

# EXECUTED

## TO SUPPRESS HIS MESSAGE



Christian Marriage and Divorce

D. A. Taylor

# **Executed to Suppress His Message**

*Christian Marriage and Divorce*

## **Introduction**

Almost all Christian churches teach doctrines about divorce and remarriage. And most of these doctrines are based upon four Scriptures:

Matthew 5:32: “But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:9 “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Mark 10:11 And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.”

Luke 16:18: “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.”

But when Jesus said these things, He was speaking to Jews who were under the Old Covenant. However, Christians are not under the Old Covenant. And for this reason, God has an entirely different set of teachings and rules about marriage and divorce for Christians.

~~~~~

## 1 — The True Nature of Marriage

Here is an amazing, but absolutely truthful statement:

*You can search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but you will never find the Lord God, one of the prophets, an apostle, or Jesus Christ performing a marriage ceremony.*

Let's look at a few examples. In Genesis 29, we find a wedding festival for Jacob. But there was no ceremony. And no one presided over the marriage to pronounce the couple "married." Then in John 2, we read about a marriage feast where Christ turns water into wine. But again, there is no mention of any religious or civil authority performing a ceremony. In fact, you can search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will never find a single occurrence of where where a religious or civil authority pronounces a man and woman "married."

~~~~~

The story about Adam and Eve is the first marriage story in the Bible:

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed (Genesis 2:24-25).*

God created Adam. Then He took part of Adam's body and created Eve. But even though Eve was made from part of Adam's body, God did not consider them "one flesh." And we know this because the Scripture states that Adam would have to leave his father (God), before he could be "joined" to his wife.

So what are these "joining" and "one flesh" references all about? In Genesis 2:24, the ancient Hebrew translated into the English word "joined" is quite interesting. According to Hebrew Scholars, it means "to adhere, to glue, or to attach oneself to something." And in Matthew 19:5, Jesus quoted this passage using the Greek word κολλάω, which also means "to glue or unite." And we should also notice how Genesis 2:25 implies that marital "joining" took place while Adam and Eve were naked.

Also notice how God had no marriage ceremony for Adam and Eve. And no one pronounced them “married.” Yet something did happen that caused Adam and Eve to become man and wife.

---

## 2 — Jacob's First Marriage

You may be familiar with the biblical patriarch Jacob's love for his wife Rachel, and how he served Rachel's father for seven years before he was allowed to marry her. The story begins in Genesis 29:20-22:

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed, ***that I may go in to her.***" Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast.

Here the Hebrew translated into the English "feast" means *to drink*. And as we shall see, there indeed was a lot of alcohol involved with this festival. We should also note how the phrase "go in unto her" is translated from the Hebrew **אִיב**, which means "to enter." So you can probably figure out what was on Jacob's mind.

It's also clear that Jacob consumed a great deal of alcohol during this feast. Because when it came time for Rachel to come into his tent, Laban was able to substitute his other daughter Leah, and Jacob had sexual relations with her.

Of course, this story provides a valuable lesson about the dangers of consuming too much alcohol. But there's a great deal more we can learn here.

---

Let's continue with Genesis 29:23-26 and see what Jacob's behavior produced in the morning:

Now in the evening he took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; ***and Jacob went in to her.*** Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?" But Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to ***marry off*** the younger before the firstborn.

Like it or not, when Jacob left his tent in the morning, he was married to

Leah!

But did you notice how there was no marriage ceremony? Neither did any one in authority pronounce Jacob and Leah married. Furthermore, Jacob did not want to be married to Leah! Yet just as with the case with Adam and Eve, after having sexual relations, Jacob and Leah were husband and wife.

---

### 3 — Biblical Marriage

And this kind of marriage where there is no ceremony and no officiating authority is in no way unique within the Bible. What follows are several more examples of such marriages. And note how within all of these Bible passages, “went in to” and “go in unto her” are translated from the Hebrew **אִיב**, which means: *to enter*.

After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, ***Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived;*** and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight (Genesis 16:3-4).

Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" ***She said, "Here is my maid Bilhah, go in to her that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children." So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her*** (Genesis 30:2-4).

