

Matthew 5:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Analysis

Jesus permits divorce only for fornication (porneia—sexual immorality). Divorcing for other reasons makes the divorced person an adulteress if she remarries, and the man who marries her commits adultery. This protects marriage's sanctity and affirms God's creation design: one man, one woman, for life.

Historical Context

This teaching would have shocked hearers used to easy male-initiated divorce. Jesus protects women from being casually discarded. The 'exception clause' for sexual immorality acknowledges that adultery breaks the covenant bond, but Jesus raises the standard far above contemporary practice.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this teaching challenge modern assumptions about personal happiness and self-fulfillment?
2. What does Jesus's strict view of marriage reveal about covenant faithfulness and God's character?

Interlinear Text

ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὅς ᾖ ἀπολελυμένην
I But say unto you That whosoever whosoever her that is divorced
G1473 G1161 G3004 G5213 G3754 G3739 G302 G630

τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτὴν παρεκτὸς λόγου πορνείας ποιεῖ
G3588 **wife her saving for the cause of fornication causeth**
G1135 G846 G3924 G3056 G4202 G4160

αὐτὴν μοιχεύεται καὶ ὅς ἐὰν ἀπολελυμένην
her committeth adultery and whosoever G1437 her that is divorced
G846 G3429 G2532 G3739 G630

γαμήσῃ μοιχεύεται
shall marry committeth adultery
G1060 G3429

Additional Cross-References

Romans 7:3 (Parallel theme): So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Luke 16:18 (Parallel theme): Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:4 (Parallel theme): The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

Matthew 5:28 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

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