

# God Hates Divorce

by S.G.R.W. Jackson

Divorce, these days, seems to be just as American as baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and Velveeta. I love hot dogs and apple pie, but I hate baseball and Velveeta. Malachi 2:16 in the *New International Version* tells us three things God hates:

"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

The three things God says He hates here—divorce, violence, and clothing—have to do with replacing the God-ordained, natural covering of a man with violence and organic and synthetic fibers. The God-ordained, natural covering for the man is the woman and when a man abandons the natural covering, God says He hates it. Likewise, God hates it when a woman abandons her man, leaving him naked to fend for himself by substituting cheap alternatives like violence or clothing for the natural, God-ordained scabbard for the man. God calls divorce “violence” and He only approves of it in certain situations.

In conceiving the appropriate laws for a nation subject to the laws of the Word of God, we must definitely consider the issue of divorce. The laws of the nation should reflect God’s hatred of divorce and should do everything within their power to discourage and prevent divorce which only leads to the moral decay and downfall of any nation. Divorce will result in the spiritual bankruptcy of a nation and the withholding of the blessing and prosperity of God. The *Jacksonian Institute of Biblical Law, Government and National Prosperity* has devoted much time and research to this question of the proper national laws which should someday be implemented by the Congress of these United States and by every God-fearing nation. I wish to share some of the results of our research.

God hates divorce. He hates it with a passion. Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, verse 32,

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.

So according to Jesus the only excuse for divorcing your wife is if she has committed fornication. The fact that she squeezes the toothpaste from the top or avoids doing the laundry or washing the dishes is not good enough reason to divorce her. If you divorce her for any other reason than fornication, you are causing her to commit adultery. In other words, you are the one responsible here, Mister, ...you and the other mister that ends up marrying her because he will be committing adultery too. Notice that Jesus doesn't blame the woman unless she commits fornication. Otherwise, she is not held accountable for remarrying if her husband divorces her. Rather, it is the men who are held accountable for the resulting adultery.

God always puts a greater burden on the man. The man is the high priest of the household. God intends the man to be the bread-winner, the protector, the leader, and the model of righteousness for the whole family. It's the man who is to take the initiative in enforcing a time for weekly family devotions. The family that prays together stays together. Every father should get every one of his children saved and filled with the Holy Ghost and functioning in the gifts right there in the home. Dr. Brother Bob Dinkins lays out the perfect will of God for every kind of manifestation of the Spirit imaginable taking place in daily family life.<sup>1</sup> If that's not happening it's because there's failure in the duty of headship in the home. With such a burden of spiritual responsibility we can see why the Lord also places a greater demand on the man in the question of divorce.

The Law of Christ is, in some cases, stricter than the Law of Moses which allows a man to divorce his wife for no reason at all. In some cases, the Law of Christ is more lenient. Jewish Law requires a man to divorce his wife if she has committed adultery, whereas the Law of Christ permits a man to forgive his wife and remain married to her. The Word expands on the Gospel Law concerning divorce in First Corinthians 7:10-11:

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

Now according to the Word here, the Christian wife is permitted to leave her husband (something not allowed under the Law of Moses), but she cannot marry anyone else. She must either remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. In other words, separation is allowed, but divorce, as Jesus says, is only allowed when the man initiates the divorce due to his wife committing a sexual transgression.

Now we all know that the Word tells us believers not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers,<sup>ii</sup> but what happens if one of the spouses gets saved after they're married while the other one remains lost? The Apostle Paul explains how Jesus' Gospel Law concerning divorce works in an unequally-yoked relationship:

But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife?

Paul tells us this additional information does not come from Jesus, but from himself. Is it the Word of God for us? Yes, it is, because God put it in the Bible and the Bible is the Word of God. So this information is binding as law for the Christian.

According to the last passage, a wife may not leave an unbelieving husband. According to the Word, the wife may only leave a believing husband, but then she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to him.

In no case may a believing wife leave her unbelieving husband. A man, on the other hand, may not divorce or leave his wife, irregardless of whether she's a believer or not. If an unbelieving spouse chooses to depart, the believer must let him or her go. In fact, the Word indicates that the believer is not bound by the Gospel Law if his or her spouse chooses to leave. That tells me that if an unbelieving spouse, leaves, the believer is free to be equally yoked in marriage to another believer as long as it is not a same-sex "union." The same-sex abomination is never allowed according to the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ because it is against nature and birthed in the pit of hell.

