Bible Cause for Divorce
Matt. 19:3-9

Introduction:
A. The growing controversy
   1. Differing views on MDR around for years – little practical effect because of rarity of divorce
   2. Certain factors in recent years have forced it to the forefront:
      a. The tremendous increase in cases of MDR in congregations.
      b. The number of prominent brethren publicly espousing “unorthodox views.”
      c. The keener realization of the consequences of getting it wrong – soul destroying adultery.
   3. The more recent discussions have centered around about five questions:
      a. Are aliens subject to God’s marriage law?
      b. Is adultery a sexual act or is “breaking the covenant?”
      c. Does Paul give an additional exception to that of Jesus for divorcing and remarrying?
      d. Are there multiple scriptural reasons for divorce providing one does not remarry?
      e. What role, if any, does society and government have in marriage and divorce?
B. In these two lessons, I plan to limit my discussion to the last two questions – covered in recent book.
C. In this first lesson, let’s look at scriptural reason or reasons for divorce:

Discussion:
I. What Did Jesus Say?
   A. Matt. 5:32
      1. The effect a divorce has on the “innocent divorcee” (not “divorcer”) – causes her adultery.
      2. The divorcer may or may not have contemplated his own remarriage – text does not say.
      3. The effect on the one marrying the divorcee – adultery.
   B. Matt. 19:3-8 and Mark 10:2-13
      1. The question asked (19:3; 10:2) – nothing about remarriage in the question.
      2. The question answered (19:4-8; 10:3-9) – nothing about remarriage in the answer.
      3. The post-divorce consequences – the results of remarriage (19:9; 10:10-12)
         a. Mark shows that these comments were made later than the original question and answer.
         b. Here we learn there is one exception to Jesus’ “no divorce” rule.
         c. He the sin of adultery for the one remarrying is in addition to sin of divorcing .
II. Did Paul Say Anything Differently from Jesus? (1 Cor. 7:10-11)
   A. Both said do not divorce – Paul not does deal with the exception nor did Jesus in Luke and Mark.
   B. Both deal with consequences of post-divorce behavior.
      1. Jesus says remain unmarried or adultery results.
      2. Paul says remain unmarried or be reconciled
      3. No essential difference in the two.
   C. Neither says it is OK to divorce as long as you remain unmarried.
III. What about Divorcing “For the Kingdom of God’s Sake?”
   A. A relatively new concept.
   B. A look at the “proof texts.” (Matt. 10:34-38; 19:28-29; Lk. 14:26; Lk. 18:29-30; 1 Cor. 7:12-15)
      1. Jesus tells what one must do to become a disciple – not what might have to do (Lk. 14:23)
      2. Peter left all without physically forsaking his wife and family (Luke 18:28-30; 1 Cor. 9:5)
      3. Paul is not giving permission for believer to initiate divorce.
IV. What about Spouse And/or Child Abuse?
   B. Divorce only relief available in 1st century?

Conclusion:
A. Such issues cannot be settled by sentimental or emotional considerations – but what the text says.
   1. If so, no “good” person would ever be lost.
   2. If so, no “innocent” person would ever suffer from another’s actions.
B. The bottom line is: What text gives one the right to divorce for any reason other than fornication?