Divorce And Remarriage
Matt. 19:1-9

Introduction:
A. Divorce and Remarriage is perhaps most explosive issue among brethren today.
1. Because more people involved than ever before.
2. Because well-known, well-respected, well-liked on all sides of issue.
3. Because emotions run high when families and close friendships are involved.
4. Because congregations do not deal uniformly with the problem.
B. Divorce and Remarriage has several aspects that need to be studied:
1. The law involved.
2. The divorce involved.
3. The sins involved.

Discussion:
I. The Universal Scope Of The Law Involved.
A. Not “Mosaic” law nor a “Christian” law—but for all mankind from beginning. (vv.4-8)
   1. Some say it applies only to those in the kingdom—Bales & Haley.
   2. But, “adultery” and “fornication” are words tied to marriage—both possible for outsiders.
B. “Does 1 Cor. 7:10-11 not show that the Lord had two Christians in mind in Matt. 19:9?”
   1. Jesus said “whoever” - If Paul speaking only of Christians, Lord included them in “whoever”.
   2. Jesus did not specifically address troubles in a mixed marriage, so Paul does it by Revelation.

II. The Kind Of Divorce That Permits Remarriage. (v. 9)
A. If one marries after divorcing or after being divorced for “just any reason”, then results is adultery.
B. If one marries after divorcing for “fornication” or “sexual immorality”, then results is not adultery.
   1. “Fornication” must be the “reason” or “cause” for the divorce action. (Matt. 5:32).
   2. Does not say “for suspicion of adultery”.
   3. Does not leave from for divorcing for one reason and later re-marrying for another reason.

III. The Nature And Consequences Of The Sins Involved.
A. The sin of divorcing for just any cause
   1. One sins by putting asunder what God has joined together.
   2. One adds sin to sin by remarrying after the putting away.
   3. Does not 1 Cor. 7:10-16 permit divorce for other causes?
B. The sin of “fornication (Porneía)” – a generic word that includes all “sexual immorality.”
C. The sin of “adultery”.
   1. “Unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another”.
   2. “Commits adultery” in Matt. 19:9 is continuous or repetitive action—it is on going sin.
D. The consequences of adultery and/or fornication.
   1. Temporal.
      a. Cannot be fellowshipped nor tolerated by brethren. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Rev. 2:20-24).
      b. Cannot be received as a matter of “individual conscience” like Romans 14 and parallels.
         (1) Some try to make it parallel to covering, military service, Sunday night communion, etc.
         (2) Language is too explicit to leave it in this area.
         (a) If explicitly said “Whoever covers or uncovers head commits adultery” - would have to deal
             with as such. Or, if said, “Whoever serves in military commits murder”—would have to
             deal with them as murderers.
         (b) Honest men may study passages and reach different conscientious personal conclusions and
             practice their conclusions without it necessarily effecting their fellowships.
         (3) In case of Matt. 19:9, Jesus has explicitly revealed the conclusion — it is adultery. We have no
             choice to deal with it as adultery.
   2. Eternal. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21)

Conclusion:
A. Must determined what Bible teaches rather than what some well-known or well-liked brother teaches.
B. Must not let emotions or relationship blind us to truth.
C. Must not merely leave it to individual conscience without church doing it duty toward this sin.