

God's Plan for the Home

Keith Sharp



The Nature of Marriage

Introduction:

- A. *Changes of a profound nature are under way in American family life.... This ferment has convinced some social scientists that the 'death of the family' is at hand. Ferdinand Lundberg, author of 'The Coming World Transformation,' says the family is 'near the point of extinction.'*(**US News & World Report**, April 16,1973, p. 71)
- B. Christians are faced with the crucial choice of following God's plan for marriage or conforming to the world. - Romans 12:2
- C. What is the nature of marriage?

I. Origin: Divine (First Divine Institution) - Genesis 2:18-24

- A. We should study God's will for it, not human philosophy about it.
- B. Man does not have the right to change it.
- C. Man does not have the right to alter its relationships to suit himself or society.
- D. Man does not have the right to enter or leave it at will; God determines who can enter or leave.

II. Definition: Bodily & Spiritual Union of Man and Woman

A. Characteristics

- 1. Bond (Covenant) - Malachi 2:14
 - a. terms - 1 Corinthians 7:2; Matthew 19:9
 - b. promises (mutual agreement) - Luke 1:26-27,34
 - c. ratification (meeting legal requirements) - Galatians 3:15; John 2:1-11
- 2. Binding - Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:39
- 3. Bonding (New Relationship) - Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6;

- B. Description: *Marriage is an institution ordained of God for the honor and happiness of mankind, in which one man and one woman enter into a bodily and spiritual union, pledging each to the other mutual love, honor, fidelity, sympathy, forbearance, and comradeship, such as would assure an unbroken continuance of their wedlock so long as both shall live* (H. Leo Boles).

III. Purposes

- A. Companionship - Genesis 2:18
- B. Procreation - Genesis 1:27-28
- C. Avoid Fornication - 1 Corinthians 7:2

IV. Number of Mates: One (Monogamous, Heterosexual) - Matthew 19:4-5; cf. 1 Samuel 1:1-7

V. Duration: Lifetime - Romans 7:2; Matthew 22:23-30

VI. Result: Happiness - Genesis 1:25-28,31; Proverbs 18:22

Conclusion:

- A. Rather than seeking to alter God's plan, we should in faith conform to it. - Hebrews 13:4
- B. Marriage can either be the greatest source of happiness this side of Heaven or the greatest cause of misery this side of Hell. Whether your marriage will be one of joy and permanence or of despair and separation will be determined by whether or not you follow the law of the Lord concerning marriage.

God's Plan for Husbands

Text: Ephesians 5:22-33

Introduction:

A. Man is intended to fill the role of leadership and guidance and to provide for the welfare of his household. Manhood reaches its highest richness and glory in the happy fulfilling of these responsibilities.

B. What is God's plan for man in his role as husband?

I. "head of the wife" (**LEAD**) - Ephesians 5:22-24

A. This does not mean:

1. men are superior to women. - 1 Corinthians 11:3
2. men should physically punish their wives. - Ephesians 5:23

B. Headship is a duty rather than a privilege. - e.g., 1 Timothy 5:8,14; Ephesians 6:4

1. If the man abdicates his headship, the family will be adversely affected.
2. The husband cannot be gone constantly and discharge this responsibility.

C. While decisions concerning the home are the responsibility of the husband, he should counsel with his wife. - 1 Timothy 5:14 (He should not tell her how to keep house.)

II. "love your wives" - Ephesians 5:25-33

A. **LEAVE** parents (Forsake anything but the Lord for her.) - Ephesians 5:31; Matthew 10:34-37

B. **CLEAVE** to the wife. - Ephesians 5:31

1. Please her, not himself. - 1 Corinthians 7:3-5,33
2. Recognize his need for her. - 1 Corinthians 11:11-12
3. Be jealous only in a godly sense (possessive but not suspicious). - 2 Corinthians 11:2; Song of Solomon 8:6
4. Seek her good. - Ephesians 5:28-29
5. Do not be bitter. - Colossians 3:19
6. Be faithful to her. - Hebrews 13:4
7. Understand her. - 1 Peter 3:7

Conclusion:

When a young lady marries, she, in a very real sense, commits the keeping of her life to the young man she loves and trusts. He is her head and guide. Husbands need to be sure they are worthy of that love and trust. It is an awesome responsibility.

