

## ***Options That Married People Do NOT Have***

When two people are married legally (according to the civil laws they live under, Rom. 13:1-7), and in the eyes of God (according to the law of God who originated marriage, Gen. 2:18-24; Rom. 7:2-3; Matt. 5:32; 19:3-6, 9 – and the law of God supersedes the ordinances of men), they often vow to love, honor, and cherish one another for better or worse, in sickness and in health, and in prosperity and in adversity until death parts them. In fact, whether such vows are made a part of the wedding ceremony or not, such obligations inhere in the marriage relationship, and husbands and wives are expected by God to live up to them.

So many couples, both young and old, think they just have to get married (and they are in such an emotional romantic mood that hardly anyone can talk them out of it), but they (either both of them or one of them) soon decide that they don't have to (or should that be "want to") stay married. But God has given them no such option! Jesus said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6).

Some decide that they want a divorce from a mate because they are "no longer in love" with that mate. They should have been certain about their love before the marriage. And they need to know that God commands husbands and wives to love one another, Eph. 5:25, 28, 33; Titus 2:4 (and these passages were written during a time that in many cultures parents arranged the marriages of their children). Husbands and wives do not have the option of deciding to stop loving one another.

Some decide that they want a divorce because a mate has contracted a debilitating disease or has been paralyzed by an accident. They don't want to be tied down by "a cripple," but God has not given them that option. The unfortunate mate needs them more than ever, and they need to show the nobility of their love, their character, and their commitment.

Some decide that they want a divorce because they have found someone else that they "truly love" (or like better), someone who also shows greater love for them (their perception) than their mate. But what kind of person would become romantically involved with another man's wife or another woman's husband? Could such a person ever be trusted as a husband or a wife? (And could they be trusted?) But, again, God did not give them any such option. Marriage is for life, and not "until you find someone you like better."

Some decide that they want a divorce because they "just don't get along well" with their mate, or they "really weren't ready for such a commitment," or they have found that "they are no longer compatible" with their mate, or they "don't feel loved and important," or they "argue all the time," etc., but God has given them no such option. Grow up, mature, get help, but work out your problems. The majority of divorced and remarried people admit that they were better off in their first marriage than they realized.

Marriage is of God; He who originated it has a right to regulate it. He has done so in the Bible, the revelation of Himself and His will for mankind. God's plan is one man and one woman for life with one exception. That one exception is fornication (sexual immorality). The innocent and faithful mate has been given the right (not the duty) to divorce the guilty mate [and] marry another. The guilty mate has been given no such right. When two people marry, they have entered a serious relationship. Both need to be sure that they are both ready for such a commitment. People may change their minds and go back on their promises, but God's law does not change.

***- by Bill Crews***

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## ***Sharing the News***

We tend to talk with others about those things that are of the greatest interest to us. Golfers like to talk about golf, musicians about music, and hunters about hunting.

The point here is this: Do Christians like to talk about Christ, the church, and the Bible? How committed are we about who we are and what we are? It is not necessary to be overbearing with other people in order to let them know that we are enthusiastic about the Christian life. There was a time when people spoke freely about Bible topics on the job, in their neighborhoods, and among their friends, but those occasions today are certainly becoming more rare. Some are reluctant to discuss the Bible because it is no longer fashionable to do so, some cannot discuss the Bible

because of lack of knowledge, and some decline to discuss the Bible because they simply have no interest. Nevertheless, there are still many opportunities. Many would still be interested in a conversation which began with one of the following statements:

- "I was reading my Bible last night, and I came across something I had never noticed before..."
- "Last Sunday, the preacher brought out a very interesting point in his sermon..."
- "My wife (or husband) and I found some biblical principles that have really helped our marriage..."
- "We have been through some difficult times, but our faith in God and his word have really sustained us..."

A great many people still wish to know more about God and his will. Most would admit to a desire to know more about the Bible. If we are truly committed, and if we approach people in the right way, there still are many who have an open heart to a study of the scriptures.

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## ***Evolution Just Doesn't Make Sense!***

One does not need to be an expert in every field of technical study in order to realize that the general theory of evolution is beset with a multitude of problems. The suggestion that the myriad of life forms on earth could have "evolved" by random, natural processes just doesn't make sense. Even the simplest living thing, a single-celled organism, is complex beyond the ability of scientist to understand, much less duplicate.

Carl Sagan, the now deceased professor, author, and evolutionary spokesman, once said:

*"The information content of a simple cell has been established as around  $10^{12}$  bits, comparable to about a hundred million pages of the Encyclopedia Britannica".*

We are supposed to believe that the first living cell — so many eons ago — not only wrote this incredibly complex code, but also "evolved" the ability to read and react to the code as well. And all of this had to have been in place at the precise instant when non-living chemicals mysteriously sprang to life. Who can believe it?

Even Charles Darwin, the father of modern evolutionary thought, admitted these difficulties. In writing about the human eye he said,

*"To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree."*

Darwin said that his theory didn't make sense, and he was right!

Why is it that men have decided that it is more 'enlightened' to believe in this obviously flawed theory than to believe in a living and all-powerful God? To put it simply: it makes sense to believe the Bible!

- by Greg Gwin