

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 Jun.....	1Cor 1-3.....	Promoting Church Unity
2) 13 Jun.....	1Cor 4.....	Encouraging Church Leaders
3) 20 Jun.....	1Cor 5-6.....	Practicing Christian Morality
4) 27 Jun.....	1Cor 7.....	What Should I Do?
5) 04 Jul.....	1Cor 8-11.....	What Can I Do?
6) 11 Jul.....	1Cor 12 & 14.....	Spiritual Gifts Today
7) 18 Jul.....	1Cor 13.....	Expressing True Love
8) 25 Jul.....	1Cor 15-16.....	Believing in the Resurrection

INTRODUCTION

- Since we live in a fallen world, God accommodated man’s sinful nature by allowing merciful exceptions to some of His commandments - e.g., Divorce..... Mat 19:8
 - ♦ Divorce was merciful even back in ancient times since it granted the wife some legal and financial protection
- Paul was addressing how a wife should handle her pagan husband who was not happy with his wife’s recent conversion to Christianity
 - ♦ The church asked Paul if it was OK to divorce and remarry
 - ♦ Paul said divorce might be necessary since peace has precedence
 - ♦ But remarriage of a divorcee causes an adulterous situation
- How should we approach Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage?
 - Recall a biblical marriage was meant for life – 1 man to 1 woman
 - Remarriage was for those who lost a spouse due to death
 - Divorce was not for convenience sake, but to stop cruelty to spouse
 - Divorcees were to remain single or to be reconciled to their spouse
 - Anything else “adulterated” the purity of God’s plan for a marriage
- Can we make other people sin in this area of adultery?..... YES
 - ♦ Jesus said men caused their ex-wives to commit adultery . Mat 5:32
 - ♦ To avoid being destitute a divorced wife often had to commit adultery by being a prostitute or remarrying to survive

Passage	Comments
7:25-38	<p>Concerning Virgins (daughters or fiancés)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v28. But if you marry you have not sinned. Context is for those who have never been married before or widows. This passage does not condone remarriage of divorcees – else we have a contradiction (see v39)
7:39-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wife is bound (tied to) as long as her husband lives. -Rom 7:1-3 – A spouse is bound to the marriage unless the other spouse has died. Remarriage to someone else while original spouse is alive is adultery

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- What’s the worst that can happen when divorcees remarry?
 - ♦ Assuming divorcees still want to live for God, impacts are living with all the issues of a “blended” family, being flagged as an adulterer, and possibly being prevented from holding various church positions (i.e. Pastor, Elder, Deacon, S/S Teacher, etc.)
 - ♦ Yet if King David was labeled a “man after God’s own heart” after having multiple wives, committing adultery with Bathsheba, killing her husband, then God can still use others who have a challenging past.
 - ♦ Remember: John the Baptist lost his head over this issue
- God is willing to work with a person’s current marital situation & so should we. God does not throw anyone away
- Who should NOT initiate a divorce?Answer. The Christian spouse
- What can churches do to lower the high Christian divorce rate?
 - ♦ Provide marital counseling Yes / No
 - ♦ Discipline wayward members Yes / No / Maybe
 - ♦ Refuse to marry divorcees Yes / No / Maybe
 - ♦ Limit or bar adulterers from ministry Yes / No / Maybe
 - ♦ Limit or bar divorcees from ministry..... Yes / No / Maybe

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

Deut 22:13-21 If a man falsely charges his new bride with infidelity he cannot divorce her. If charges of infidelity against a new bride are true – she was to be stoned

Deut 22:28-29 If a man rapes a virgin, she shall become his wife – and he can not divorce her

Deut 22:22-27 All other scenarios of a man lying with a woman warrant the death penalty for the man – and for the woman if she does not cry out

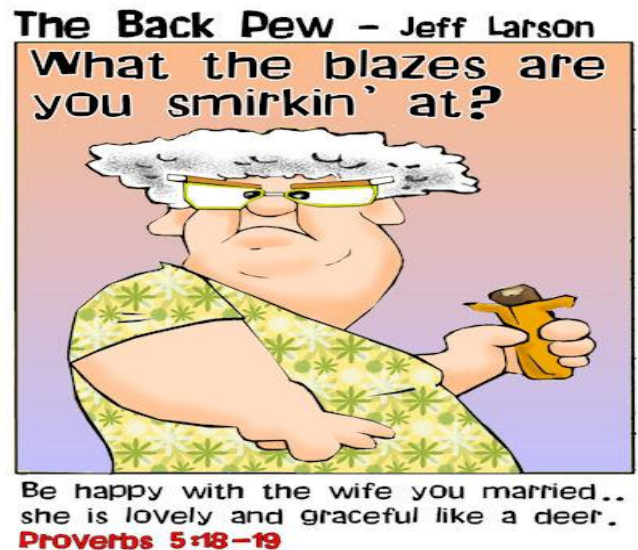
Mt 5:31-32; Mat 19:9-12; Mark 10:9-12; Luke 16:18; Rom 7:1-3

John 8:3-11 – Woman caught in adultery; Go & sin no more

John 4:16 – Woman at the well with 5 husbands and 1 live-in boyfriend – She had a sordid past, but was accepted by Christ

NEXT WEEK:

1Cor 8-11 – Sundry teachings on judging others and ourselves, avoiding temptation and cultural considerations



Passage	Comments
1Cor 7:1-9	<p>Paul’s Reason for Marriage – Prevent Immorality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. It is good for a (single) man not to touch a woman - Pre-marital sex is a no-no • v2-4. Principle of Conjugal Rights – Sex is a good thing within marriage. Wife owns the husband’s body and the husband owns the wife’s body • v7-8. Principle of Singleness – It’s OK to remain single - Being married has no spiritual advantages over singleness. Rather, singleness has some distinct advantages when the focus is service to the Lord • v9. Principle To Marry or to Burn with Passion. Does this passage justify remarriage following a divorce? - Context fits the never-married-before singles
7:10-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv10-11. Principle of Remarriage is not Condoned. A spouse “should not” leave their marriage. If they do they should remain single or seek reconciliation • vv14. Unbelieving spouse is “sanctified” by the believing spouse & children are considered “holy” - That is the unbelieving spouse receives godly attention possibly due to watchful prayer (but does not guarantee salvation), and children are not considered unclean (i.e., bastards) • v15. The Christian spouse is not under bondage (made a slave) if the unbelieving & cantankerous spouse wants a divorce. This does not mean the Christian has the liberty to remarry without becoming an adulterer. It means the spouse is not obligated to try keeping a tumultuous marriage together. We are called to Peace
7:17-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv20-21. Remain in the condition you were called in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does this mean if single when saved you should remain single? Context means let God work through you in whatever lawful situation you might have been in when saved. ♦ We do have the liberty to seek self-improvement