

# Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

## A history of Controversy verses Jesus and the Apostles' Teaching

### Introduction:

The marriage, divorce, and remarriage (MDR) controversy of this generation seems to center around Homer Hailey (who has now passed from this life). Hailey was a gospel preacher that believed and taught that not only was the alien sinner not amenable to the law of Christ but that adultery was merely a covenant breaking rather than the sexual act (cf. Hailey's Book, "The Divorced and Remarried Who Would Come to God). Such teaching stirred much controversy in the brotherhood. This lesson shall examine the "stir" among brethren, look at some new forms of apostasy, and finally examine God's marriage regulations as revealed in the New Testament (NT).

### I. Hailey's teaching Brings about a Stir in the Brotherhood:

- A. November 1988 issue of Christianity Magazine: Hailey states, "I make no apology for my position; I believe it to be correct. I have no intention of becoming the focal point in a brotherhood discussion of the subject" (earlier in the article he identified his teaching of baptism washing away prior marriages).
- B. Ed Harrell writes a defense of Homer Hailey in the same issue (Homer Hailey: False Teacher?).
- C. February 1989 Ed Harrell writes 16 articles using Romans 14 to justify fellowship with those we differ with in matters of the faith.
- D. From 1990 to present, preachers have exposed the error of fellowship on the part of Ed Harrell.
- E. The Burnet Meeting (Feb. 2000).

### II. Current MDR teaching:

- A. Weldon Warnock (see overhead)
- B. Tim Haile
- C. Terence Sheridan
- D. Bill Reeves
- E. Ron Halbroom

### III. Various Doctrines espoused by brethren:

- A. Redefining Adultery in Matthew to mean the act of divorcing and remarrying.
- B. Alien sinner not amenable to the Law of Christ
- C. Race to Courthouse
- D. Waiting game
- E. Mental divorce

### IV. What does the word of God have to say about MDR?

- A. One man for one woman for life.
- B. Legal (in the eyes of God) separation for adultery and death alone.
- C. A look at 9 paradigms in NT over MDR

### Conclusion:

Jesus and the apostles did not teach on MDR to confuse and divide brethren. Jesus said, "*ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free*" (Jn. 8:32). With all the current debating and strong arguments being used by brethren it would seem that the devil has the upper hand. The brotherhood in

general remains confused over a matter that Jesus thoroughly taught on and intended for us to understand. It may be that the MDR issue is one of those topics that man has overly complicated.