

Marriage Home Family

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

(Notes taken from an audio tape by Arnold Fruchtenbaum)

OLD TESTAMENT - 2 grounds for divorce:

1. Sexual incompatibility - Deuteronomy 24 / Jeremiah 3 / Numbers 30.

However, divorce was never commended, only allowed - Malachi 2.

Adultery was not grounds for divorce but for execution by stoning - Leviticus 20:10 / Deut 22:22.

2. Religious incompatibility - Ezra 9 and 10 / Numbers 3:13-31.

NEW TESTAMENT - Both those grounds were negated but 2 new grounds were given:

1. Fornication - Matthew 5:31-32 / Matthew 19:1-12

Includes pre-marital sex / extra-marital sex / adultery / homosexuality.

In the N.T. adultery is no longer grounds for stoning to death.

2. Believing/unbelieving partners – 1 Corinthians 7:12-16. If the unbeliever wants to leave, the believing partner must let them go, they are not to refuse to divorce. The believing partner is then no longer under bondage - ie the marriage bond. The marriage ceases to be and remains so. The marriage is therefore dead and the believing partner is totally free of the marriage union and is free to marry again.

SUMMARY

4 grounds for remarriage in the Christian realm:

1. Death of the mate,

2. If divorce took place because of adultery,

3. If divorce took place because the unbelieving partner wished to dissolve the union,

4. If a person at the point of salvation is single, and regardless of how many times he/she was married and divorced in the past, at the moment of salvation his/her slate has been wiped clean according to 2 Corinthians 5:17. He/she is a brand new creation. At that point he/she is free to remarry.

But there are certain specific principles:

1. Mosaic law was softened by N.T. grace. So we cannot seek grounds for divorce now in O.T. Deuteronomy,

2. Legitimate divorce did/does allow for legitimate remarriage, both under the law (O.T.) and under grace (N.T.),

3. Neither the O.T. nor the N.T. make divorce mandatory. Divorce is never more than an option. The ideal in both the O.T. and the N.T. is always reconciliation,

4. God's original idea for marriage was the permanence of that oneness.