

ATTITUDES

Objective: This lesson is designed to encourage proper attitudes toward this study.

I. IMPORTANCE OF THIS STUDY

A. Consequences

1. 1 Cor. 6:9-10

What actions are first and third in this list?

(1)

(2)

2. What happens to those who do NOT “inherit the kingdom of God”? Mt. 25:34,41,46; Mk. 9:47-48.

B. So Many Involved

1. Presently

a) Statistics

The following is from <http://www.divorcemag.com/statistics/statsUS.shtml>

Marriage & Divorce: (2002 except where noted)

Total divorces granted in 1997: 1,163,000

Median duration of first marriages that end in divorce:

Males: 7.8 years; Females: 7.9 years

Median duration of second marriages that end in divorce:

Males: 7.3 years; Females: 6.8 years

(Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [National Center for Health Statistics](#), [Americans for Divorce Reform](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [Institute for Equality in Marriage](#), [American Association for Single People](#), [Ameristat](#), [Public Agenda](#))

Thus, on an average, over 3,000 times every single day, 365 days a year, “divorce granted” is heard in the courts of our land!

- ##### **b) Observation, experience - OUR friends, aunts, cousins, brothers, children, parents...selves!**

2. Potentially

a) Influence of society

What was the norm of the Ephesians’ lives before Christ? Eph. 2:2

b) Influence of culture

Where had Peter's readers learned their way of life? 1 Pt 1:18

Think of the influence our views and practices toward marriage, divorce, and remarriage will have upon our children and grandchildren.

c) Influence within the church

(1) Ezra 9:1-2; 10:2-5,8,14.

(a) What was the "unfaithfulness" ("trespass" KJV, ASV, NKJV)?

(b) Who was "foremost" ("chief" KJV, ASV; "led the way" NIV) in it?

(c) Who stood with Ezra in leading the reformation?

(2) 1 Cor. 5:6 - What was one reason Paul gave for removing the immoral man from the congregation?

C. Misunderstanding

1. Many theories; much confusion.

Some are involved in second marriages...are they scriptural? Do the unmarried, the divorced, the young people, understand God's will in these matters? Is there confusion?

2. Read Eph. 5:3-10,15-17.

a) Compare v. 10 in the NASB with the KJV, ASV, or NKJV. Note the marginal note in the NASB. Look up the word "prove" in a dictionary and write a definition that fits the usage here. .

b) In v. 15 the KJV uses the word "circumspectly." Write the definition of this word.

c) Contextually (vv. 15...17), how does one "make the most of his time"?

3. 1 Thess. 5:19-22. What were the Thessalonian Christians urged to do?

4. You are encouraged to study each lesson, and to diligently, "examine the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things are so." Acts 17:11.

II. ATTITUDES AFFECTING UNDERSTANDING

A. 2 Th. 2:10-12 - Love of the Truth

1. What are the two contrasting attitudes in this text?
2. What did God do to those who were not really interested in knowing and practicing the truth?

B. Read Ezra 9,10 - Fear of God

1. What is a real danger to understanding when people are already involved in an unscriptural marriage?
2. What motivated them to put away their wives? Ezra 9:4; 10:3,4,9,14.

C. Mt 22:23-32 - Faith in Revealed Versus Reasoning from Consequences

1. Difficulties
 - a) What was the Sadducees argument against the resurrection? ?
 - b) Had you lived then, before Jesus revealed there would be no marriages in heaven, how could you have answered their argument? ?
 - c) Difficulties in a position may certainly be reason to reexamine it, *but they do not necessarily disprove it*. A difficulty may be due to lack of knowledge. We may just have to admit: "I don't know." It may be due to the fact some things are not revealed, Dt. 29:29. Note and remember: *Every position will have its difficulties*.
2. "Absurdities"; "Unfair"

Men and women, limited in knowledge and wisdom, may label what they do not understand or believe as "absurd" or "unfair." But, "unfair" by whose definition? Do you believe John's grandma, who went to church all her life, prayed, studied her bible, was full of good works, was not saved because she was not baptized for the remission of sins? John Doe might consider that "unfair and absurd." The question is—what has been *revealed*? That "belongs to us"! Do you believe Christians ought to sever association with a person because they no longer go to church or pray? Many in the world (even some "Christians") would not only consider that

“unfair” but “harsh” and “wrong.” Again the question must be, “What has been *revealed*?”

3. “Immoral”

Should one reject a doctrine which results in practical consequences which the *world* views as immoral? Do you believe Saul would have been justified in killing men, *women, and children* in Amalek? How would the world view it? Remember: *Our responsibility is determined by revelation.*

4. Challenge: deal with *what is revealed*.

Easy to say, “I don’t agree.” If not, *what does the text mean?* And, what *text* do you adduce for your belief?

D. Mk. 6:18 – God’s Law the Standard

1. If “it is not lawful” it is not right, regardless of *who* is involved (e.g. Herod the king; religious leaders, Ezra 10), who *teaches* it (e.g. Pharisees, Mt. 5:20...31, Gamaliel, Ac. 5:38). how *many* people believe it (1 Pt. 3:20; Mt. 7:13,14), how good it *sounds* (Gen. 3:4-5; 2 Pt. 2:3; 3:17), how many times it is *repeated* and preached (Judaizing teachers - Ac. 15; 2 Co. 3; Galatians; Col. 2:16-19; Php. 3:1f;).
2. The *only* way to know what is “lawful” is *by what God said in His revealed Word*. Mt. 19:3-4; 1 Co. 7:10-11,40.

III. CONCLUSION

A. “Preach the Word”

A gospel preacher’s responsibility is to “Preach the Word!” 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
What three actions are involved in faithfully carrying out his ministry?

B. A “sound church”

What is essential to a “sound church”? 1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 1:13; Tit. 1:9; 2:1.

C. What can YOU do?

What can YOU do to help prevent people from being involved in unscriptural marriages?

PLAN OF STUDY

I. Positively

A. Meaning of four terms: “Marriage”; “Divorce”; “Adultery”; “Fornication”

B. Application of the meaning in a study of the relevant passages.

II. Negatively - Other positions

III. Work Sheets/Tapes

You are not required to agree with the teacher, but you are strongly urged to complete each work sheet. The class is designed to promote unity *based on what the texts say*. We will not make progress toward that end by merely expressing views based on tradition, subjectivism, or renowned preachers. To benefit from the class and to benefit the class we must *deal with the texts*. The lessons are designed to compel us to do that. Cassette tapes will be available if you miss a lesson or for further study.