God's Plan For Wives

Text: Genesis 2:18-24

Introduction:

- A. Today's society in the greater part both ignores and rebels against God's design for women. -
"Women come out of the house! You have everything to gain!" ("The New Feminism," **Ladies Home Journal**, August, 1970, pp. 64-65)
 - B. This stands in stark contrast to God's plan. - Titus 2:4-5
 - C. What is God's plan for wives?
- I. Woman was created for a peculiar purpose: to be a "help meet" for man. All the woman's peculiar responsibilities are the result of this special purpose. - Genesis 2:18-24
- II. Because of her purpose, the wife is to be in subjection to her husband. - Ephesians 5:22-24
- A. She should "reverence" (show respect to) her husband. - Ephesians 5:33
 - B. There is only one exception to her submission; she must obey God rather than man. - Colossians 3:18
- III. Because of her purpose, the wife is to love her husband. - Titus 2:4
- A. She should try to please him rather than herself. - 1 Corinthians 7:34
 - B. She should not "nag" him. - Proverbs 19:13; 21:9,19
 - C. She will recognize that she belongs to her husband, not to herself. - 1 Corinthians 7:2-5
 - D. She will keep herself pure from defilement with other men. - Proverbs 12:4
 - E. If her husband is an unbeliever, she will lead such a pure life as to influence him toward the truth. - 1 Peter 3:1-4
- IV. Because of her purpose, she is to be a "keeper at home."
(In 1890 4.6% of American women who were married worked outside the home. The divorce rate was 6%. In 1986 59% of the women in the labor force are married. The divorce rate is 48%.)
- A. The wife is a queen in her home, with the guidance of everyday domestic affairs in her hands.
 1. "keepers at home" - Titus 2:4-5 (older women to teach the younger)
 - a. "home-workers" (Marshall)
 - b. "working at home" (Vine. 2:228)
 - c. "keeping at home and taking care of household affairs" (Thayer. 442)
 - d. "take proper care of their families" (MacKnight. 490)
 2. "guide the house" - 1 Timothy 5:14 ."house despot (ruler.); the management and direction of household affairs" - Vine. 2:185); cf. Genesis 39:1-6
 - B. She should exercise intelligence and good judgment in the affairs of the home. - Proverbs 11:22; 19:14; 31:16,24,26
- Conclusion:
- A. Wives, strive to be a virtuous woman. - Proverbs 31:10-27
 - B. The rewards of such a life are truly great. - Proverbs 31:28-31

God's Plan for Fathers

Text: Ephesians 6:4

Introduction:

- A. What do you think of a man who will allow his children to starve?
- B. Yet, many fathers, who provide all material things to their children, are cheating them in ways even worse than physically starving them.
- C. What are the responsibilities of a father to his children?

I. Spiritual Responsibilities - Ephesians 6:4

- A. “provoke not your children to wrath”: “irritate, exasperate”(Analytical Greek Lexicon; “to irritate beyond measure” (Young's Analytical Concordance)
 - 1. by being cutting and discouraging in speech - Proverbs 15:1; 25:11
 - 2. by being unfair, cruel, or overly demanding - Colossians 3:21; e.g., providing no alternatives to bad recreation
 - 3. by showing partiality - Genesis 37:3-4,26-35
 - 4. by cruel teasing - Genesis 21:9; cf. Galatians 4:29
- B. “nurture” - “the whole training and education of children [which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment....” - Thayer. 473; “stresses training by act” - Vine. 1:30.
 - 1. example of life - 2 Chronicles 14:2-5; 20:31-32
 - 2. restraint from wrong - 1 Samuel 2:12-17,22-25,27-36; 3:11-14; 4:12-22
 - 3. punishment for wrongdoing - Proverbs 13:24; 29:15, Hebrews 12:7-9
- C. “admonition”: “lit., a putting in mind.... is ‘the training by word,’ whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance....” - Vine. 1:30. - Genesis 18:17-19; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6

II. Material Responsibilities - Luke 2:52

- A. Provide their material needs. - 1 Timothy 5:8
- B. Teach them responsibility. - Lamentations 3:27

Conclusion:

- A. Fathers, are we giving our children the guidance they need and deserve, or are we cheating them out of the kind of daddy every child should have?
- B. Let us pray for the wisdom we need to properly guide our children. - Judges 13:8,12; James 1:5

God's Plan for Mothers

Text: Titus 2:4-5

Introduction:

- A. Mothers and motherhood have been praised in every land in every age.
 - 1. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." (anonymous)
 - 2. "Men are what their mothers have made them." (Emerson)
 - 3. "The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother." (Napoleon)
 - 4. "The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom." (Henry W. Beecher)
 - 5. "If you would reform the world of its errors and vices, begin by enlightening its mothers." (Simmons)
 - 6. "One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters." (anonymous)
- B. Mothers, do you live up to these tributes?
- C. What is God's plan for mothers?

