One Man For One Woman For Life

Intro: God established three great institutions:
(1) before the foundation of the world God purposed the church (Eph. 3:10-11) which came into existence on the first Pentecost after our Lord’s resurrection
(2) government (Rom. 13), and
(3) the first in time was marriage and the home.
It is this third area which is our concern in this lesson. Let us consider God’s marriage law.

I. GOD INSTITUTED THE MARRIAGE STATE AT THE BEGINNING.
   A. God created Adam and placed him in a beautiful garden.
   B. Gen. 2:18 “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”
   C. God made all the animals pass before Adam.
      1. Adam named the animals.
      2. The purpose appears to be two-fold.
         a. It makes Adam realize the need for a help meet (all the animals had one suitable for them, yet Adam did not).
         b. It also made Adam realize that an animal was not the one suitable for him; Gen. 2:20 “And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.”
   D. God made a help meet (one suitable) for Adam.
      1. Gen. 2:21-22 “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”
      2. Adam realized the importance of what happened, speaking by inspiration; Gen. 2:23-24 “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
   E. Jesus confirmed this:
      1. Mat. 19:4-6 “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”
      2. Notice the words leave and cleave.
         a. Leave is from Greek καταλείπω (kataleipo) means literally “to leave down.”
            Thus, to leave behind or forsake.
         b. Cleave is from Greek κολλάω (kollao) meaning to join fast together, to glue, to cement.
   F. God’s marriage law is generally stated as: One man for one woman for life.
   G. 1 Cor. 7:2 “Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.”

II. WHAT CONSTITUTES MARRIAGE?
   A. There must be the decision by both parties (man and woman) to live together as husband and wife.
B. Both parties must be eligible for marriage (they must meet God’s requirements).
C. They must meet any requirements of the state for entering the marriage relationship provided they are harmonious with God’s law.
   1. Rom. 13
   2. John 4:18 “For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.”
      a. She had five husbands (men who had met the requirements of society).
      b. The man she was now with was not her husband, had not met the requirements of society.
D. God then joins these two in that holy union of matrimony
   1. Mat. 19:6 “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”
   2. Some teach that cohabitation must be involved before two are married or that cohabitation constitutes the marriage.
      a. The sexual union does not join the male and female in marriage.
         (1) If that were necessary then they must commit fornication to become married.
         (2) In John 4 Jesus would have erred when He told the Samaritan woman, “he whom thou now hast is not thy husband” (verse 18) for he would have been her husband because of the cohabitation.
      b. Nor does the sexual union need to take place before two individuals are married. Joseph and Mary were married for some time before they came together in the sexual union (after the birth of Jesus; Mat. 1:25 “And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”)
E. The man and woman live in that marriage until death dissolves the relationship

III. Confirmation of this law.
A. Mark 10:2-9 “And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. 2And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? 3And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. 4And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 5But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 6For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 7And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 8What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”
B. Luke 16:18 “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”
C. Rom. 7:2-3 “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 4So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.”
IV.  **JESUS GIVES THE ONE AND ONLY EXCEPTION TO THAT STATED LAW.**

A.  **Mal. 2:16** “For the **LORD**, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for **one** covereth violence with his garment, saith the **LORD** of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.”

B.  **The two passages giving the exception.**

1.  **Mat. 5:32** “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.”

2.  **Mat. 19:9** “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

C.  **The teaching of these two passages.**

1.  It is not that difficult to understand.

2.  He gives a universal teaching ("whosoever") applying to everyone in every place.

3.  Both sentences are exceptive statements.

   a.  “Saving for” and “Except”.

   b.  Exceptive statements carry the meaning, “if and only if.”

4.  The one who divorces his or her spouse and marries someone else commits adultery.

5.  The exception to the general rule is when one commits fornication, God allows the innocent party to divorce the one guilty of fornication and marry another without committing adultery.

Conclusion: While divorce is rampant in our society, we need to be standing firm on the foundation of God’s Word that God made one man for one woman for life.