

# THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

"...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel..." (Amos 7:8)

## WHO MAY LAWFULLY REMARRY?

The institution of marriage is of divine origin. It was God who solved man's problem of loneliness by creating woman and establishing the marriage bond. "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; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:21-24).

God's ultimate will for a man and a woman who are joined in holy wedlock is for both of them to remain together until death takes one of them. Jesus emphasized this in His discussion with the Jews regarding divorce. "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:3-6).

Sadly, many do not regard the institution of marriage as holy. Day in and day out, thousands in the United States of America enter into the divorce courts to sever their marital ties. What God has joined together, they have put asunder. Their actions are in direct violation of Jesus' words in Matthew 19:6. Many of these individuals eventually marry again. When they enter into that second marriage, they commit adultery in the sight of God. "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth: but if her husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So 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 the law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man" (Romans 7:2-3). A king in Israel named Herod was in an adulterous relationship. He had married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. John the Baptist confronted him about this matter, and said: "It is not lawful for thee to have her" (Matthew 14:4). Those same words could be said to thousands of couples today. They have divorced and remarried. Their marriages are not lawful in God's sight. The man and the woman are adulterers.

Dear readers, there are only two categories of people who are free to remarry once they have entered into a lawful marriage in the sight of God. First, if a person's mate has died, he is free to remarry without committing adultery. Romans 7:2 is clear "...but if her husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband." The death of one's spouse brings the marriage bond to an end. The widow or widower is free to remarry. In fact, Paul encouraged younger widows to remarry in 1 Timothy 5:14.

Second, those who have divorced their mates because their mates committed fornication are free to remarry. This exception was granted by Jesus during His earthly ministry. "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" (Matthew 19:9). There is no doubt that many in our

**WHAT DOES IT TRULY MEAN  
TO BE A CHRISTIAN?  
LOOKING FOR A CITY**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_

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II. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_

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III. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHRIST'S CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. That She Might Respect \_\_\_\_\_

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II. That She Might Respect \_\_\_\_\_

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III. That She Might Respect \_\_\_\_\_

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society have had a scriptural reason to divorce and re-marry. Unfaithfulness, sexual immorality, fornication are prevalent sins committed in marriage today. However, multitudes divorce and remarry when no fornication has been committed by the spouse. Those who enter into these second marriages are in adultery. The Bible is clear about the fare of such individuals. They shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21).

The church has been far too silent on this issue. Due to our neglect or fear, we have enabled members of the church to enter adulterous relationships. This should not be! Precious souls are at stake. The fires of hell are too hot for a few years of pleasure on this earth. My friends, let us abide by God's divine law concerning divorce and remarriage.

*-Victor Eskew*

**THE KING DID NOT SEE ME**

The king had become depressed and was very anxious that no one had recently come to praise him with honors. His advisors decided that to lift the king's spirits a grand thirty day parade should be organized that would take the king from border to border that the common folk might bestow great words of praise upon their monarch.

Efforts were made to show the grandeur and majesty of the king and multitudes of citizens lined the roads throughout the kingdom just to get a glimpse at their leader. In one small hamlet a group of school children greeted him and sang for him. Soon after the king passed the children a teacher saw a little girl crying.

"Why are you crying? Did you not see the king?"

The little girl sobbed, "Yes, teacher, but the king did not see me."

How different is King Jesus. Jesus did not come to this earth to be glorified but that man through Him might be glorified (Romans 8:17). He did not come demonstrating His power that He might be considered praiseworthy but that in Him man might be found worthy of praise by God (1 Peter 1:7). He did not come to this earth simply to be seen of men but because He saw the state of man. We may not have yet seen our King but we know that our King has seen us!

"And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them..." (Mark 6:3).

**DUMBER THAN A DRUNK MONKEY—3**

Not only, though, are there very obvious and blatant medical consequences to alcohol consumption, but there are social consequences as well. Homes are broken, money is wasted, and time is lost because of this evil and iniquitous vice. Both in this country and in the world over, this tool of the devil irreversibly damages lives. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University did a study in 2005 on alcoholism and alcohol abuse in the United States. They found that:

- Alcohol dependence and abuse cost the United States an estimated \$220 billion in 2005. This dollar amount was more than the cost associated with cancer (\$196 billion) and obesity (\$133 billion).
- Every day in the U.S. more than 13,000 children and teens take their first drink.
- The 25.9% of underage drinkers who are alcohol abusers and alcohol dependent drink 47.3% of the alcohol that is consumed by all underage drinkers.
- Every year in the U.S. more than 150,000 college students develop health problems that are alcohol-related.
- The 9.6% of adult alcoholics drink 25% of the alcohol that is consumed by all adult drinkers.
- American youth who drink before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than young people who do not drink before the age of 21.
- Every year, 1,400 American college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related inadvertent injuries, including motor vehicle accidents.
- In the United States during 2004, 16,694 deaths occurred as a result of alcohol-related-motor-vehicle crashes. This amount was approximately 39% of all traffic fatalities. This amounts to one alcohol-related death every 31 minutes.

These represent but a few of the drastic social impacts because of alcohol use and abuse every year. It is likely that every single individual has been impacted by the consumption of another. Who among us did not know and love either a culprit or victim of drunken driving? Who does not know of at least one family that has been split in two because of the presence of alcohol within its otherwise pristine walls? The social impacts of alcohol consumption are far closer to home than some are willing to realize and admit.

However, even more important than the medical and social consequences of alcohol use are those that are spiritual. Even if alcohol did not damage the body a single bit, and even if it did not have devastating social impacts, it would still be wrong and unjustifiable because of the clear scriptural condemnation provided by God. The case for such condemnation was made above and proven by the documentation of numerous Bible verses. More could be readily provided that would conclude the same fact – we are to abstain. But given that fact, what spiritual consequences exist to the souls who ignore such warnings and partake nonetheless? Well, we must but ask the question, what occurs when we transgress God's mandated law? We sin (1 John 3:4). When we willingly commit sin, to what position do we come? We reject the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf and the blessings we could receive (Hebrews 10:26). And of such guilt, we surely will be judged (Hebrews 10:30). Condemnation is the result of every soul who yields to the fiery liquid – they will be lost (Romans 3:23). Yes, it is that serious. Sure, society, directed by the devil, will try to downplay the gravity of alcohol consumption, but be assured that God takes this matter very seriously. He will not stand for those who willingly reject His authority and commandments, and thus they will face equally serious and eternal consequences.

*-to be continued*

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