

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

Study 40

MARRIAGE/ DIVORCE/ REMARRIAGE

Tonight we will discuss MARRIAGE/ DIVORCE/ REMARRIAGE as it is taught in the Scriptures.

1) MAKE SURE THAT WHO YOU ARE GOING TO MARRY IS THE ONE THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO MARRY.

This is a decision that needs to be made with the utmost care and thought. Once you have made the decision to marry, it is for the rest of your life. This is not a decision that can be reversed once it has been made. Every couple needs to make sure of God's will before they marry. If you are already married, God's will is for you to endure.

2) ONCE YOU MARRY, GOD NEVER WANTS YOU TO DIVORCE.

Divorce should never be an option. Never even entertain the thought in your mind.

Genesis 2:18-24

18 *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

19 *And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

20 *And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

21 *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

22 *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

23 *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

24 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

Since God made the couple one flesh, they should never be separated.

Matthew 5:31-32

31 *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:*

32 *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.*

The reason for this clause is because the wife has already committed adultery and therefore by divorcing her, one is not causing her to commit adultery. She already has! By the way, this passage does not say that God is for divorce. This is a big deal to God.

It is also important to note that God says "whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." There is no "out clause" for this. Yes one can be forgiven but it also needs to be understood as God's Word explains it.

Mark 10:4-9

4 *And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.*

5 *And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.*

6 *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*

- 7 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;*
 8 *And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.*
 9 *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

The reason divorce takes place is because of the hardness of one's heart. A divorce never happens because of a tender heart or because of a heart that is right with God. What God has joined together, man should never separate.

Romans 7:1-3

- 1 *Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?*
 2 *For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.*
 3 *So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

This means that God's law is binding as long as man is alive. It does not matter what the law of the land states. God's law always overrides man's law. The law of God binds those who are married as long as their spouse is alive. If the spouse has died, the person is free to marry another.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

- 10 *And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:*
 11 *But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.*

Since we do not live in a perfect world, God addresses those who have divorced. If the spouse wants to depart let him or her depart. You cannot force your spouse to stay with you. If this does take place, God is still for the home enduring so He tells the one who has been left to stay unmarried or be reconciled to the spouse who left. If a divorce has taken place, all is not lost. Reconciliation is still a possibility.

But, what happens if the one who has left marries another?

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

- 1 *When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.*
 2 *And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.*
 3 *And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;*
 4 *Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*

3) WHAT IF ONE IS MARRIED, DIVORCED AND REMARRIED?

A person under these circumstances can still be used of God and be right with God. They should confess the sin of breaking their original vows and then commit to keeping the vows they have made for the marriage they are in. Once someone divorces, it makes divorce an option for any marriage. You must fight off the urge to divorce when problems come in your marriage.

There are only two offices that a divorced person should not hold in the church. Other than these two, they can serve in any other appropriate capacity.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

- 1 *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*
 2 *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

3 *Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;*
 4 *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;*
 5 *(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*
 6 *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*
 7 *Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
 8 *Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;*
 9 *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*
 10 *And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.*
 11 *Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*
 12 *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*
 13 *For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

4) GOD WANTS ALL THE MARRIED COUPLES TO ENDURE FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES AS A MARRIED COUPLE.

In other words, marriages are never supposed to end.

Job 8:13-15

13 *So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:*
 14 *Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.*
 15 *He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.*

When a couple forgets about God when it comes to their home, they will not endure. It is so important for every couple to live according to what God's Word says for if they do, they will endure as a couple. Exactly who or what is your final authority concerning your home? Feelings, circumstances, finances, difficulties, problems, trials, opposition, understanding, and even you should never be the final say so in your home. God's Word should be the only say so in your home!

Psalms 89:29-35

29 *His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.*
 30 *If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;*
 31 *If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;*
 32 *Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.*
 33 *Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.*
 34 *My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.*
 35 *Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.*

The marriage vows are a covenant between two people. Covenants are never supposed to be broken. We are never supposed to alter what we said in our vows. Till death do us part means exactly that. For better or for worse means exactly that. If one breaks his or her vows, he or she is a liar.

Since God never breaks His covenants, neither should we. Since God never alters what He has said, neither should we. Since God never lies, neither should we. Married couples need to act like God instead of acting like the world!

2 Timothy 2:3

3 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

You are a good soldier for Christ if you can endure. A good soldier never quits.

James 5:11

11 *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

Those who marry and endure as a married couple like God teaches in His Word are the happiest couples in the world. If you learn to endure as a couple, you will find happiness as a couple.

For those of you who are married, endure! For those of you who will one day get married, endure!

CONCLUSION:

I. Make sure you marry in God's will.

II. Decide before you marry that you will never divorce for any reason.

III. Separation may be appropriate but only for the purpose of reconciliation.

IV. If a divorce takes place, consider remaining unmarried.

V. If you feel that you cannot remain unmarried, make sure to marry a person who is saved and desires to live for the Lord.

VI. If you are divorced and remarried, you can still live for God and serve the Lord for the rest of your life.

VII. Divorced people are NOT second class Christians.

VIII. God can remake our broken lives into something beautiful!

Jeremiah 18:1 ¶ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

IX. Never allow discouragement or bitterness to come into your heart because of a failed marriage.

X. Learn from your life and decide to teach others how to be happy in marriage and to always follow God's Word.