



IS DIVORCE ALWAYS WRONG?

JOEY FAUST (8-31-22)

TEXT: Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that **he hateth putting away...**

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, **that ye deal not treacherously.**



Malachi 2:11 Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

**Jeremiah 2:27 Saying to a
stock, Thou art my father;
and to a stone, Thou hast
brought me forth...**

Malachi 2:12 The Lord will cut off the man that doeth this, **the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the Lord of hosts.**

Malachi 2:13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

**Malachi 2:14 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.**

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore **take heed to your spirit**, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

**Leviticus 24:17 And he
that killeth any man shall
surely be put to death.**

Exodus 22:2 If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, **there shall no blood be shed for him.**

**Matthew 19:9 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.**

**Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay:
but, **except** ye repent, ye
shall all likewise perish.**

Ezekiel 16:8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and **I...entered into a covenant with thee**, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

15 But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was **espoused** to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph **her husband, being a just man,** and not willing to make her a publick example, **was minded to put her away privily.**

**Matthew 5:32 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.**

JUSTIN MARTYR (d. 165):

"A certain woman lived with an intemperate husband; she herself, too, having formerly been intemperate....But he, continuing in the same excesses, alienated his wife from him by his actions."

"For she, considering it wicked to live any longer as a wife with a husband who sought in every way means of indulging in pleasure contrary to the law of nature, and in violation of what is right, wished to be divorced from him."

"And when she was overpersuaded by her friends, who advised her still to continue with him...she did violence to her own feeling and remained with him. But when her husband had gone into Alexandria, and was reported to be conducting himself worse than ever, she - that she might not, by continuing in matrimonial connection with him, and by sharing his table and his bed, become a partaker also in his wickednesses and impieties - gave him what you call a bill of divorce, and was separated from him."

Epistle of Clement to James:

"Wherefore above all things be careful about chastity; for fornication has been marked out as a bitter thing in the estimation of God. But **there are many forms of fornication**, as also Clement himself will explain to you. **The first is adultery**, that a man should not enjoy his own wife alone, or a woman not enjoy her own husband alone..."

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA (d. 200):

"...'Thou shalt not put away thy wife, except for the cause of fornication;...Not to deck and adorn herself beyond what is becoming, renders a wife free of calumnious suspicion. while she devotes herself assiduously to prayers and supplications; avoiding frequent departures from the house...deeming housekeeping of more consequence than impertinent trifling...'"

TERTULLIAN (d. 230):

'His words are: 'Whosoever puts away his wife, and marries another, commits adultery; and whosoever marries her that is put away from her husband, also commits adultery,' Luke 16:18 - 'put away,' that is, for the reason wherefore a woman ought not to be dismissed...'

"Permanent is the marriage which is not rightly dissolved; to marry, therefore, while matrimony is undissolved, is to commit adultery. Since, therefore, His prohibition of divorce was a conditional one, He did not prohibit absolutely; and what He did not absolutely forbid, that He permitted on some occasions..."

"Well, then, what is a husband to do in your sect [Marcion], if his wife commit adultery? Shall he keep her?...Divorce, therefore, when justly deserved, has even in Christ a defender."

"He prohibits divorce when He will have the marriage inviolable; He permits divorce when the marriage is spotted with unfaithfulness."

ORIGEN (d. 255):

"But as to whether her being caught in the act of poisoning or committing murder, furnishes any defence of his dismissal of her, you can inquire yourselves; for the husband can also in other ways than by putting her away cause his own wife to commit adultery; as, for example, allowing her to do what she wishes beyond what is fitting..."

"...even he who withholds himself from his wife makes her oftentimes to be an adulteress when he does not satisfy her desires..."

CYPRIAN (d. 258):

"Christ gave this judgment when, being inquired of, He said that a wife must not be put away, **save for the cause of adultery**; such honour did He put upon chastity...Hence the apostle says: 'This is the will of God, that ye abstain from fornication'..."

LACTANTIUS (d. 320):

"Let him who has a wife seek nothing further, but, content with her alone...But as a woman is bound by the bonds of chastity not to desire any other man, so let the husband be bound by the same law..."

"On this account He has commanded that the wife shall not be put away unless convicted of adultery, and that the bond of the conjugal compact shall never be dissolved, unless unfaithfulness have broken it..."

**"...*Porneia* [fornication] in the
exceptive clause was taken to
designate adultery; dismissal was
taken to designate the dissolution of
the marriage."**

**(Mackin; on the views of the eastern,
Byzantine churches in 13th century)**

"Here you see that in the case of adultery Christ permits the divorce of husband and wife, so that the innocent person may remarry. For in saying that he commits adultery who marries another after divorcing his wife, 'except for unchastity,' Christ is making it quite clear that he who divorces his wife on account of unchastity and then marries another does not commit adultery..." (Luther, 1522)

**"...her sin [adultery] ought of
no right to bind him..."
(William Tyndal, 1526)**

"In the manner of divorce the Divine Word frees the innocent person when the husband or wife has dissolved the bond of marriage by adultery, and it concedes to the innocent person, when the case has been decided judicially, the right to contract another marriage..."

(Melancthon, 1551)

"...we concede the right of a new marriage, especially to the one who was not the cause of the divorce."

(Theodore Beza, 1563)

**"Christ also by His holy apostle
giveth liberty to the faithful man
or woman...to marry
again....Antichrist will by no
means suffer any divorcement so
to be made..."**

(Thomas Becon, 1567)

"What the right occasion of divorce is hath Christ mentioned in the gospel and named whoredom or adultery..."

(H. Bullinger, d. 1575, *The Christian State of Matrimonye*)

"They therefore that in no case will help the oppressed person, nor in any wise permit divorce to be made, do even as the Pharisees..."

(H. Bullinger, d. 1575)

**"In the case of adultery after marriage, it is lawful for the innocent party to sue out a divorce: and after the divorce to marry another, as if the offending party were dead."
(Westminster Confession, 1649)**

"Some have upon these words made a question whether it be lawful for the husband or the wife separated for adultery to marry again while each other liveth...as to the innocent person offended, it is no question..."

(Matthew Poole, d. 1679)