

Coburg Road
Church of Christ
July 14, 2019

Marriage & Divorce #11
Matthew 19:3-12 (Part 2)



(3) Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife, asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses permitted a man to WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND HER AWAY." (*Genesis 24:1*)

(4) And He answered and said, "Have you not read that God, He who created them from the beginning of creation, MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE (*Genesis 1:27*), (5) 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'? (*Genesis 2:24*)

(6) So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

(7) They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND HER AWAY?" (*Genesis 24:1*)

(8) He, Jesus, said to them, "Because of your HARDNESS OF HEART (*SHE FINDS NO FAVOR IN HIS EYES - Deuteronomy 24:1*) Moses wrote you this commandment and permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

(9) And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for FORNICATION (*A MATTER OF NAKEDNESS - Deuteronomy 24:1*), and marries another woman commits adultery."

In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

(10) The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

(11) But He said to them, "Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given."

(12) For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it."

SIX POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

**FIVE OF THE SIX
REVOLVE AROUND
INTERPRETING
DEUTERONOMY 24**

Jesus *INTERPRETED* Deuteronomy 24:1f

(1) 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 indecency (*NAKEDNESS*) in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house,

Jesus *INTERPRETED* Deuteronomy 24:1f

(1) 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 indecency (*NAKEDNESS*) in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, (2) and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife,

Jesus INTERPRETED Deuteronomy 24:1f

(1) 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 indecency (*NAKEDNESS*) in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, (2) and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife, (3) and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, (4) then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since 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 gives you as an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 24:1

“she finds no favor in his eyes”

“he found some *indecent* in her”

“indecent” = **NAKEDNESS**

Matthew 19:8f

“your hardness of heart”

“except for *immorality*”

“immorality” = **FORNICATION**

**33 Sex Sins Listed
10 Death Penalties**

**“Nakedness”
Used 20 times
In this list
- AND -
Deut. 24:1
is one of them**

**The Law for
39 years
Before Dt. 24**

OLD TESTAMENT SEXUAL PROHIBITIONS & PENALTIES *(Capital Offense Highlighted)*

Chart originally compiled by Larry Haverstock in April, 2007. Revised in May, 2019.

Verse	Prohibitions (As <u>Stated</u>) (Usually from male view only)	Converse (Derived by deducing female view)	Restated (Modern terms)	Penalty
Ex. 20:14	Shall not commit adultery (Lev. 18:20)	* You shall not commit adultery *	Adultery	Death (Lev. 20:10)
Ex. 20:17	You shall not covet neighbor's wife	Do not covet neighbor's husband	Lust	
Lev. 18:6	Blood relative	Blood relative	Incest	
Lev. 18:7	Son & Mother	Daughter & Father	Child & Parent	
Lev. 18:8	Son & Father's wife	Daughter & Mother's husband	Child & Stepparent	Death (Lev. 20:11)
Lev. 18:9	Brother & Sister	Sister & Brother	Siblings	Cut off / Bear guilt (Lev. 20:17)
Lev. 18:9	Brother & Father's half-sister	Sister & Father's half-brother	Half-siblings	Cut off / Bear guilt (Lev.20:17)
Lev. 18:9	Brother & Mother's half-sister	Sister & Mother's half-brother	Half-siblings	Cut off / Bear guilt (Lev.20:17)
Lev. 18:10	Father & Son's daughter	Mother & Son's son	Grandchildren	
Lev. 18:10	Father & Daughter's daughter	Mother & Daughter's son	Grandchildren	
Lev. 18:11	Son & Step-mother's daughter	Daughter & Step-father's son	Half-siblings	
Lev. 18:12	Son & Father's sister	Daughter & Father's brother	Aunts/Uncles	Bear guilt (Lev. 20:19)
Lev. 18:13	Son & Mother's sister	Daughter & Mother's brother	Aunts/Uncles	Bear guilt (Lev. 20:19)
Lev. 18:14	Son & Father's Brother's wife	Daughter & Father's Sister's husband	Aunts/Uncles	Bear sin / Childless (Lev. 20:20)
Lev. 18:15	Father & Son's wife	Mother & Daughter's husband	Son/Daughter in law	Death (Lev. 20:12)
Lev. 18:16	Brother & Brother's wife	Sister & Sister's husband	Brother/sister in law	Childless (Lev. 20:21)
Lev. 18:17	Man & Woman + her daughter	Woman & Man + his son	Father/Mother in law	Burned (Lev. 20:14)
Lev. 18:17	Man & Woman + her son's daughter	Woman & Man + his son's son	Grandchildren	
Lev. 18:17	Man & Woman + her daughter's daughter	Woman & Man + his daughter's son	Grandchildren	
Lev. 18:18	Man & Woman + her living sister	Woman & Man + his living brother	Two siblings	
Lev. 18:19	Man & Menstruating Woman	Intercourse while menstruating	Menstrual sex	Cut off (Lev. 20:18)
Lev. 18:22	Man & Man	Woman & Woman	Homosexuality	Death (Lev. 20:13)
Lev. 18:23	Man & Animal	* Woman & Animal *	Bestiality	Death (Lev. 20:15)
Lev. 19:20ff	Sex with betrothed slave	Sex with betrothed slave	Pre-marital sex	Sacrifice Ram (Lev. 19:21)
Lev. 19:29	Make daughter a harlot (Prostitution ?)	# Make son a harlot # (Prostitution ?)	Prostitution	
Lev. 20:14	Marrying a mother and her daughter	Marrying a father and his son	Incest	Death (Lev. 20:14)
Lev. 21:9	Harlotrous daughter of Priest		Special Harlotry	Death (Lev. 21:9)
Dt. 22:5	Man wearing women's clothing	* Woman wearing man's clothing *	Transvestism	
Dt. 22:20f		* Not a virgin at marriage *	Pre-marital sex	Death (Dt. 22:21)
Dt. 22:23f	Man & another man's betrothed virgin	Woman & betrothed virgin	Pre-marital sex	Death (Dt. 22:24)
Dt. 22:25ff	Rape of betrothed virgin	Rape of betrothed bachelor	Rape of betrothed	Death (Dt. 22:25)
Dt. 22:28f	Rape of unbetrothed virgin	Rape of unbetrothed bachelor	Rape of unbetrothed	Marriage (Dt. 22:29)
Dt. 24:1-4	Man & His divorced wife	Woman & Her divorced husband	Same one twice	

