

You Shall Not Commit Adultery

Part 2

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Deuteronomy 5:18)

Adultery can be practiced in the following ways:

5- Divorce and Remarriage: Let us read the Scripture in this regard: *“²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³“What did Moses command you?” he replied. ⁴They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” ⁵“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. ⁶“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.” (Mark 10:2-10)* A common practice for many religions is allowing divorce and remarriage, but this is considered as adultery according to the word of Christ. Moses allowed divorce as Jesus stated, *“It was because your hearts were hard.”* But that was not God’s plan for man in the beginning of the creation.

We can read the same in *Luke 16:18: “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”*

Other two related Scriptures is *Romans 7:2-3 ²For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him. ³So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man.”* And *“A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.” (1Corinthians 7:39)* If the woman is not allowed to marry another man while her husband is alive, the same will be applied for the man, cannot go to marry another woman while his wife is alive.

Jesus said in *Matthew 19:9 “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”* According to the word of Jesus that divorce and remarriage allowed if the spouse commits adultery. But how the wife will commit adultery if the husband is doing his part toward the family? Is the man is faithful and the wife is unfaithful? It could be that the wife unfaithfulness was due to the man unfaithfulness.

Now if we want to follow Christ then we should follow all His teaching and not only Matthew 19:9. We have to practice forgiveness and do our best to restore the relationship between the woman and her husband.

The covenant of marriage cannot be broken by anyone because it is a covenant with God. Paul wrote in *1Corinthians 7:10-11 ¹⁰“To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.”* Certain times separation will happen for whatever reason or cause but that is not permission for remarriage. If one of the spouses is abusing or harming the other one and all the possible ways to correct and deal with the sin fail, and reconciliation and living together is not practical or not possible then we can keep silent if one of the spouses is not willing to go back to his/her partner. But at the same time we will not approve any trial to perform divorce because that will be a temptation to commit remarriage, and in doing so is committing adultery.

Others they quote what Paul wrote in *1Corinthians 7:15 ¹⁵“But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.”* Now when said that *“The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances.”* What he meant here they are no more blamed or responsible on the bad action of the other partner, but Paul here is not giving the permission of remarriage.

Some churches in their institution they allow divorce and remarriage and in doing so they are giving a cover for adultery and permission to Satan to spread immorality inside the body of Christ. In Revelation Jesus sent warning letter to the false teachers and the false prophets who permit that when He sent His warning message to the church in Thyatira, *“²⁰Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²²So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.” (Revelation 2:21-23)*

My dear and beloved: Holiness is what the Lord required from us today as workers in His vineyard. We need to be careful about such above things and not give our approval for divorce or remarriage because it is adultery and a way to spread immorality. *“See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.” (Hebrews 12:16)* As you agree to pray.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and to teach your people to keep holiness and I will stand firm to oppose those who condone sin and give permission for divorce and remarriage. Give me discernment, strength and help me to do that for you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*