

God, Not Man, Is God
Mark 10:11-12
Charlie Brackett

The Lord's words at this place are contrary to general belief and practice today. We are accustomed to easy divorces. Jesus said, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." We noted in the last message an important exception to this rule allowed by God in Matthew 19:9. "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

This is plain teaching. We have a lot of people in our society wearing the name "Christian". They profess allegiance to Jesus Christ and His teachings. Why, then, is divorce so prevalent in our society? Why do few ministers of the gospel speak against it? Why do many churches condone the practice of it? Why have so many who claim to be followers of Jesus embraced divorce for any reason as a way of life? There are a lot of reasons, I suppose.

First, many who say they follow Jesus don't know what Jesus wants of them. They haven't read their Bibles. They think loving Jesus means pleasing themselves in religious matters, when loving the Lord really means doing His will.

Next, many subscribe to whatever is in the popular mainstream of Christianity. No divorce unless there has been sexual immorality is not popular. If a popular preacher preached it, he would lose followers.

Third, thousands of so-called Christians have found themselves in a marriage they wanted to get out of, or have a loved one in a bad marriage. Divorce may appear the only clear solution to a bad situation. In those circumstances, it becomes easy to rationalize away what the Lord has said here in Mark 10.

Fourth, divorce is big business. How many church-goers make their living in some way from the practice of it? Lawyers and judges to name but a few. There are a lot of influential people in the Christian churches of this land who would hate to see God have His way regarding divorce.

And there are probably many other reasons that the world's notion of Christianity includes no-fault divorce. The bottom line is that man doesn't want to recognize God as God, and himself as subject to God. Man wants to be God. He likes the driver's seat. Man finds some satisfaction in saying, "Look how pious I am," and then, in the next breath, "No one is going to tell me what to do!" My friend, that attitude may prevail today, but mark it down, every knee will bow to Almighty God before all is said and done.