

Mental Divorce

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The issue of Marriage / Divorce / Remarriage is one that has divided families, brethren, and congregations throughout the world.

Why?

“...everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 17 : 6; 21 : 25; Deuteronomy 12 : 8

“The way of a fool (man) is right in his own eyes...”

Proverbs 12 : 15; 21 : 2

“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 16 : 25

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Matthew 5 : 31 – 32

Matthew 19 : 3 – 10

Mark 10 : 1 – 12

Genesis 1 – 2

Deuteronomy 24 : 1 – 4

Malachi 2 : 16

I Corinthians 7 : 10 – 15

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Matthew 5 : 31 – 32

"Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

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Matthew 19 : 3 – 10

Mark 10 : 1 – 12

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,' and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

What is the answer to the question?

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Matthew 19 : 3 – 10

Mark 10 : 1 – 12

They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

"Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her." Mark 10 : 4

He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

What is Jesus' answer?

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Deuteronomy 24 : 1 – 4

"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife, if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

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Deuteronomy 24 : 1 – 4

What did Moses command?

1. “...a certificate of divorce...” - Noun
 - a. ‘sepher siphrah’ (h) – properly writing
 - b. ‘kerithuth’ (h) – a cutting (of the matrimonial bond)
 - c. ‘apostasion’ (g) – properly something separate
2. “...puts it in her hand...”
3. and “...sends her out of his house...” - Verb
 - a. ‘shalach’ (h) – to send away, for, or out; to let loose, to let go, set free, be put away
 - b. ‘apoluo’ (g) – to free fully, that is (literally) release

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What is Mental Divorce?

Mental divorce separates what Moses commanded into two steps.

1. Give “...a certificate of divorce...”
 - a. ‘sepher siphrah’ (h) – properly writing
 - b. ‘kerithuth’ (h) – a cutting (of the matrimonial bond)
 - c. ‘apostasion’ (g) – properly something separate

2. and “...sends her out of his house...”
 - a. ‘shalach’ (h) – to send away, for, or out; to let loose, to let go, set free, be put away
 - b. ‘apoluo’ (g) – to free fully, that is (literally) release

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Mental Divorce explained

1. I give my current wife “...a certificate of divorce...”. This happens in our culture through the court system. We are now separated.
 1. I wait until my ex-wife finds someone new.
 2. She marries someone new – she is now in adultery.
2. I “...sends her out of his house...” (put her away). I fully release her, I let her loose.
 - a. Seeing that my wife is now in adultery and is an adulterous, I am now free to marry because Jesus said if I put her away for adultery, then I am not harmed.

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Does this explanation hold water?

Mark 16 : 16

1. Believes
and
2. Baptized

Acts 2 : 38

1. Repent
and
2. Baptized

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Does the Law of Moses mean anything to us today as Christians, regarding Divorce?

What did Jesus command?

Matthew 5 : 32; 19 : 9; Mark 10 : 11

“...divorces his wife...” (put away) - Verb

- a. ‘apuluo’ (g) – to free fully, that is, (literally) relieve, release, or (specifically) divorce; to let go

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How does one get a divorce today under the law of man?

Go to court, stand before a judge, you have a writ (bill) of divorcement. You plead your case, the judge signs the papers, it is filed and you are divorced.

Divorce – A legal dissolution of the bonds of matrimony, or the separation of husband and wife by a judicial sentence.

Does this explanation equal what Jesus said to do?

“...divorce his wife...” - Yes

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What about what Paul says in I Corinthians 7 : 10 – 15?

Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

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What is Paul teaching?

A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband.

And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.

a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases.

God has called us to peace.

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Paul's teaching vs Mental Divorce?

But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases.

Depart 'chorizo' – to place room between; reflexively to go away

Does Paul support Mental Divorce?

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Paul's teaching vs Metal Divorce Explained:

Mental Divorce is:

Divorce wife civilly

Wait until she “commits adultery”

Put her away

Now I am free to marry

Paul says:

If they depart, leave, separate

Let them leave – Paul does not teach you can divorce

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Is divorce an option under Paul's teaching?

Yes/No

If your spouse leaves, you do not have permission to divorce.

If you do – "...commit adultery..." Matthew 5 : 32

If your spouse leaves, remember you are not divorced, and then commits adultery, then you divorce. This is not mental divorce, this is scriptural divorce.

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Mental Divorce explained – one last time

1. I give my current wife “...a certificate of divorce...”. This happens in our culture through the court system. We are now separated.
 1. I wait until my ex-wife finds someone new.
 2. She marries someone new – she is now in adultery.
2. I “...sends her out of his house...” (put her away). I fully release her, I let her loose.
 - a. Seeing that my wife is now in adultery and is an adulterous, I am now free to marry because Jesus said if I put her away for adultery, then I am not harmed.