"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take them away captive, and see among the captives a beautiful woman, ***and have a desire for her and would take her as a wife for yourself, then you shall bring her home to your house,*** and she shall shave her head and trim her nails. "She shall also remove the clothes of her captivity and shall remain in your house, and mourn her father and mother a full month; ***and after that you may go in to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife*** (Deuteronomy 21:10-13).

And if we are being observant, we may be starting to understand how these verses reveal something profoundly important:

*When a man and a woman bind in sexual union, a marriage is created.*



—

## **4 — Marriage: The Way it Used to Be**

The marriages of Adam, Abraham, Jacob, and the Israelite marriages described in Deuteronomy 21:10-13 were all “private” matters between the husband, his wife, and their parents. There was no ceremony. And no one in authority granted, approved or authorized the marriage. And society continued to treat marriage as a private matter between individuals and their families for thousands of years.

But then in 1,563 AD, the Catholic Church issued the Tamesti Decree at the Council of Trent, which mandated that all marriages must be approved by the Catholic Church<sup>1</sup>. And suddenly, marriage and divorce were no longer private matters between the involved parties and their parents. And as time progressed, marriages became increasingly subject to theological and governmental regulation and control. And thus today, we find almost all marriages and divorces controlled and authorized by local governments or religious doctrine and customs.

—

## 5 — Biblical Instructions about Marriage and Divorce

Many thousands of years after Jacob's unfortunate marriage with Leah, Jesus came to our world and reiterated God's Old Covenant teaching on marriage and divorce:

Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother *and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*'? *So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.*" (Matthew 19:3-6).

Let's focus on verse 6 of the above passage, where Jesus said "What therefore God has joined together." Here the original Greek translated "joined together" is a word that means *to fasten to a yoke*. This word is used only two times in the Bible (Matthew 19:6 and Mark 10:9). And in both cases Jesus is talking to Jews.

Greek dictionaries explain how this word is derived from two other words: the first meaning *together* or *union*, with the second meaning *to couple* or *team*. The word is most often used to describe how two similar animals are coupled together on a wooden beam or "yoke" to equally perform labor. This concept may be familiar to students of the Old Testament, where the word is used in Deuteronomy 22:10:

*"You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together."*

Therefore way back in Deuteronomy, God established a principle that it's not good to yoke unlike animals together. Different animals have different temperaments and strengths. And they work at different speeds. So they cannot be made to effectively work together.

But in Matthew 19:6 and Mark 10:9 (above), Jesus was talking about human beings being spiritually "yoked" in marriage. And Jesus was sharing how God intends a married couple to work together as equal

partners who share common goals.

And we find the apostle Paul mentioning this same principle in II Corinthians 6:14 (KJV):

***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:*** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

—

## 6 — Non-Christian Families and Christians

Let's assume that you're a Christian. And you've found a potential non-Christian spouse. This person appears "perfect" for you. You get along well. You have similar interests. And you thoroughly enjoy each other's company. Furthermore, you both come from good families of honest people. And you cannot imagine what could possibly go wrong with the relationship.

So why would the Bible admonish a Christian to not marry a non-Christian, when everything seems so perfect? The answer is found in Matthew 10:34-36:

*"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household.**"*

Jesus made this statement to His disciples. And in doing so He warned how there would come a time when the families of Christians would turn against them. And here the Greek translated into the English "enemies" describes a hateful and actively hostile adversary.

Also note how Jesus said this before the disciples started to preach the gospel. So this adversarial problem was not necessarily associated with "end time" events such as those mentioned in Mark 13. And without question, countless Christians have experienced this kind of family persecution.

—



## 7 — Genuine Christians Have A Changed Spiritual Nature

In I Peter 1:22-23, the apostle explains how a Christian is re-born as a new creation, led by a new and different Spirit:

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, **for you have been born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

And this “new birth” is not simply some theological analogy: it’s a genuine spiritual change that occurs when a Christian’s spirit becomes one with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and all their Christian brothers and sisters.

