

FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER

Applying The Kingdom Heart Of Love
To Marriage

What I Think Matters

- **Matt.5:20 -For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**
- **Mk.7:20-22 - And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.”**
- **Jhn.5:42- Speaking to the Jews Jesus said, “I know you do not have the love of God within you.”**

The Kingdom Heart Of Love

- **The Talk on the Hill is about a changed heart.**
- **Matt.5:17-31**
- **The 3rd comparison Jesus makes is between a “right way” to divorce and living out a heart of love**
- **One of the most important things on the minds of men of Jesus day was, “How do I get rid of a wife who does not please me?”**
- **The Pharisees felt that as long as they gave the statement of divorce, they felt they had done the “right thing”**

Divorce For Women In Jesus Time

- **Divorce was entirely at the man's discretion**
- **The woman had no say or voice in the action**
- **If the man was abusive in the marriage, divorce was not an option a woman could pursue**
- **There were different schools of thought at that time**
- **Rabbi Shammai only allowed divorce for immorality**
- **Rabbi Hillel allowed it "for every reason" eg. burnt or over salted food**
- **Rabbi Akibah- because a man saw a woman whose appearance pleased him more than his current wife**

The Kingdom Heart Of Love

- **Jesus said, One who Divorces, except for the cause of sexual immorality, commits adultery if they remarry.**
- **This standard is set in Deut.22,24 and repeated throughout the NT, starting in Matt.5:32.**
- **Matt.19:4-6 – Jesus states, Marriage is God’s idea.**
- **In marriage a man and woman become one flesh**
- **What God has joined, let no one separate**

3 Reasons The Old Law Divorce Was Not Good

- 1. It disrupts one of the major relationships God created for us. No one is the same after a divorce.
2 who became 1, are torn apart**
 - A brutal marriage is not a good thing either. Divorce is not an irredeemable form of wickedness. In some situations, divorce is necessary and a good thing**
- 2. Just because you follow the law does not mean you are “right” with God or another person.**
- 3. In those days, divorce would “force” women into adultery**

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- **Two exceptions are given in the NT.**
 1. **For sexual immorality because of the damage breaking the oneness does to a relationship**
 2. **1Cor.7:12-15 Abandonment – If an unbeliever chooses to leave the relationship, let them go.**
- **19:7 – Why the certificate of divorce?**
- **Because of the hardness of heart. God's plan was for 2 people to stay together, reflecting God's faithfulness to us, to each other, through loving forgiveness of one another.**

The Kingdom Heart Of Love

- **So it is not really sexual immorality, specifically adultery, that is the cause for the exception clause, but rather the hardness of heart that Jesus is identifying as the need for a divorce.**
- **Many marriages have survived infidelity through forgiveness but no marriage will survive a hard heart.**
- **That can be caused by over-salted or burnt food or a person more physically appealing than your current spouse.**

The Kingdom Heart Of Love

- **How does God deal with his unfaithful bride?**
- **God appointed the prophet Hosea to be the living example of God's love for His bride. Hosea 1:2**
- **The message of God's forgiving love is repeated over and over through the book- 1:8-11; 3:1; 14:1-7**
- **Can we be that way toward an unfaithful spouse?**
- **Only with a transformed kingdom heart of love that reflects the love and character of God. 5:48**

The Kingdom Heart Of Love

- **This is the progression of the Talk on The Hill. How many divorces would there be, if we removed Anger, Contempt and Fantasied Sexual Coveting from our lives?**
 - 1. First, God deals with our pride and aggression**
 - 2. Second, our natural human desires and appetites are submitted to the Spirit led mind – 1Cor.8:12**
 - 3. Third, We forgive 70x7 times, like God forgives and loves us Mat.18:21-22**