I. It is proper for young women to desire to marry and become mothers. - 1 Timothy 5:14; Psalm 113:9

II. Love should be the controlling emotion in the mother's dealings with her children. - Titus 2:4; cf. 1 Kings 3:16-27

III. Love will lead a mother to deal with her children in the way the Lord directs.

- A. She will raise her children herself, rather than turning them over to a baby-sitter. - 1 Timothy 5:14; Proverbs 29:15; cf. Exodus 2:1-12; Acts 7:20-25
- B. She will, above all else, impart unto them faith. - e.g., 2 Timothy 1:5
 - 1. by teaching them God's law - 2 Timothy 3:14-15; Proverbs 31:26 (My grandmother, "Mama Sharp," taught my Dad the stories of Old Testament characters as he pulled grass in the vegetable garden as a preschooler. He became one of the great preachers of lessons from the Old Testament of his generation.)
 - 2. by setting the right kind of example before them - Ezekiel 16:44
 - 3. by correcting them when they do wrong - Proverbs 29:17 (not by the use of idle threats, which are simply lies)
- C. She will not show partiality to any child. - Genesis 25:28; 27:1-45
- D. She will willingly work in their behalf. - Proverbs 31:13,15, 17,19,21,25,27

Conclusion:

- A. The following quotation, from the pen of James R. Cope, is perhaps the most beautiful tribute to a mother I have ever read. He wrote it on the occasion of his mother's 84th birthday. I have never been able to read it publicly without choking up.

"She Is 84"

That's my mother. September 18 is her 84th birthday. Not alert as she once was and almost

blind, she lives near Cookeville, Tennessee, with my sister who tenderly cares for her. Her form is stooped and weakened, her brow creviced. Silver threads run majestically among the chestnut locks which my baby fingers caressed more than fifty years ago. Tired and wrinkled hands, once callused by physical toil in kitchen, vegetable garden, lawn, and even the barn before she taught me how to milk the cows, bespeak a heart that lost sight of self in loving service for those she mothered. And flowers, always flowers, flowers everywhere! Those hands loved to plant them as she bestowed the beauty of her soul upon the landscape for others to enjoy. "When I saw her last, I studied carefully those hands that never wrought evil to any man, woman, or child.

I was reminded of the poem, 'Beautiful Hands,' by Ellen M.H. Gatos. I share it here with you, dear reader.

*'Such beautiful, beautiful hands,
They're neither white nor small,"
And you, I know, would scarcely think
That they were fair at all.
I've looked on hands whose form and hue
A sculptor's dream might be,
Yet these are aged, wrinkled hands
Most beautiful to me.*

*'Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
Though heart were weary and sad
Those patient hands kept toiling on
That the children might be glad.
I almost weep when looking back
To childhood's distant day!
I think how these hands rested not
When children were at their play.*

*'Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
They're growing feeble now,
And time and pain have left their mark
On head, and heart and brow.
Alas! Alas! the nearing time--
And the sad, sad day to me,
When 'neath the daisies, out of sight,
Those hands must folded be.*

*'But, oh! beyond the shadowy lands,
Where all is bright and fair,
I know full well those dear old hands
Will palms of victory bear;*

*Where crystal streams, through sadless years
Flow over golden sands,
And where the old are young again,
I'll clasp my mother's hands.'*

B. Would that all mothers so lived before their children that they should be so blessed. -
Proverbs 31:28a

God's Plan for Children

Text: Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

Introduction:

- A. There is a tendency in our age to excuse young people and children for their misbehavior and to blame to their parents.
- B. But God holds each person responsible for his own actions.- Ezekiel 18:20
- C. What are the responsibilities of children to their parents?