But this magnificent spiritual conversion does nothing to affect the spiritual state of an unconverted spouse. And those who haven’t experienced this spiritual birth remain as those Jesus spoke of in John 8:44:

*"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father..."*

—

## 8 – Pulling the Yoke With Unequal Partners

So consider what happens when a Christian marries a non-Christian. The unconverted spouse is still influenced — to one extent or another — by the evil spirits of the world. And the newly converted Christian is now dwelling with a spouse that may have antagonistic views toward God and His ways. And all too often, this can lead to a situation where there are arguments and disagreements over religion and other matters.

What should a Christian do if such things occur? Of course, they should do their best to work the problems out and create a happy marriage. But what if this goal seems impossible? And year after year, there is ever-increasing conflict and abuse?

The Lord tells us what to do in Luke 14:26:

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, **and wife**, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple [the Greek word translated “hate” more nearly means “to love less”] (Luke 14:26 – KJV).

Jesus categorically stated that Christians must love Him more than our human families — and He included our spouses with this statement. So this raises an obvious question: *How far does Jesus want us to pursue this command to love Him more than a family member?*

The Lord tells us in Luke 18:28-30:

Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You." And He (Jesus) said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house **or wife** or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life."

Therefore, according to our Lord and Master, there indeed are situations where a Christian can and should forsake their parents, children, and even their spouse. In fact, the Lord plainly said that anyone who gets between Him and a Christian must be forsaken!

And not only does Jesus approve of leaving a spouse who comes between Him and us, He also promises great blessings for doing so. And we can read similar teachings in Mark's gospel:

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, **or wife**, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:29-30 - KJV).

And here it's especially interesting how the Greek translated into the English "left" can mean both "to leave" or "to send away." So it appears that Jesus has granted us the freedom to allow a difficult spouse to leave, or to take the initiative and leave an unconverted mate who is unwilling to separate. And here again, we see how the obedient Christian is promised blessings for leaving an adversarial spouse who is hindering their relationship with Christ.

And then in Luke Chapter 14:20 & 26, Jesus' reiterated these teachings in a much stronger sense:

Another one said, "I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come ..."

Notice how Jesus responded to this situation:

*"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate (Greek: love less) his own father and mother **and wife** and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."*

Jesus was exceedingly clear: A Christian's highest priority is to follow Jesus Christ and to perform His will. And no human being — including a spouse — should be allowed to interfere with obeying what Jesus commands of us.

—

## 9 – There Is a Place for Divorce

The Bible explains how Satan and his demons will go to great lengths to use family – and particularly a spouse – as tools to persecute Christians. And this is especially true when there exists an unbalanced spiritual yoke, where a Christian is married to an unconverted mate.

Yet some will argue that Malachi 2:16 states that God hates divorce. And certainly this is true. But we should remember what is recorded in Jeremiah 3:8:

*"And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, **I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce**, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also.*

Our Lord divorced Israel because they chose to live by a different spirit – and they were unfaithful to His laws and His way of life. And our Lord commands the same of those who are following Him.

*The simple truth is that God would rather see a human divorce, than a spiritual abortion of one of His children.*

—

## 10 – The Spiritual Perspective

The unconverted Sadducees of Christ's day were quite concerned about the issue of divorce and separation, just as many pastors are today. So they asked Jesus how marriage problems would be handled in heaven:

"Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves behind a wife and leaves no child, his brother should marry the wife and raise up children to his brother. There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; and so all seven left no children. last of all the woman died also. In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, *"Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the scriptures or the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven"* (Mark 12:19-25).

Jesus said that once we get to heaven, our earthly marriages will be things of the past. So as Christians, we should realize that our human marriages are not the most important spiritual issue. Instead, the most important issue is our relationship with God and our spiritual destiny in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 22:37-40).

*And Christians should never allow a spouse to interfere with that goal.*



—

## 11 – Conclusion

God's name is "Father." While His closest personal relationship is with Jesus Christ , who was born as a human being, so He could become God's literal son. And just as the Bible calls angels the "Sons of God," Christians are the literal sons and daughters of God the Father.

Therefore God has a family.

And God is growing His family — which are His spiritual children — through human beings.

