



Non-Christians and Christ's Law on MDR

MDR – Pt. 5



Introduction

- As society disregards God's law on almost everything, so has religion – 2 Tim. 4:1-5
- This is especially true concerning morality – Gal. 5:19-21
- Yet, God saves through forgiveness, providing new life!
- Question: When people in adulterous marriages are saved, are they allowed to stay with their present mate?



Is Christ's Law on MDR Only For Christians?



Christ's Teaching on MDR

- Jesus' teaching is based upon God's creation of marriage at the beginning – Matt. 19:3-9; Gen. 1:27; 2:24
 - God's will on marriage preceded all covenant laws – 19:3-6
 - God created marriage with the intent of one man for one woman for life – 19:6
 - This design applies to all people!



Christ's Teaching on MDR

- Jesus' response to Moses' concession proves that God's intent for marriage applies to all – 19:7-8
 - The Jews retorted that Moses allowed for divorce – 19:7
 - Jesus showed this was not God will and never had been – 19:8
 - A later covenant doesn't negate God's design for marriage given at the beginning.
 - Thus, denying the universal nature of Christ's law on MDR denies its universal foundation – 19:9



Christ's Law and the Lost?

- If Christ's law is not applicable to non-Christians, then...
 - Non-Christians should not be judged by Jesus' words...**but they will be!** – Jn. 12:47-48; Jn. 16:12-15
 - Non-Christians would never be guilty of adultery...**but they are!** – 1 Cor. 6:9-11



Non-Christians, Forgiveness, and Repentance



Can the Forgiven Stay in Their Adulterous Marriages?

- God forgives adultery – 1 Cor. 6:9-11
- God promises a new life, causing the “old” to pass away, and making all things new – 2 Cor. 5:17
- Paul said to “remain in the same calling in which he was called” – 1 Cor. 7:17, 20, 27
- **Do these verses allow adulterers to stay in their marriages?**



Answer: Three Biblical Principles

- All unlawful marriages result in adultery – Mk. 10:11-12; Rom. 7:2
- All who seek salvation must repent – Acts 17:30-31; 2:38; 3:19
- Repentance requires ending any sinful sexual relationship – Matt. 21:28-31; Jn. 8:11
 - John preached it – Mk. 1:4; Matt. 3:7-8
 - Paul preached it – Acts 26:20
 - The penitent quit their sin – Acts 19:18-20; Rm. 6:1-2; Rev. 9:20-21
 - This is fundamental! – 1 Cor. 6:9-10



Objections...

- This is too harsh and contrary to the ways of a loving God.
 - God required Israelites to divorce their unlawful wives...and there were children involved – Ezra 9-10
 - It was not lawful for Herod to “have” his brother’s wife – Mark 6:16-19



Objections...

- What about “remaining in the same calling”? – 1 Cor. 7:20, 27
 - Paul is addressing matters of moral neutrality, not matters of sin that need repentance.
 - Applying this to adulterous marriages would abuse the context.
 - What matters is “keeping God’s commandments” – 7:19
 - How can remaining in an unlawful marriage be “keeping God’s commandments”?



Conclusion

- Christ's law on MDR applies to all.
- Everyone must repent, whether of adultery or any other sin.
 - This requires giving up their sin, including sinful relationships.
 - Forgiveness doesn't change the nature of our relationships!
- Although God demands much, the eternal salvation He provides is worth it!