Based on the Word in the Old Testament, only a man may divorce. There is no provision made for a woman divorcing her husband. But under the Law of Christ, there is no difference between male and female. What's good for the Christian gander is good for the Christian goose except where God has placed the greater responsibility on the shoulders of the man. After all the Word says that in Christ Jesus, "there is neither male nor female."<sup>iii</sup> Unlike the Law of Moses, under the Law of Christ, a woman may initiate a divorce just as well as a man if it is due to the act of fornication as Jesus says, "If a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."<sup>iv</sup> Here it makes provision for a woman getting a divorce, but she may not be married to another.

Now you might ask, *How can the Word of God change? How can God amend His Laws by adding more stipulations and provisions?* God can do anything He wants. God isn't changing the Old Law. He's giving a New Law that severely limits the provisions of the Old Law for a man to divorce for any reason at all and He's giving the woman more freedom by granting her the provision of divorce in certain circumstances. Well, thank you Jesus!

What that means is that the Law of Christ gives equal standing to women. Under Jewish Law, a married man could have sexual intercourse with an unmarried gentile woman without breaking any of God's laws laid out in the Pentateuch. That is, as long as a man wasn't committing adultery with a married or betrothed woman or fornication with an unmarried Jewish woman, he could have his cake and eat it too. Under the Law of Christ, however, nobody gets to eat their cake. Neither the Christian husband nor the Christian wife may commit *fornication*—that is, *sex outside of marriage*. If fornication happens, divorce may legally ensue under the Law

of Christ. Fornication is any kind of sex outside of the marriage—be it adultery with a married person or sex with an unmarried person.

I wish to speak to those who live in countries which allow marriage to more than one woman. The fact of the matter is that neither the Law of Moses nor the Law of Christ forbid marriage to more than one woman. Jesus speaks of one man and one woman as being God's plan from the beginning,<sup>v</sup> but by saying this, he does not exclude polygamy from the permissive will of God. According to the Word, only a bishop, or pastor, must not be married to more than one woman.<sup>vi</sup> Otherwise, the Word is silent. Several men of God in the Old Testament were married to more than one woman and God never condemned them. Now, I'm not preaching Mormonism. I'm just speaking where the Word speaks and being silent where the Word is silent. Amen. No doubt God intended monogamy in the beginning because there was just Adam and Eve—not Adam and Eve and Barbara and Jan and Debbie... Nevertheless, there is no clear prohibition against polygamy as there is with the clear prohibition against male-on-male sex given in Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13.

If a man married to three wives gets saved are the missionaries then to require that that man divorce two of his wives? Which wife will he choose? Will he allow them to fight over who gets dumped? Such considerations are against the Law of Christ who forbids divorce except in the case of fornication. Are we to think that such a man is living in fornication or, rather, adultery, as long as he has three wives? On what scripture shall we base this judgment? Shall we base it on the extra-biblical traditions of Catholic or Orthodox tradition? God forbid! Shall we add to the Word of God and make the Word of none effect by consulting man-made tradition? As we've already seen, God hates divorce. Shall we then grant two divorces in the name of Christian monogamy and add sin to sin? Lord, help us. I'm not saying that people can break that laws of the land and get married to more than one person, but what I am saying is that in countries which do allow polygamy, that there is no law in Scripture forbidding the Christian from being married to more than one wife, though, as we have seen, this was not God's original intention. Only a pastor must be monogamous,<sup>vii</sup> the husband of one wife—neither a celibate nor a polygamist nor a widower.<sup>viii</sup> This rule applies only to male pastors. The Word gives freedom in the case of women pastors.

As we have seen, divorce is only permitted by Jesus in the case of fornication. So what constitutes fornication according to the Word of God? Homosexuality, bestiality, adultery, and sexual promiscuity are of course included and condemned under the term “fornication.” But if we take a closer look, we will see that there is more to the story. Jesus gave his definition of adultery in Matthew 5:28, “Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” So, simply looking on a woman to lust after her constitutes adultery according to Jesus. I believe that Jesus would also say that when an unmarried man or woman looks at another unmarried person to lust after that person, he or she has committed fornication in his or her heart. That means that back in November of 1976 when President Jimmy Carter admitted to having committed adultery in his heart many times, that was grounds for his wife Rosalynn to divorce him under the Law of Christ and possible grounds for impeachment.

