

Contents

<i>Foreword by Willard M. Swartley</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>10</i>
1. Jewish Marriage Customs and Patriarchy	13
Jewish Law on Marriage • 13	
Patriarchial Rights Abused • 16	
Conclusions and Questions • 18	
2. Jewish Law on Divorce	22
The Pre-Mosaic Patriarchal Right to Divorce • 22	
Deuteronomy Misunderstood • 23	
Something Shameful • 24	
The Positive Side of Divorce • 26	
Divorce Forbidden in Certain Circumstances • 28	
Divorce Replaces Stoning for Adultery • 29	
Judicial Separations Required • 30	
Wives Could Sue for Divorce • 30	
Against Divorce for Any Cause • 31	
Efforts to Check Divorce • 32	
Status of Divorced Women • 32	
Conclusions and Questions • 33	
3. The Pharisees and Jesus	35
Conflict with the Pharisees • 35	
Development of the Pharisees • 36	
Traits of the Pharisees • 38	
Jesus' Criticisms of the Pharisees • 40	
Conclusions and Questions • 42	

4. Jesus, the Model of Caring for Sinners	43
Challenging Hypocrites • 43	
Befriending Sinners • 44	
Applying Law to Life in a Nonlegalist Manner • 46	
In a Jewish Setting, According to Matthew • 47	
5. Matthew 5 as Context for Matthew 19	50
The Significance of the Antitheses • 51	
A Comparison of Shammai, Hillel, and Jesus • 53	
Summary • 56	
6. Matthew 5:27-32	57
The Antitheses • 57	
Irresponsible Divorce • 58	
The Excepting Clause • 59	
Remarriage • 60	
Conclusions and Applications • 61	
7. Matthew 19:3-9	64
The Test Question • 64	
What God Has Joined Together • 68	
The Pharisaic Defense • 70	
Jesus' Declaration on Divorce • 71	
The Excepting Clause • 72	
Conclusions and Applications • 75	
8. Matthew 19:10-12	77
Better Not to Marry? • 77	
The Gift to Be Married • 79	
Conclusions and Applications • 80	
9. Studies from the Letters	81
Questions from the Corinthian Church • 81	
Against Divorcing to Be More Spiritual • 83	
Paul's Counsel on Mixed Marriages • 87	
In Whatever Situation, Remain with God • 88	
Examining Romans 7:1-4 • 90	
The Pastoral Epistles • 91	
10. Practical Applications of Scripture	95
The Jewish World • 95	
Jesus' Conflict with the Pharisees • 96	

The Matthean Setting • 96	
Matthew 5 • 97	
Matthew 19 • 97	
First Corinthians 7 • 98	
Romans 7 • 99	
The Pastoral Epistles • 99	
11. The Gospel and Divorce	100
The Church's Dilemma • 100	
Jesus, the Model for the Church in Teaching • 102	
The Possibility of Remarriage • 103	
12. The Church's Witness in Marriage	105
The Meaning of Marriage • 105	
Applying Christian Ethics to Marriage • 108	
Preventing Divorce Through Teaching • 110	
Preventing Divorce Through Counseling • 116	
13. The Church's Ministry in Divorce and Remarriage	120
A Theology for Failure • 120	
A Theology of Remarriage • 123	
Pastoral and Congregational Care for the Divorced • 125	
Remarriage Policy and Practice • 129	
14. The Church's Educational Objectives in These Areas	136
Accepting Jesus as the Role Model • 136	
Marriages Will Fail • 137	
The Church's Role Under Grace • 137	
Sensitizing the Church • 137	
The Reeducation Process • 138	
Preventive Programs for the Church • 139	
Concluding Statement • 140	
 <i>Leader's Guide</i>	 142
<i>Notes</i>	152
<i>Bibliography</i>	163
<i>Scripture Index</i>	167
<i>General Index</i>	170
<i>The Author</i>	175