

## Study Guide for Part 6: The Options – Staying Single, Divorce & Remarriage

### Matthew 19:1-12

According to this passage, when is divorce permissible?

What would remarriage be for someone who divorced for some other reason than this *cause*?

### The Single Life

What are the causes of celibacy or singleness Jesus identifies here?

By combining Genesis 2 and Matthew 19 we conclude while it is God's *general* will for people to marry, He does call *some* to remain single. Who He calls to remain single, He enables by granting the gift of celibacy.

Sorting out God's will regarding marriage and staying single is as simple as answering a few questions . . .

- **Are you single but long for companionship?**

- Does sexual desire 'move' you? Do you find yourself regularly thinking about yourself as a sexual being with desire for sexual satisfaction?
- Are you attracted to members of the opposite sex & find yourself motivated to behave a certain way so as to be attractive to them?
- Are you often lonely & long for someone to share your life with?

If the answer is an unhesitating, "Yep!" → You're called to marriage.

- **Are you single & content that way?**

- Do you have friends of the opposite sex but don't think about them in a romantic way, they're just friends & there's no desire to see anything beyond that?
- Are you a bit confused over why the rest of the world is so amped by sex & just don't see what the big deal is?
- Are you surprised by the way some of your friends are so motivated by the desire for romance & "hooking up" with someone?
- Do you have a passion to know & serve the Lord & nowhere in that picture is someone else at your side to help make it happen?

If that's where you're at, it's likely you're called to remain single.

God has satisfied the desires that would compel you to marriage in your seeking after Him.

### 1 Corinthians 7

Where does this passage limit sexual intimacy to?

Since we are not to be "unequally yoked," is it right for Christians to divorce an unbelieving mate?

What is the believer to do if the unbelieving spouse *departs*? Would that believer be free to remarry?

Paul expands the permissible causes of divorce from adultery only to abandonment, which is perfectly reasonable since marriage is a covenant of *companionship*. If someone abandons a spouse, there *is* no companionship. When He says that in such a case, we are not bound, he means to the marriage. And someone no longer married is free to remarry. But not Paul's caution to seek God *first* before diving back in. This means that someone who was *once* married may *later* receive a call from God to remain single. The important thing is to seek God for His guidance.

## The Church & Singles

How can the church do a better job of *affirming* singles while still honoring marriage? (Heb 13:4)