I. OBEY - Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 1:8-9; 15:5; 23:22; Luke 2:51

- A. Why should children obey their parents?
 - 1. It is right. - Ephesians 6:1
 - 2. It is well-pleasing to the Lord. - Colossians 3:20; cf. Deuteronomy 21:18-21
- B. What limits are there to the children's responsibility to obey their parents?
 - 1. "in all things" - Colossians 3:20
 - 2. "in the Lord" - Ephesians 6:1; cf. Acts 5:29

II. HONOR - Ephesians 6:2-3

- A. Why should children honor their parents? - Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3
(The obedience of childhood rendered to a wise Christian rule forms in the young the habit of self-control, self-respect, diligence, promptitude, faithfulness, and kindness of heart, which are the best guarantees for happiness and success in life. - David Lipscomb)
- B. How do children honor their parents?
 - 1. by being respectful in words and actions - Leviticus 19:32
 - 2. by being helpful - 1 Samuel 17:12-15,34-35; cf. Matthew 13:55 with Mark 6:3
 - 3. by living in such a way as to reflect honor upon them - Luke 15:18-19
 - 4. by providing .or their needs when they cannot - Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:9-13; 1 Timothy 5:3-4,16; e.g., Genesis 45:9-13,23; 46:29; 47:11-12; 49:28 - 50:14; John 19:26-27

Conclusion:

A dutiful child secures the blessings of God, both here and hereafter. Obedience practiced in the home forms habits of promptitude, self-control and self-respect which are important conditions of success and prosperity. Even though it is a child's duty to obey, God, in his goodness, attaches a special blessing to every act of unselfish obedience. (Edgar J. Dye)

Divorce

Introduction:

- A. Divorce is a devastating problem in our country. - 1986 US divorce rate: 48% (Statistical Abstract of the US, 1988)
- B. This problem long ago invaded the Lord's church.
 - 1. churches filled with divorced people, many unscripturally so
 - 2. division over divorce
- C. The response of many preachers and elders is woefully inadequate.
 - 1. pop psychology
 - 2. positive Christianity
 - 3. unscriptural theories
- D. What does the Lord teach about divorce?

I. Background

- A. God's original plan for marriage was that one man and one woman live together as husband and wife throughout life. - Genesis 2:21-24
 - 1. This is not:
 - a. fusing of two bodies or
 - b. loss of personal identity.
 - 2. It is:
 - a. close and intimate union and
 - b. permanent bond upon the basis of mutual agreement and sexual union.
- B. The Law of Moses relaxed God's original plan. - Deuteronomy 24:1-4
 - 1. Moses allowed divorce for loss of favor because of "some uncleanness."
 - a. This was:
 - (1) "shame, filthiness, anything unclean... any defect found in a woman..."
Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius. 653.)
 - (2) "The words suggest some immodest exposure or failure in proper womanly reserve"
(Cambridge Bible Commentary)
 - b. This was NOT fornication. - Deuteronomy 22:22
 - 2. This was because of the hardness of their hearts. - Matthew 19:7-8
 - 3. But God still hated divorce. - Malachi 2:13-16

II. The Law of Christ Concerning the Permanence of the marriage Tie

- A. The general law concerning marriage is: only death should separate the partners. (When the marriage is terminated for any reason other than death, at least one person sins.)
 - 1. Matthew 19:3-6
 - 2. Mark 10:3-9
 - 3. Romans 7:2

4. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

- a. The passage does not allow separation without remarriage.
 - (1) This would contradict the other passages. - cf. John 17:17
 - (2) It would violate the wedding vows. - Ephesians 4:25
 - (3) It is a tacit admission that sin is present.
 - (4) It violates the rule concerning separation in this very context. - 1 Corinthians 7:2-5
 - (5) It places upon the partner the temptation to commit adultery. - Matthew 5:31-32; 18:6-7
 - (6) The one doing the separating will almost assuredly remarry. - 1 Corinthians 7:5
- b. The passage specifically forbids both the husband and the wife to separate.
- c. The “But ... if” clause does not allow separation, but shows how to handle a sinful situation. - cf. 1 John 2:1
- d. If possible they should reconcile (the fruits of repentance). - cf. Matthew 3:8
- e. If this is impossible, they must “remain unmarried.”

5. 1 Corinthians 7:39

- B. There is one exception to the general law. (And this involves sin on the part of one mate.)
The innocent party may divorce the guilty party for the cause of fornication.- Matthew 5:31-32
 - 1. “fornication”: “sexual immorality” (**NKJV**)
 - a. “of illicit sexual intercourse in general” (Thayer. 532)
 - b. “of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse” (Arndt & Gingrich. 699)
 - 2. Fornication on the part of one’s mate must actually be the cause of the putting away, not an after-the-fact excuse for remarriage.

