
THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

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I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.
Revelation 22:16

Reasons why divorce is wrong

Answering this question could not be easier. Marriage is forever because God said so. The Bible is very clear, Mathew 19:6 states that: *"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."* What else needs to be said? *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh."* (Genesis 2:24). They are no longer two, but one. This is also mentioned in Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7 and Ephesians 5:31. No one could ever split themselves in half, and in this passage God is clear as to the permanency of marriage. What God has done, let no man undo or divide. Marriage is ordained by God and is intended to be a lifelong commitment. It is neither a human nor temporary arrangement.¹

MARRIAGE

The most characteristic use of marriage and the family by Our Lord is that in which He describes the kingdom of God as a social order in which the relationship of men to God is like that of sons to a father, and their relation to each other like that between brothers.¹

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Reasons Why divorce is wrong
- 1 His First Miracle
- 3 Running out on God?
- 3 Trustworthy Internet Sites
- 4 Scripture: John 2:1-11
- 4 Hymn of the Month: Trust and Obey

His First Miracle

(see scripture on page 4)

As John has stated in Chapter 2, Verse 11 of his gospel, it was in Cana of Galilee that Jesus performed His first miracle that plainly revealed His glory. It was also there that His disciples did believe on Him.



Photo: Cana of Galilee

As we look back, it was just three days after John had announced, "Behold, the Lamb of God", that they found themselves in Cana of Galilee, with His mother Mary at a marriage feast.

After some period of time, He was approached by Mary announcing that, "They have no wine."

Some have suggested that Mary brought this problem before Jesus because they had run out of wine due to the extra guests brought by Him, and this situation would have been embarrassing to the bridegroom. Mary's request appeared to be prompting Jesus to perform an act that would bring attention to Him. Where upon he delivered to Mary a gentle yet decided rebuke for interfering in the things of God, which she knew nothing about. This was also a time where Jesus was letting His mother know that their former relationship was coming to an end. We see that Mary never corrected Jesus, but showed confidence in Him by instructing the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

continued on page 3

DIVORCE

The Scripture doctrine of divorce is very simple. It is contained in Matt 19:3-12:¹ *"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."*

Divorce is a sin that violates the covenant relationship and is contrary to God's plan.¹ Malachi 2:14 states: *"Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant."* Again, marriage is ordained and witnessed by God between the couple and is intended to be a lifelong covenant. *"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* (Mark 10:9).

Not only is divorce a sin, but is one that only leads to more sin. Mark 10:11 states: *"And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her,"* and adultery as defined in Exodus 20:14 is a sin. However, not only does he sin against her but he also makes the third party an adulterer. *"But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."* (Matthew 5:32). I see no mention of an innocent party in remarriage, so not only will divorce lead the involved individual to further sin, but they will also be a stumbling block and barrier between another and God. God never intended for marriage to cease.

Divorce also diminishes the example set forth by God. Ephesians 5:22-32 states: *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without*

blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." In verse 32 Paul points out that he is speaking concerning Christ and the church. The marriage covenant is being compared with Christ's relationship with the church. The seriousness of this is extraordinary. Just as a union is made between a husband and wife, so is a union formed when a sinner trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation. And Jesus said in John 10:28: *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* Once His, always His. Once married, always married.

Aside from the damage that divorce causes the individual and its obvious deviation from God's example, it also destroys the testimony of a believer. Again, Ephesians 5:27 states: *"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* Being a divorced believer (as opposed to one who was divorced prior to accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior.) could cause difficulty when witnessing if it appears that the believer disregards the commands clearly set forth by the God they are testifying about. A public sin has public consequences!

Another unfortunate consequence of divorce is that it hinders the believer's ability to serve. 2 Peter 3:14 states: *"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."* As well as, 1 Timothy 3:2 *"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife,"* 1 Tim 3:12 *"Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife,"* and Titus 1:6 *"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife."* Divorce within a believer's life will prohibit their ability to act in a leadership capacity, as well as drastically limit their ability to be a servant for Christ.

Divorce is not only the standard for the believer, but also the unbeliever. In Matthew 19:3 and Mark 10:2 Jesus is teaching the unbelieving Pharisees the standard for marriage. Apparently, God's standard is not only for the church, but for society as well.¹

In closing I quote Proverbs 5:18-23, *"Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth*

Continued on page 4

RUNNING OUT ON GOD?

We mutter and sputter,
 We fume and we spurt,
We mumble and grumble,
 Our feelings get hurt,
We can't understand things;
 Our vision gets dim,
When all that we need,
 Is a moment with Him, (Jesus)

- From: Fellowship <http://www.execpc.com/logos>

QUESTIONS?

Who is Good ?

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
Romans 3:10

Who has Sinned ?

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Romans 3:23

Where did Sin come From?

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;
and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
Romans 5:12

God's Price on Sin:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23

Our Way Out (This is the Good News)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet
sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt
believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt
be saved.
Rom 10:9

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.
Rom 10:10

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Rom 10:13

* Take God at his word, and claim his FREE gift of
Salvation. It truly is a gift! All you have to do is take it.

Jesus then proceeds to instruct the servants to fill six water pots
of stone with water. Once they had done what He asked, He
told them to, "Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of
the feast". They did as he commanded. When the ruler of the
feast had tasted the water that was made wine, he did not know
where it came from and called to bridegroom to compliment
him for his unusual hospitality.

Wycliffe Bible Commentary states that "the deeper truth is that,
symbolically, Judaism is here revealed as deficient, whereas
Christ brings fullness of blessing of the highest sort." This I
know: without calling attention to Himself, Jesus provided as
bountifully then as he did for Abraham at the place he called
Jehovahjireh, and He continues today to provide for the needs
of His children.

This is a passage that many "Christians", as well as the world,
enjoy misinterpreting in order to justify their use of alcoholic
beverages. Charles Haddon Spurgeon so eloquently addressed
that argument at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, as he
stated: "I do not think that I should do any good if I were to
enter upon the discussion as to what sort of wine our Lord
Jesus made on this occasion. It was wine, and I am quite sure it
was very good wine, for he would produce nothing but the best.
Was it wine such as men understand by that word now? It was
wine; but there are very few people in this country who ever see,
much less drink, any of that beverage. That which goes under
the name of wine is not true wine, but a fiery, brandied
concoction of which I feel sure that Jesus would not have tasted
a drop."

As Jesus began His earthly ministry and performed the first of
His miracles, it is important to remember that prior to that he
had manifested forth His glory through "the creation of the
world" (Romans 1:19) as He was there in the beginning with
God (John 1:1). What greater a miracle then that?

The Lord will provide. ☩

INTERNET LINKS:

Publications of Pastor James L. Melton:

<http://www.sureword.com/melton/>

Way of Life Literature

<http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/index.html>

the Bible For Today

<http://www.biblefortoday.org/>

John 2:1-11

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

KJB

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord,
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh of a tear,
Can remain when we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief of a loss,
Not a frown of a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet,
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Continued from page 2

all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray." God has promised to bless our marriage if we are faithful. With so many advantages to obeying God's Word, it does not make sense to disobey and suffer the consequences. We are unable to hide from God, for he sees all and will reward each person accordingly.¹ Again, marriage is ordained by God and is intended to be a lifelong commitment, it is neither a human nor temporary arrangement. Marriage is forever because God said so. †

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