I think people often forget that. The fact of the matter is, there’s not a man or woman alive today who has totally kept his or her heart pure from committing sexual sin in his or her heart either before, during, or after marriage except for those precious few who have been wholly sanctified. That means that in just about every case of marriage there is grounds for divorce due to the sinfulness of humanity. That means that just about every Christian husband and Christian wife has the legal grounds for filing for a divorce in accord with the Law of Christ. But if that’s true (and it is), won’t this knowledge result in the moral collapse of our nation and the destruction of the nuclear family, the most basic building block of society? Isn’t that idea too revolutionary? Jesus couldn’t have meant that, could he? I’ve racked my brains on this and I believe there’s no way around coming to this conclusion without divorcing one word of Jesus from another or using one word of Jesus to invalidate another and thus destroying the harmony of the Word of God.

Fortunately, under the Law of Christ, people are not required to divorce one another for fornication. Otherwise, marriages would last only a few minutes, or seconds! Heaven help us! Only those who are wholly sanctified can live in a state of holiness without lusting in their hearts after someone other than their spouse. Apart from being sanctified wholly, we’d all be worthy of being divorced. So there would only be a few marriages which would be mandated by the Word of God to stay together. But, still,

in most cases, there is no legal mandate in the Word of God that would force people to stay together and not divorce.

So what will hold a marriage together if the Law of God permits divorce simply on the grounds that one partner lusted one time in his heart after someone else? If the Laws of the Word of God and the laws of the nation do not force people to coexist rather than being driven apart by the winds of whim, of lust, or of marital friction, what can hold them together? If homosex marriages were legalized, how would the basic unit of society—the nuclear family—ever survive? Would not divorce and homosexuality run rampant in the streets all over this country as we see in San Francisco?

I've got to be honest about this. When these questions began to arise in my natural mind, I thought I was on the verge of a crisis of faith. But then I realized that if people got saved and filled with the Holy Ghost and were walking in victory, God would hold marriages together. If the head of each household will enforce family devotions every week, the family will survive. It *must* survive, based on the Word. *So how do we get folks saved?*—that's the biggest question. If we can get people born again, that'll hold marriages together. But how do we do that?

I believe God has given the *Jacksonian Institute of Biblical Law, Government and National Prosperity* the answer to that question. Praise the Lord! Through our research at the Institute, we have learned that national laws will not ensure the survival of the heterosexual family unit. Heterosexual marriage cannot be enforced. It can only be protected according to the Word of God. But what protects it? A man must be a real man of God and a woman must be a real woman of God. Only *that* will protect marriage. So how can we influence the laws of the land to steer men and women toward becoming real men and women of God? That has been one of our most major concerns at the Jacksonian Institute.

We at the Jacksonian Institute believe that while there are no laws given in the Word which enforce marriage, there are other Bible-based laws which support family values and the American way. We believe that as these laws are implemented in a nation, they will result in revival, the harvest of souls, the strengthening of the heterosexual family unit, and the survival of God-ordained marriage between male and female. When the full array of God's Biblical Laws are set in motion and enforced by a nation's law enforcement, we will discover that more people will get saved,

there will be less adultery, less perversion, less effeminate men and less mannish women, and less divorce. If this nation will go God's way, we will see how the full system of God's laws will bring a supernatural abundance and prosperity to the United States of America.

When the Divine Laws of the Word of God are enacted by Congress, we will see that there is often no need for divorce. According to the Word, if a spouse commits adultery or a homosexual act, he or she is to be stoned rather than divorced. That would cut down on divorce statistics right there. Then when that person is dead, his or her spouse is freed from the bond of marriage and may be married to another according to Romans 7:3. Stronger marriages would result, rising like cream to the top, becoming more visible as role models in society.

In the case of a married man having sex with an unmarried or unengaged woman, that is technically not considered adultery under the Law of Moses and therefore the Law of God concerning stoning need not take place. Divorce, however, would be allowed under the Law of Christ. If a woman has sex with another man, whether married or unmarried, that is considered adultery under God's Law and she is to be stoned. If a woman has sex with another woman, she is not condemned under the Law of Moses, but in the New Testament, the Word says, "Even their woman did change the natural use into that which is against nature."<sup>ix</sup> In such a case of sinning against nature, she is not to be stoned as in the case of two men engaging in homosex, but she may be divorced by her husband legally under the Law of Christ if he so chooses.

