

Divorce & Remarriage – The Role Of Repentance

Introduction:

- A. The Bible is plain in speaking of marriages that were contrary to the will of God.
 - 1. *Genesis 20:1-7* – God’s warning to Abimelech about Sarah, the wife of Abraham.
 - 2. *Leviticus 18:6-18* – under the Law of Moses, God expressed a number of expectations.
 - 3. *Leviticus 21:1-14* – priests were prohibited from marrying those widowed or divorced.
 - 4. *Deuteronomy 7:3-5* – all Israelites were forbidden to intermarry with the Canaanites.
- B. In the New Testament, Jesus also warned about unlawful marital situations (*Matthew 19*).
- C. But when men and women marry those whom they are forbidden by divine law to marry and afterward wish to repent and be reconciled to God, what does that repentance require?

I. The Role Of Repentance

- A. Let’s consider the place of repentance and how it touches on sin generally.
 - 1. **Sin** is...
 - 2. **Repentance** is...
- B. Messages of repentance:
 - 1. *Matthew 9:12-13*
 - 2. *Luke 24:46-47*
 - 3. *Acts 17:30*
- C. Just as man’s **rejection** of God is an act of free will, so also his **return** to God.
- D. Two Hebrew words carry this message.
 - 1. **naham** – *sighing or groaning*, from which comes *lamenting* and *grieving*.
(*Genesis 6:6; Jonah 3:10; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 31:19*)
 - 2. **shubh** – suggesting a *return*, a *turning back*, a radical *shift of direction*.
(*Deuteronomy 4:30-31; Isaiah 55:6-7*)
- E. In the New Testament, there are also two words translated *repent* or *repentance*.
 - 1. **metamelomai** – a *feeling of regret*.
(*Matthew 21:28-29; 27:3-4*)
 - 2. **metanoeo** – most frequently translated *repentance* in the New Testament.
(*Matthew 3:2; Acts 2:38; 17:30*)
- F. The nature and demands of repentance can be clearly seen in *2 Corinthians 7:8-11*.
- G. True repentance produces a characteristic fruit (*Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:19-20*).

II. Repentance As The Bible Defines It Implies That Sin Must Cease!