

God's Plan for the Home
Lesson 7 – Bible Teaching About Divorce

- It is essential that what God says about divorce be impressed on the minds of both young and old
- Matt 19:3 – “Is it lawful (for a man) to put away his wife for every cause?”
 - Any answer that is different from the answer that Jesus gave **is a lie**
 - The laws of our land allow divorce for any reason or even no reason – it is sin
- Jesus answered the Pharisees’ questions by showing
 - That from the beginning God made male and female to be one in marriage
 - Because God joined them together, no man has any right to separate them
 - The Pharisees asked why then did Moses command divorce
- Jesus’ answer shows that provision for divorce was because of the hardness of men’s hearts – they refused to abide by the teaching that began in the Garden
 - There is no indication in the Bible that God allowed any divorce from Adam to Moses
 - In Moses’ day, men rebelled against God’s will and thus altered the arrangement
- Deut 24:1-4 gives the provision for divorce under the Law of Moses
 - Some Jews allowed divorce for every cause
 - Deut 24:1 shows that there had to be a reason
 - Mal 2:14-16 shows that God does not approve of divorce for trivial reasons
 - At least three things could be done with a wife who was an adulteress
 - Lev 20:10 – she could be stoned
 - Num 5:12-31 – she could be brought before the priest who determined her guilt
 - Mt 1:18, 19 – she could be given a bill of divorcement without making her a public example.
 - Jesus showed that in the Christian age, one could put away his wife only for fornication (Mt 19:9)
 - Principles that one must understand to clearly see the Bible teaching about divorce
 - **God** joins husband and wife together (Mt 19:6)
 - Since man did not join husband and wife together, man can not dissolve that marriage
 - Just because one goes to a civil court and gets a legal document that says he is divorced, does not mean that God has dissolved the marriage
 - God’s rule for marriage is that husband and wife are bound together as long as both live (1 Cor 7:39)
 - Death severs the marriage bond, there is no marriage in heaven (Mt 22:30)
 - The only time that God will dissolve the marriage bond is when fornication is the reason for the divorce (Mt 19:9)