



# Marriage Divorce and Remarriage

Matthew 19:3-12



# The Premise Firmly Stated

- The first premise is that God never intends or desires to marriage to end in divorce.
- Then a single exception is given for the first premise.
- Adultery is added to the sin of divorce by marrying another.
- “Brother Bragwell does not believe that one can divorce his mate for any reason except fornication. Should a divorce occur for any other reason, the one initiating that divorce is guilty of sin, regardless of how abhorrent that mate’s conduct might be.”



# What is Fornication?

- It involves bodily contact (1 Cor. 6:16-18; Jn. 8:41).
- It is more than what happens in the heart (Matt. 5:27-28; cf. 5:21-22; 1 Jn. 3:15).
- We need to be careful not to look for the definition that makes divorce easiest.



# Are There Other Exceptions?

- “If one must leave his marriage in order to be faithful to Christ, he has the God-given right and obligation to do so.”
- This comes mainly from 1 Cor. 7:10-15.
- They will add to 1 Cor. 7 several passages that call us to put God first and forsake all others (Matt. 10:34-38; 19:28-29; Lk. 14:26; 18:29-20).



# Are There Other Exceptions?

- Back to 1 Cor. 7:
  - Start with v. 10 and consider the wording.
  - So then, v. 11 is what to do after you have neglected v. 10.
  - Then there is v. 12-13: “Paul says that if the unbeliever is content to dwell with the believer, the Christian is not to leave. That implies that if the unbeliever is not content to dwell with the Christian, then the Christian can leave. (It may be that, though not agreeing on an amiable relationship with the believer, the unbeliever decides to stay in the house to try to destroy the Christian’s faith, or generally make things miserable for the believer.)”