We and our congressman must always keep in mind that the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ are both the Word of God. Both must be implemented in a way which does not undermine either of them. When Christ redefines adultery to include sins of the heart, we must impose the consequence for adultery as given in the Word of God. Of course, sins of the heart can only be found out through confession or the operation of the prophetic Word of Knowledge, but once found out, the Biblical consequence, according to the Word of God is stoning. Stoning is a public act in which all members of a community are called to participate. The community becomes the executioner based on the Law of God. Stoning is a graphic call to a community or nation to wake up and get right with God. The implementation of God's Law will bring an even greater revival.

There is only one case in Scripture in which a man may never divorce his wife even if she commits adultery. That is in the case of an unmarried or unengaged rape victim. According to the Word,

If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.

Notice that the Word does not distinguish between rape as a crime of violent assault or rape as a crime of passion. That question is irrelevant in this matter according to the Word. The short of it is, the man must marry the woman. Under the Old Covenant, the woman could not leave or divorce him ever, but under the New Covenant, the woman may leave him as long as she doesn't marry someone else and she may divorce him if she ever finds out that he has committed fornication either in deed or in his heart, be it through the testimony of a human eye-witness or the testimony of the Holy Ghost through a Word of Knowledge.

Notice also in the above passage that the Word does not prescribe stoning, but rather restitution to the damsel's father and marriage to her. Why? Because the woman was neither married nor betrothed. Had she been married or betrothed, he would have to be stoned, according to the Word, and she would have to be stoned if the rape took place in a populated area where she could have cried for help, but didn't.<sup>x</sup> Under the Law of Christ, the same goes for someone committing rape in his heart. That, in fact, would be every sexual fantasy of a man about an unmarried, unengaged woman since rape is without the consent of the woman and when men fantasize sexually about a woman they usually do so without her consent. Now under the current laws of this country, we are not permitted to follow the Law of God in this matter in all cases. If a married man rapes an unmarried, unbetrothed woman, whether it be a physical perpetration or simply a sin of the heart, he cannot then obey the Word of God and marry her under current U.S. law because polygamy is not allowed in the U.S. In order to implement the Word of God fully in this country, we would need to change the laws of the land to allow for the possibility of legalized polygamy. Apart from this, we are falling short of the Word of God.

Under the New Covenant, if someone looks at a married person to lust after him or her, this is adultery and the Bible penalty is stoning. If, however an unmarried, single man looks on a single, unmarried woman to lust after her, he has raped her in his heart and he must marry her, according to the Word of God. If he does not marry her and marries someone else, then spiritually, he is in a polygamous relationship which is not condemned according to the Word of God. If a man lusts in his heart after two unmarried women, based on the Word he must marry both of them, offering to each woman's father the price of fifty shekels of silver which according to the current rate of silver is about \$140 in U.S. currency. But, under current U.S. law which falls short of the Biblical standard of God's Word, such a man would only be allowed to marry one of them. So which one would he be duty-bound to marry? The first one he lusted after? Or does he have the right to choose between all of the women he lusts after? From our search of the Scriptures, we at the Jacksonian Institute believe that he should marry the first woman he ever lusted after, offering her father the \$140 in U.S. currency decreed in the Word of God. Such a young man is never permitted to divorce this wife, even if she commits adultery, though in that case she would end up being stoned, and divorce would be a moot point under the laws of the land mandated in the Word of God.

In the case of marriage to a hermaphrodite or intersexed individual, it appears that the Word makes no provision for such cases and, therefore, such sexually-confused people must remain celibate just as in the case of homosexuals who are unwilling to engage in a heterosexual relationship. Transvestites and the so-called "transgendered" persons are an abomination according to Deuteronomy 22:5 and, as such, are to be stoned according to God's Law. So there is no need for a Christian to divorce a transvestite or "transgendered" person. God's justice will take care of the situation without any divorce being necessary. If someone "married" to a hermaphrodite, a homo, or an intersexed person gets saved, he or she must immediately "divorce" such a person in order to remain saved. To do otherwise would be either a sure sign of not being really saved at all, or else a sign of having turned one's back on God and having rejected one's salvation.

