

A Theory Set Forth

Mankind has been circumventing God's will since the beginning of time. Eve did so when heeding Satan's deceitful suggestion, as did Adam once persuaded by his wife. Societies have suffered much over the millennia since that fateful day when humanity suffered the mighty blow of being separated from its God due to sin. Perhaps one of the most used ploys of the devil to draw men and women away from God is the sin of fornication.

As Solomon pointed out, "*there is nothing new under the sun*" (Ecclesiastes 1:9), mankind has been seduced with the idea that we must give in to our 'animal passions. The subject of marriage, divorce and remarriage has been a bone of contention for centuries. It was because of the hardness of the Israelites hearts that God allowed no-fault divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1-4); but as Jesus pointed out to the Pharisees, "*it was NOT so from the beginning*" (Matt. 19:7-8). Denominations of our day have allowed marriages to be 'annulled' or for divorce to occur because of abandonment, or abuse; once again, circumventing God's will!

Another method used to skirt God's will is by the redefining of who is amenable (accountable) and who is not amenable to the Law of Christ. Brothers E.C. Fuqua, James Bales, Leroy Garrett, Jack Evans and others have been adamant with this abominable doctrine over the years. This doctrine assumes that non-Christians are not amenable to the Law of Christ, the New Testament, and the gospel of Christ. It is presumed that a non-Christian may with God's approval marry and divorce (for any reason), as many times as they desire. Still further they assert that a non-Christian who has been married (for the sake of argument – five times), may while in the fifth marriage remain in that marriage with God's approval, after having become a Christian (having heard the gospel, believed the gospel, repented, confessed Christ and immersed for the remission of sins). One problem that this doctrine faces is that it supposes that BOTH husband and

wife have obeyed the gospel plan of salvation, which neither could as long as they remain in the marriage.

This false doctrine is fraught with a multitude of inconsistencies, and lacks biblical support. Now for anyone reading this that may hold this doctrine, it is not our intention to attack you personally, but rather to expose the error of the teachings you have mistakenly accepted. It is our hope that you will study it carefully, rationally, and with an open mind.

Errors this Doctrine Promotes

Let us briefly list the errors that this doctrine promotes, as well as the things we will address to counter it.

1. ALL people are not amenable to the gospel of Christ
2. Matthew 19:9 applies ONLY to Christians married to Christians
3. Non-Christians may with God's approval and upon becoming Christians, continue in a re-marriage without sinning.
4. Neither Christ nor Paul legislated on divorce and remarriage between two people who are outside of Christ's covenant (non-Christians, those in the world, alien sinners).
5. A deserted believer may with God's approval, remarry (per 1 Corinthians 7:15)
6. Non-Christians are under civil law exclusively
7. Non-Christians do not sin when they violate the Law of Christ (the gospel)
8. The gospel of Christ is one body of teaching, while the 'doctrine of Christ' is another.

Why would anyone accept such a doctrine as the truth? For the same reason they accept "faith only," "original sin," "Premillennialism," or "the living voice of the church," – they either do not like the authority of God as set forth in His Word

– The Bible, or they are ignorant of what God really says about amenability. In order to combat this false doctrine, we will be addressing the following Biblical teachings, that doctrine and gospel are the same thing, that Matthew 19:9 is a universal passage, that all people are under law, false methods of determining right and wrong, repentance and baptism. In order to adequately view this doctrine this study will consist of two parts.

Doctrine & Gospel

There are those who assert that the 'doctrine of Christ' and the 'gospel of Christ' are two totally different things; and that while individuals may be accountable to one, they are not necessarily accountable to the other. We of course deny this to be the case and will show that BOTH Christian and non-Christian are accountable to the doctrine and gospel of Christ.

The gospel is to be preached to EVERY nation (Matthew 28:18-20), thereby making ALL men and women amenable to the gospel! All men and women are called by the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). All men and women who reject the gospel will be lost (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). The gospel is to be preached to Christians (Romans 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1). The gospel is to be preached to non-Christians (Acts 14:21; 16:10; 1 Corinthians 4:15).

Doctrine is to be preached to ALL men and women! In Acts 5:21-29, it was 'doctrine' that the apostles taught the people, and for which they were commanded not to preach. Paul delivered unto the Roman proconsul – a non-Christian - 'the doctrine of the Lord' (Acts 13:12). In like manner Christians are taught 'doctrine' (1 Timothy 1:10; 4:6; Titus 2:1; Acts 2:42, etc.). So it is the case that the terms, 'doctrine' and 'gospel' both refer to the same body of teaching, just as the terms 'the faith, the word, the truth, the law of Christ, the New Testament, the Covenant also do. Therefore it is the case that ALL men and women, Christian and non-Christian are amenable to both doctrine and gospel!

Matthew 19:9

The fallacy that Matthew 19:9 has no universal force to it is utterly absurd. Most Bible scholars agree that the word "whosoever" is universal in the sense that it applies to ALL men and women living in every generation, on every part of the earth. This is 'prima facie' on the face of it! Such evidence means that left disproved, it is sufficient to sustain a judgment. We understand the universal force of 1 John 2:23; 3:9, 15; 4:15 & 5:1, so why do we discount Matthew 19:9, unless there are underlying motives to justify a friend, family member or oneself in a marriage not approved of God!

