

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Notes by Donald Townsley

1. Matthew 19:9

(1) "*Whosoever*" -- any person at all.

(2) This points up the universality of the application

1. Saint or Sinner

2. "*Shall put away his wife, except for fornication* (physical unfaithfulness to the marriage vow) *committeth adultery*"

3. Under consideration in this passage is any person at all.

4. The sole ground on which the "*whosoever*" can put away his or her companion and marry another is fornication -- Matt. 19:9

5. The passage involves two people in a union described as "marriage".

THE THEORY OF "SINNERS NOT UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST"

1. The theory assumes that moral law is applicable only to those in the church, and that people who have not obeyed the gospel are incapable of committing adultery or of violating other specific moral laws.

2. This is shown to be false over and over in the New Testament both by precept and example:

(1) The Gentiles -- Rom. 1: 18 - 32

(2) The Corinthians -- I Cor. 6: 9 - 11

3. The theory makes marriage a church ordinance.

(1) Marriage started in Eden -- Gen. 2:24 --centuries before the church was established.

(2) People are answerable to God under the laws of marriage whether they are members of the church or not -
- Gen. 2: 22 - 24

4. The theory requires one to believe that one can obey the gospel without repentance.

(1) Repentance is a change of will regarding one's course; how can one intend to continue the same course (keep his wife he has no right to) and repent of his adultery? --Luke 13:3; Rom. 2:4

5. It implies that the civil law is the sole standard of moral conduct for people in the world.

(1) If this is the case, then those who live in a land where polygamy and concubines are legal can practice such.

(2) Col. 3: 3 - 7; Rev. 21:8

6. Marriage, being recognized of God, only in the church, is therefore a church ordinance:

(1) So all that are baptized need to be married -- Matt. 19: 5 - 6

7. If the alien sinner commits no specific sins:

(1) Then what law condemned them?

(2) Paul said, "*Where no law is, there is no transgression*" -- Rom. 4:15

(3) John said, "*Sin is the transgression of the law*" --I John 3:4

(4) The gospel is for men who are sinners -- Luke 24: 47

ARGUMENTS PROVING THAT ALIENS ARE AMENABLE TO THE LAW OR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Sin's universality proves ALL MEN are amenable to Christ's Law.
 - (1) All men have sinned -- Rom. 3:23
 - (2) The sins of the Gentiles -- Rom. 1: 18 - 32
2. The Great Commission proves all men are amenable to the law (gospel) of Christ -- Matt. 28: 18 - 20; Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Lk. 24: 46 - 47; Acts 17:30
3. The Great Invitation proves all men are amenable to the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - (1) Matt. 11: 28 - 30
4. The basic nature of the gospel necessitates that all men are amenable to the Law or Gospel of Christ -- Lk. 19:10
 - (1) "Gospel" means: GOOD NEWS
 - (2) The GOOD NEWS how the Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world -- John 1:29
 - (3) It is the GOOD NEWS that Jesus died for all men -- Heb . 2:9
 - (4) It is the GOOD NEWS that God desires all to come to a knowledge of Truth and be saved -- I Tim. 2: 3 - 4
 - (5) It is GOOD NEWS that He wants all to come to repentance -- II Pet. 3:9; Acts 17:30
 - (6) It is GOOD NEWS that God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son to die for lost man -- John 3:16
 - (7) It is the GOOD NEWS how we can obey the gospel and be added to the church -- Acts 2: 41,47
 - (8) It is the GOOD NEWS that when we hear, believe, and obey the gospel, it will result in the salvation of our souls -- I Cor. 15:1 - 2
5. Paul made many declarations that prove that all men are amenable to the law of Christ:
 - (1) Paul charged the Athenians with idolatry -- Acts 17: 22 - 31
 - (2) Paul charged the Corinthians with specific sins -- I Cor. 6: 9 - 11; I Cor. 5:10
 - (3) Paul, to the saints in Colossae -- Col. 3: 5 - 7
6. That all men are amenable to Christ's Law is seen from the gospel's teaching on marriage, divorce and remarriage:
 - (1) Matt. 5:32 "*Whosoever*" -- anyone without exception; any person whatever
 - (2) Matt. 19:9 -- "*Whosoever*"
 - (3) These apply to all, anyone, who enters marriage.
 - (4) Marriage began for the human family in Eden, not at Horeb and not on Pentecost -- Gen. 2: 24
 1. Marriage is not a church ordinance.

2. If no one outside of Christ is amenable to God's law on marriage, then the world could never be guilty of adultery in God's sight.

(1) Paul said the world is guilty of adultery -- I Cor. 5:10, 1

7. The UNIVERSAL JUDGMENT proves that ALL men are amenable to the Law or gospel of Jesus Christ.

(1) All nations, and every individual will be there -- Matt. 25: 31 - 33; Rev. 20:12; II Cor. 5: 10; Rom. 14:10

(2) The world, along with the saints, will be judged by the Word of Christ -- John 12:48; Acts 17: 31

8. God gave JESUS authority over ALL flesh - all men -- John 17:2; Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1: 19 - 23; I Pet. 3:22