As Christians, we are to avoid the very appearance of evil.<sup>xi</sup> I knew a man in Christ several years ago who was married to, perhaps, the ugliest woman I've every seen in my life. In fact, she didn't look like a woman at

all. She looked like a man in woman's clothing. To add to the complexity of the situation, his "wife" was unsaved. As I counseled this dear brother at the Jacksonian Institute and informed him of the Scriptural mandate to avoid the very appearance of evil, we, together, came to the unpleasant conclusion that he must divorce his "wife" in order to not bring reproach on the Gospel. The carrying out of this decree from the Word was extremely painful for both himself and his wife, but in order to be obedient to the Word, this precious brother submitted himself to the direction of the Holy Ghost. He decided to abandon his mate for the greater good of the Gospel just as Augustine abandoned his concubine when he got saved. Thank God for that brother's dedication. It could have caused a severe scandal in the church. Though he's since moved away, as far as I know, he's still living for God.

So although God hates divorce in almost every case, in some cases, He actually loves it and commands it according to the Word of God. God loves it when a marriage which isn't a real marriage, such as a homosexual "marriage" or an intersex "marriage," is broken up and destroyed through "divorce." He also loves it when a marriage which has the appearance of being either a homo or hermaphro "marriage" is annihilated so as to avoid the very appearance of evil. Thank God for His Word. His commandments are not grievous.<sup>xii</sup> If God created someone as male, then if they change their sex to female they can never be saved until they reverse the surgery and be the person God intended them to be and only then are they allowed to marry and only to the sex opposite to the sex God made them in the first place. Why do people try to confuse matters when God has made things so clear? A man is a man and a woman is a woman. Period. End of story, based on the Word.

Praise God! We have to identify what constitutes a real marriage under the Word of God before we can begin to apply the Biblical laws concerning divorce and remarriage. In some cases, God's answer is not divorce, but separation. In other cases, God's answer is stoning. In yet others, God rejoices in a divorce when it destroys the appearance of evil. He also rejoices in a so-called "divorce" of two people who are not legitimately "married" according to the delineations of Scripture. I believe there is a move of God in the earth today to restore God's Biblical Laws to the governments of the World. I believe this restoration is achievable on a national level prior to the Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth when

God's Laws will be enforced globally. God hates divorce, but there's a lot of things I believe God hates even more than I hate Velveeta and baseball. Thank you, Jesus! Amen and amen. Glory to God. 

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<sup>i</sup> Dinkins, Bob W. "Manifestations in the Home" in *Feema Life* (Aug 1989), 8-9.

<sup>ii</sup> II Cor 6:14.

<sup>iii</sup> Gal 3:28.

<sup>iv</sup> Mk 10:12.

<sup>v</sup> Mk 10:6-9.

<sup>vi</sup> Actually, the Word expressly declares that a polygamous marriage automatically disqualifies a man not only from becoming a bishop (I Tim 3:2), but also from becoming a presbyter (Tit 1:6) or a deacon (I Tim 3:12)—(Alex Mentis, Chief Editor).

<sup>vii</sup> See note 6 above.

<sup>viii</sup> Bob Dinkins Ministries does not necessarily subscribe to Sister Jackson's statement here that being a widower must necessarily disqualify a man from holding office in the church. If, when his wife died, he is no longer married to her, then Sister Jackson's statement would, of necessity, be correct, since the man would no longer be married and, therefore, would no longer be the husband of one wife unless he immediately got remarried. If, however, when his wife dies, the man actually remains married to her then, in that case, Sister Jackson's statement would be incorrect since the man would still be the husband of one wife, though she be deceased. If this scenario is true, then a bishop, a presbyter (elder) or deacon may not remarry once they become a widower. So we are left with two very harsh alternatives, depending on which interpretation is correct: in the one case, a widower who holds office in the church must immediately marry or be jettisoned from his office; in the other case, a widower who holds office in the church can never remarry without losing his office in the church. There is, however, a third possibility: the Word is not requiring that a man be married to hold office in the church. In that case, the Word is simply saying that a man can be married to no more than one woman in order to hold an office in the church and Sister Jackson's interpretation concluding celibacy as a disqualification would be incorrect. I'm inclined to the latter view, though Bob Dinkins Ministries has made no official statement regarding this matter.

<sup>ix</sup> Rom 1:26.

<sup>x</sup> "If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of the city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you. but if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die: But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter: For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her" (Deut 22:23-26).

<sup>xi</sup> I Thess 5:22.

<sup>xii</sup> I Jn 5:3.