Conclusion:

God has ordained but three institutions: the home, the civil state, and the church. Of these three, the home is the most ancient. Furthermore, the family is, to a large extent, the basis of the latter two. The home is the building-block of any nation. When a nation’s families are strong, that country has real strength; when its homes dissolve, the nation decays. The young people who will determine the future of the Lord’s church in this country will largely succeed or fail on the basis of the type of home in which they were reared. If divorce kills the American family, how long can our nation or the Lord’s church in this country last? Pray God if perhaps America, especially God’s people in this beloved land, may wake up before it is too late!

Remarriage

Text: Matthew 19:3-9

Introduction:

- A. Most people who divorce marry again. - *The rate of Americans entering their first marriage had declined for nearly a quarter century - but in the last decade remarriages have shown an increase of 40 per cent (US News & World Report. August 14, 1972).*
 - B. The greatest tragedy is, many children of God are being involved, thus permanently ruining their lives.
 - C. What is God's law concerning remarriage?
- I. Marriage is a divinely ordained and regulated relationship. - Genesis 2:18-24; Malachi 2:14; Matthew 19:4-6
- II. Thus, the only ones who have the right to marry are those to whom God has given the right. - Colossians 3:17; cf. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11
- III. The general principle is that God has given all people the right to marry. - 1 Corinthians 7:2
- IV. But this general principle has exceptions. - cf. Matthew 4:6-7
- A. Divorced people do not have the right to marry. - Matthew 5:32; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11
 - B. The exception has one exception: the innocent party (one who has put away his mate because that mate is guilty of fornication) has the right to remarry. - Matthew 19:9
- V. Thus, three and only three classes of people have the right to marry:
- A. one who has never been married - 1 Corinthians 7:2
 - B. one whose mate is dead - Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39
 - C. the innocent party (as before defined) - Matthew 19:9

Conclusion:

- A. Only two classes of people have the right to remarry.
 - 1. one whose mate is dead
 - 2. the innocent party (as before defined)
- B. For any other divorced person to remarry is to be guilty of adultery. - Matthew 19:9
- C. No adulterer can inherit the kingdom of God. - Galatians 5:19-21
- D. Let us, therefore, cleanse ourselves. - 2 Corinthians 7:1

Unscriptural Theories About Divorce and Remarriage

Text: Colossians 2:8-10

Introduction:

- A. Ships belong in the water, but the water does not belong in the ships.
- B. Christians are to be in the world, but the world must not be in us. - John 17:11,14,16
- C. The world has entered the church by means of false human theories designed to justify unscriptural second marriages. - text
- D. What are some theories currently popular which circumvent the law of Christ concerning divorce and remarriage and why are they wrong?

I. False Position One: There is no scriptural divorce and remarriage.

- A. If Matthew 19:9 does not apply today, it never did apply, for the adulterer under the law of Moses was to be put to death, not put away. - Deuteronomy 22:22
- B. Jesus' teaching on earth was preparatory to the kingdom. - Matthew 4:23; e.g. 5:28; 18:15-17

II. False Position Two: The Guilty Party (one who has been put away by his innocent mate because he is guilty of fornication) may scripturally marry another mate with divine approval.

- A. Supporting Argument One; If one is free, both are free.
 - 1. This is mere human reasoning. God has given only the innocent party the right to remarry. - Matthew 19:9
 - 2. One mate may be free from a covenant relationship, while the other is still bound by the law of the relationship. - Mark 6:17-18; cf. contract with professional athlete
 - 3. This places harsher penalties on an innocent mate put away for an unscriptural cause than on the guilty fornicator.
- B. Supporting Argument Two: Fornication dissolves the marriage relationship and frees both to remarry.
 - 1. Answers "1" and "3" above apply here.
 - 2. What if the innocent party, ignorant of the guilty party's fornication, has sex relations with him? Is the innocent party then committing adultery?

III. False Position Three: The Law of Christ on Divorce and Remarriage does not apply to the alien.

- A. Supporting Argument One: The alien is not under law.
 - 1. If aliens are sinners, they are under law. - Romans 5:13
 - 2. Aliens are sinners. - Romans 3:23
 - 3. Therefore, aliens are under law.
- B. Supporting Argument Two: Aliens are under a "law written on the heart" (i.e., conscience) rather than the law of Christ. - cf. Romans 2:14-15
 - 1. If this be so, the conscience of the alien is a safe guide, and, as long as the alien follows his conscience, he will not sin. - cf. Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 1:15

2. “Nature” in Romans 2:14 refers to “long, customary practice,” not to an inborn sense of right and wrong. - cf. 1 Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians 2:3
3. Christ rules over all people, including aliens. - Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23
4. The Standard of Judgment
 - a. All people will be judged by the law to which they are accountable. - Romans 2:12
 - b. All people who live during the gospel age will be judged by the law of Christ. - John 12:48; Romans 2:16
 - c. Therefore, all people who live during the gospel age are accountable to the law of Christ.
5. All people, including aliens, are subject to the law of Christ. - Acts 17:30-31

IV. False Position Four: When two people in an adulterous marriage are baptized (or, in the case of two Christians, confess the sin of adultery), they are forgiven and may continue living together.

