

The Truth About Divorce and Oath-Taking

Matthew 5:31–37

- 1) The problem with divorce
 - a) Wrong teaching about divorce says that it is never improper (5:31)
 - b) The OT teaching about divorce is that it must be justified (Deut 24:1-4)
 - c) Jesus' says that only perpetual unfaithfulness is grounds for divorce (5:32)
 - i) Wrongful divorce perpetuates the problem of adultery
 - ii) Apostle Paul: divorce is permitted when one's spouse leaves
 - iii) Adultery weakens the witness of the Church
- 2) The problem with frivolous vows & oaths (5:33-37)
 - a) The wrong teaching about vows is that as long as we don't swear by God, we can take oaths and not tell the truth (5:33)
 - b) The OT says that oaths are proper (Lev 19:12; Num 30:2; Deut 10:20; 23:21; Jer 12:16)
 - c) The NT illustrates proper oaths (Matt 26:63-63; 2 Cor 1:18; Gal 1:20)
 - d) Our word should be good enough without an oath; we are never to swear carelessly
- 3) Observations on divorce and vows
 - a) Divorced? Remarried? God fully forgives through the shed blood of Christ
 - b) Marriage is a lifelong commitment; don't go in while planning a way out
 - c) Is your marriage loveless? Go love your spouse!
 - d) Unfaithful? Repent. Been hurt? Forgive.
 - e) Practice saying what you mean and meaning what you say
 - f) Whether words are many or few, lies are always lurking