Matthew 19:9 is not only a universal sentence; it is also an exceptive one! Therefore, with this being the case, there are NO OTHER passages of Scripture that are able to nullify the force of what Jesus says. Matthew 19:9 teaches in no uncertain terms that the ONLY, yes Jesus said ONLY, reason for divorcing one's spouse is for the grounds, for the reason, for the cause of 'fornication.' That is the ONLY EXCEPTION! God does NOT authorize any other reason – period! End of subject!

That means, Christian married to Christian, non-Christians married to a non-Christian and Christian married to a non-Christian. Would anyone dare to contradict what the Bible clearly teaches on this important subject? Would anyone dare to circumvent God's will in trying to prevent the degradation of society, by allowing, approving and even promoting the sin of fornication as acceptable while a non-Christian? God forbid!

The fact of the matter is that all 'exceptive sentences' are always conclusive in regard to the matters in which they express exclusivity. There is no getting around it, unless one is going to be irrational in their thinking. When companies run contests, they always have an 'exceptive sentence' in the rules – everyone eligible to enter 'except' employees and their families. In other words, they are saying NO employee or member

of their family may enter the contest and win a prize.

The same is true of Matthew 19:9, Jesus is telling us that a man is eligible to remarry, IF and ONLY IF, he put away (divorced) his wife because of her unfaithfulness (fornication). Of course Jesus only gives us the example of a man divorcing his wife, but the reverse is true also. This universal, exceptive sentence should be perfectly clear to any open and honest student of the Bible.

Not Under Law?

It has been suggested that not all men and women are under law, most particularly non-Christians. We have already proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that ALL – Christian and non-Christian – are amenable to ‘doctrine’ and ‘the gospel,’ which is also called the ‘law’ of Christ. If you will remember in the section entitled “Doctrine & Gospel,” we proved that the terms, ‘doctrine, gospel, the faith, the word, the law of Christ, the truth, the doctrine of the Lord, the New Covenant, and the New Testament, ALL refer to one and same body of teaching, and that ALL men and women are amenable to it.

Notice that the term “LAW of Christ” is the same thing as the gospel, as the doctrine of Christ which everyone is amenable to! Even if that were not the case, let’s stop and consider what Paul has to say to the Romans, “...for where NO LAW is, there is NO TRANSGRESSION” (Romans 4:15); and, “...but sin is NOT imputed when there is NO LAW” (Romans 5:13). How do we know that sin exists? Because the LAW of Christ says it does! Again, Paul informs us that, “Knowing this, that LAW is not made for the righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of father and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for FORNICATORS, for them that defile themselves with mankind (homosexuals, lesbians), for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound DOCTRINE,

according to the glorious GOSPEL of the blessed God...” (1 Timothy 1:9-11).

If it is the case that non-Christians are not under law, then it is the case that non-Christians do not sin, and if they do not sin, then they have no sin that needs remitted, therefore they are already in a saved condition! However, it is not the case that non-Christians are not under law, because we have already proven that LAW is for the ungodly (non-Christians), for the profane (non-Christians), for the lawless and disobedient (non-Christians), and in this particular case for which we are speaking, concerning marriage, divorce and remarriage, LAW is for the FORNICATOR, which non-Christians certainly are who marry, divorce and remarry for any cause, as many times as their wish. Certainly any honest student can see this to be the case.

Logical Argument

Let’s try to sum up what we have learned thus far in a precisely stated proposition.

1. IF it is true that all non-Christians are not under law, the gospel, the doctrine of Christ, the faith, the truth, the word, the New Covenant, the New Testament, the law of the Lord, the Law of Christ; THEN it is true that all non-Christians may, with God’s approval and as many times as they desire, marry, and then at some point afterward divorce their spouse for any reason and marry another without sinning.
2. It is false that all non-Christians are not under law, the gospel, the doctrine of Christ, the faith, the truth, the word, the New Covenant, the New Testament, the law of the Lord, the Law of Christ; and that all non-Christians may, with God’s approval and as many times as they desire, marry, and then at some point afterward divorce their spouse for any reason and marry another without sinning; because 1 Timothy 1:9-11 says

the doctrine and gospel of Christ is for the ungodly, and fornicators, proving that all non-Christians ARE under law.

3. Therefore, this doctrine is false.

It is our fervent prayer that this study will help those who had never before considered the will of God in this matter, and that you will search it out for yourself to make sure that what has been said is true. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). We must handle aright the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15), by properly gathering all the relevant evidence on this subject before drawing a conclusion, taking into consideration the immediate as well as the remote context. We must also remember that one command will not be contradicted by another. Let’s be open and honest students of God’s word, so that we may learn to be united in all matters of obligation, as our Lord prayed for (John 17:20-21).

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Pt. 1



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