A. John the Baptist

1. John baptized for the remission of sins. - Mark 1:4
2. Why did he not tell Herod to be baptized and to continue living with Herodias? - Mark 6:17-18

B. To be forgiven of adultery, one must repent of adultery.

1. Neither baptism nor confession of sins are valid unless preceded by repentance. - Acts 2:38; 8:22
2. If one repents of a sin, he gives up that sin. - Matthew 12:41; Jonah 3:10
 - a. may one repent of stealing and keep on stealing?
 - b. May one repent of drunkenness and keep on drinking?
 - c. May one repent of adultery and keep on committing adultery?
3. Thus, if baptism or confession of sins is to benefit the adulterer, he must give up his adultery.

C. That which is adultery before baptism is adultery afterwards. - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 4:17-24

V. False Position Five: If a Christians is divorced by a nonChristian, the Christian is free to remarry. - cf. 1 Corinthians 7:12-15

A. The word “bondage” (v. 15. is never used in the Scriptures to refer to the marriage bond.

1. “... make a slave of; reduce to bondage; subject to...”(Thayer. 158).
2. “... to reduce to servitude, enslave, oppress by retaining in servitude...” (Bagster. 107.. - cf. 2 Peter 2:19

B. The word “bound,” which does refer to the marriage bond and its permanence, is used in verses twenty-seven and thirty-nine and is a different Greek word with a different meaning. - cf. Romans 7:2

C. What does the passage teach?

1. “Bondage” here is a strong word indicating that the law of the Lord has not made marriage a state of slavery for the believer.
2. Even the most loving husband may not be able to sustain the home if the unbeliever, who refuses to submit to the law of Christ, decides to leave.
3. In such cases the believer is not obligated by the marriage bond to make provisions for the one that departed; i.e., he is not in bondage to the unbeliever, so he is not obligated to forsake the Lord in order to preserve the marriage union.
4. The believer is not to initiate the separation but need not resist it and try to enforce union upon the unbelieving companion or have an unequal yoke forced upon himself.
5. If the unbeliever insists and deserts in spite all peaceful efforts to preserve the marriage, peaceful acquiescence to the inevitable is the only righteous solution open to the Christian. (The material on 1 Corinthians 7:15-16 was taken from a sermon outline by Edgar J. Dye, entitled “A Study of I Cor. 7:15.”)

VI. False Position Six: If my mate divorces me and later remarries, I am free to “mentally divorce” that mate and to remarry. - cf. Matthew 5:32

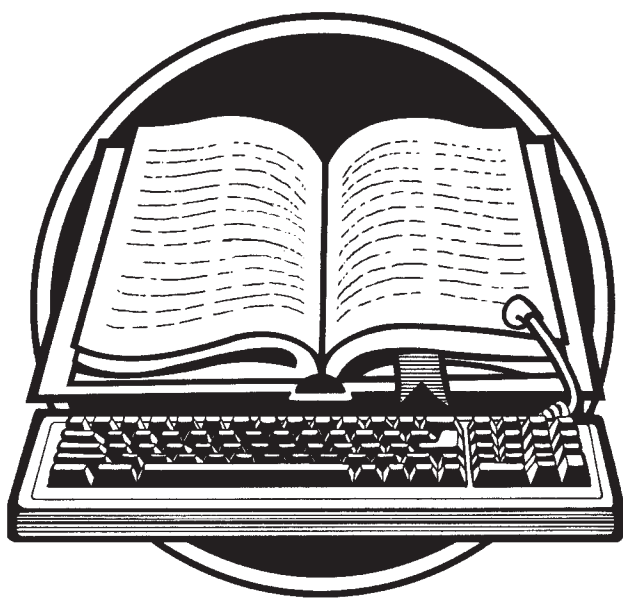
Conclusion:

A. We must not:

1. be taken captive by false, human theories or
2. allow the world to enter our lives through unscriptural divorce and remarriage.

B. As Christians, we must be separate from all such false doctrine and sin.

C. Let us purify ourselves!



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