1 Corinthians 7:10-16**
- **May remarry, if the grounds for divorce were sexual immorality**
 - **Matt. 19:9**
 - **If so, one cannot go back to previous spouse.**
 - **Deut. 24:1-4**

What about remarriage?

- **What if the divorce was on grounds other than those given by Jesus or Paul?**
 - **The parties have sinned against the marriage covenant.**
 - **If either or both party remarry, the former marriage bond is broken upon consummation. The new marriage covenant is now in effect.**

How to deal with any sin and guilt.

- **Confess your sin to the Lord.**
 - 1 John 1:9
- **Accept His forgiveness and restoration, and “go and sin no more.”**
(John 8:11)
- **Realize that you have not been rejected by the Lord. You are still a person of value and worth, so much so that the Lord Himself seeks you out.**
 - John 4 (note John 4:4 – “And he had to pass through Samaria.” Why? To meet the woman at the well.)

How to deal with any sin and guilt.

- **If you are in a marriage, resolve to fulfill your vows from this day forward.**