**Is Divorce a Sin?**

**Reading -- Malachi 2:10-16**

**The Genesis of Divorce**

***[Deuteronomy 22:13-29]***

**Laws Regarding divorce**

***[Deuteronomy 24:1-4]***

Joseph was about to do the very thing to Mary, his betrothed. ***[Matthew 1:18-19]***

**Jesus now weighs in on the matter.**

[***Matthew 5:31-32]***

In the very next breath Jesus is making a very important judgment regarding oaths and vows. This is often overlooked as not being germane to the discussion at hand, ***[Matthew 5:33-37]***

Now Jesus takes us to the root of the entire matter. ***[Matthew 19:3-9]***

1. “Wait a minute, you can’t find that adultery clause in Mark’s account!”

2. That’s right – and you can’t find the baptism clause in Romans 10 either.

**Covenants & Contract Law**

**SO- Is It A Sin To Divorce? The Answer is !**

Our text says that God HATES divorce! That is exactly right he does HATE divorce. The question is WHY does He hate divorce? Look at the context of ***[Malachi 2:1-16]***

Worst of all there is a disregard for the COVENANT. The yes didn’t really mean yes. The promise of forsaking all others was a lie. This sheds more light on ***Revelation 21:8***

When God took all he could stand, after all else failed HE DIVORCED his unfaithful wife. ***[Isaiah 50:1] Thus says the Lord: “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you?  Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.***

Read Isaiah, Jeremiah & Ezekiel. God experienced all the emotions of a broken-hearted lover. ***[Jeremiah 3:1] “If a man divorces his wife and she goes from him and becomes another man’s wife, will he return to her?  Would not that land be greatly polluted?  You have played the whore with many lovers; and would you return to me? Declares the Lord.***

Imagine how you would feel if the one who was supposed to be your soul-mate, the love of your life, the apple of your eye – w nothing more than a common whore! ***Jeremiah 3:6***

Now He is hoping against hope – [***Jeremiah 3:7]***

God has finally had enough. [verse 8] ***8She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore.  9Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree.  10Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the Lord.”***

1. God who CANNOT SIN divorced his unfaithful wife.

2. The same standard would apply to the innocent, faithful party who puts away an unfaithful spouse.