And in order to build this family, God created a very special and intimate human relationship called marriage. Then God made humans male and female so they could have children, who also will have children, all of whom will eventually become Children of God. And as the Scriptures tells us, God's ultimate goal is to have all of humanity become part of His spiritual family (see John 12.32 and Isaiah 45:22-23).

So God asks great things of those who partake in marriage: a life-long commitment, loyalty, responsibility, honesty, integrity, love and care for children, and much more. And God uses the intimate "relational glue" of marriage to enable parents to properly raise their children, in an environment of love and peace, which helps to prepare them to become God's spiritual children..

---

But since the responsibilities of marriage are so extraordinary, God leaves the decisions of whether or not to marry, along with whether or not we should leave a bad marriage, up to the involved individuals.

*God has never asked churches or governments to become involved in such matters.*

However, God gives us guidelines. He says that once we enter into the intimacy of marriage, that intimacy should remain exclusive between the husband and wife. And He warns that violating this rule will likely destroy the marriage.

God also provides special instructions for married Christians. And this is because Christians have taken the first step up in the level of spiritual family relationships, by becoming children of God. And once a person enters the spirit realm as child of God, the purposes and priorities for human life and marriage must change.

---

When a potter makes pottery, he first prepares a mold. Then he puts clay into the mold and places both in the fire. And when the fire has completed its work, the potter removes the artwork and puts the mold aside. Certainly, the potter requires and values the mold and its ability to form artwork. But the potter's objective is to turn his clay into a work of art. The mold is dispensable.

*A potter would never destroy his new artwork to save the mold.*

And human marriage and sexuality is God's mold, which He uses to prepare those who will eventually enter the Kingdom of God as His spiritual children. And just like the clay potter, the Master Potter has no desire that one of His spiritual children should be destroyed, just to save the mold of a human marriage.

*Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32 – CEV).*

~~~~~

## **Information About This Book**

Author

D. A. Taylor

PUBLISHED BY

D. A. Taylor

Copyright 2021 by D. A. Taylor

ISBN 9781370585786

Prepared on 07/31/21 at 06:44:37 PM

Thank you for downloading this E-Book. This material remains the copyrighted property of the author. You may not alter the content. You may not reproduce, copy or distribute this material for commercial purposes.

Available through Apple iBooks, Kindle, Barnes & Noble, Smashwords, Scribd, Kobo, Blio, OverDrive, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Tolino, Gardners, Bibliotheca CloudLibrary, Odilo and the World Wide Web.

Website: <https://www.christsreligion.com>

Author's E-Mail: [dataylor@christsreligion.com](mailto:dataylor@christsreligion.com)

(comments and suggestions are appreciated)

~~~~~

## How to Use This Book

This book contains many Scripture references within the text. Those that are not included may be accessed by touching or clicking on the underlined scripture number. You may return to your current reading location by clicking on the verse number to the left of the Scripture. Footnotes operate in the same manner.

Scripture quotations from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), unless otherwise noted.

Textual emphasis by the author.

Hint: If you are reading this book with a web browser, experiment to find the most comfortable browser width.



## **Disclaimer**

Although the author has made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at publishing time, the author does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

~~~~~

## **Other Book Volumes**

To access other book volumes, return to Home Page:

[Return to Home Page](#)

Revision 130 — 07/31/21 @ 06:44:37 PM — 4076



**Notes**

[ ← 1 ]

A.B. Davidson, R.B. Ekelund II: /J. of Economic Behavior & Org. 32 (1997) Page 235

# Table of Contents

Executed to Suppress His Message

Introduction

1 — The True Nature of Marriage

2 — Jacob’s First Marriage

3 — Biblical Marriage

---

4 — Marriage: The Way it Used to Be

---

5 — Biblical Instructions about Marriage and Divorce

---

6 — Non-Christian Families and Christians

---

7 — Genuine Christians Have A Changed Spiritual Nature

---

8 – Pulling the Yoke With Unequal Partners

---

9 – There Is a Place for Divorce

---

10 – The Spiritual Perspective

---

11 – Conclusion

---

Information About This Book

How to Use This Book

Disclaimer

Other Book Volumes