Highlighted lines = Prohibitions also found in New Testament.
 * ___ * = **Actually stated (not deduced by reversing the male prohibition).**
 # ___ # = **Assuming male sin by reversing female prohibition.**

THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

1) In 19:6, does the phrase “*let no man separate*” mean “it’s impossible to separate” or “STOP separating”?

It means...

“STOP separating”

“STOP divorcing your wives”

“You can, and you are, so STOP IT”

Why would God forbid the IMPOSSIBLE?

THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

2) In 19:8, is the “*hardness of heart*”
directed toward God or an adulterous wife?

CERTAINLY

Toward an adulterous wife

God **NEVER** caves in to rebellious man’s sin

How else would husband feel toward an adulteress?

That’s how Jesus **INTERPRETED** Deut. 24

THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

3) In 19:8, is there “*hardness of heart*”
in Deuteronomy 24:1?

YES !

“She Finds No Favor in His Eyes” (Dt. 24:1)

THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

4) In 19:8, is the phrase “*permitted you to divorce your wives*” an unencumbered authorization or an unwilling concession?

It Is

An Unencumbered Authorization

“Suffered” (KJV) is terribly misleading

John 19:38 Joseph besought Pilate to take Jesus’ body. Pilate “*granted permission*”

Acts 21:39-40 Allow me to speak to the people. When he had “*given him permission*”

Acts 27:3 Julius treated Paul with consideration & “*allowed*” him to go to his friends

THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

5) In 19:8, is “*from the beginning it has not been this way*”
Moses’ way or some other way?

It Is

THE PHARISEES’ WAY

This whole discussion = Moses VS. Pharisees

Whatever way we’re talking about has NEVER been God’s way back to Eden

Moses’ Way HAD been “the Way” (God’s Way) for the last 1500 YEARS

So, the **ONLY** Way that HADN’T been from the beginning = The Pharisee’s Way

Confirmed by Greek Dept. Head, Natural born Greek, and another Professor

THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE / CONTENTION

6) In 19:9, is there “*fornication*”
in Deuteronomy 24:1?

CERTAINLY

The “matter of nakedness” = fornication

Jesus is an inspired teacher of Moses’ Law before the Cross

Use of “PARAPHRASING”

Jesus, the Apostles, and the Prophets often did

Permit me please to do so as well.

Watch the Combined Text while I paraphrase it.

(3) Some Pharisees asked, "Are you with Hillel or Shammai? Are you with Shammai who believes divorce is only for fornication, or with Hillel and us Pharisees who divorce wives for any reason at all?"

And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses agrees with Hillel and us. The certificate of divorce is for any reason at all, not just for sexual sins."

(4 & 5) He answered and said, "Haven't you ever even READ Genesis 1:27 or 2:24? NO! You're absolutely wrong. Moses never taught that divorce can be for any reason at all."

(6) "Genesis says that married people are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together in marriage, you better stop separating through divorce."

(7) They said to Him, "Why else would Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce? You fell right into our trap, Jesus. Deuteronomy 24:1 says we can divorce for any reason at all but you're contradicting Moses. We've got you now!"

(8) Jesus, said, "Because men's hearts are hardened against an adulterous wife, Moses wrote Deuteronomy 24:1 and permitted you to divorce adulteresses. But from the beginning it has never been this way of divorcing wives for any reason at all that you're defending."

(9) I say Moses taught "Whoever divorces his wife, except for the NAKEDNESS stipulated in Deuteronomy 24:1, and marries another woman commits adultery." Shammai is right. You're wrong."

In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife (except for fornication) and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband (except for fornication) and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

(10) The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

(11) But He said to them, "Not all men can simply accept your statement and therefore choose to live without marital sex. Only certain men have the ability to remain celibate.

(12) For there are celibate men are born without the desire or ability to have sex. And there are celibate men who were made that way because someone castrated them. And there are also celibate men who can make themselves celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Only men in these three conditions are able to remain unmarried. Let them accept your astute conclusion that 'it is better not to marry'.

Questions?

Comments?

Objections?



