

MISSED, MISQUOTED, & MISUNDERSTOOD?

Part 6

There are multiple places throughout scripture that tells you and I, a christian (imitator or follower) of Jesus Christ what sin is. God's Word lists the sin(s) that done habitually by our choice will cause us to spend eternity in Hell.

2 Peter 3:9 AMPC

*9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, **but that all should turn to repentance.***

Repent defined: a fundamental change of mind, heart, and direction/action. Taken from the Greek word metanoia, it is not merely feeling sorry or guilty for wrongdoing, but making a complete turnaround to turn away from sin and turn toward God and His Righteousness. His Righteousness means to do what is right according to His Commands, His Precepts.

Psalms 119:11 AMPC

11 Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalms 119:97-106 AMPC

97 Oh, how love I Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies, for [Your words] are ever before me.

99 I have better understanding and deeper insight than all my teachers, because Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged, because I keep Your precepts [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying them].

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep Your word [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying it].

102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

106 I have sworn [an oath] and have confirmed it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying them].

There are multiple places in God's Word we can find out about sin, what is not right or righteous and if habitually done, by our own choosing we will spend eternity in hell.

Galatians 5:19-21: Lists the "works of the flesh" including sexual immorality, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, jealousy, fits of rage, and drunkenness.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10: Warns that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God, listing the sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, the greedy, and drunkards.

Romans 1:28-32: Describes unrighteous behavior and lists sins like malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, gossip, and slander.

Mark 7:21-22 (and Matthew 15:19): Jesus lists evils that come from within a person's heart, such as evil thoughts, theft, murder, adultery, greed, and pride.

Revelation 21:8: Mentions the fate of cowards, the unbelieving, the corrupt, murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, and liars.

Revelation 22:15: Lists the sin of homosexuality (Outside are the dogs), the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

2 Timothy 3:1-5: Describes difficult times and lists people who are lovers of money, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, and ungrateful

As a follower or imitator of Jesus Christ (the Word) we need to not only know what will prevent us from spending eternity in heaven but then stop doing them!

One of the top 5 questions I have been asked over the years is regarding divorce. Can I get a divorce?, can I get remarried if I have had a divorce? What are the consequences if I have been remarried? Before we even begin to look in God's Word for the answer these questions, the Bible is very clear about, "God hates divorce" (Malachi 2:16).

The pain, confusion, and frustration most people experience after a divorce are surely part of the reason that God hates divorce. However, scripture tells us when a divorce can occur biblically, it is not mandated but allowed as not a sin.

There is only one reason for divorce explicitly mentioned in Scripture: sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). Most Bible teachers also consider the abandonment of a believing spouse by an unbelieving spouse to be a reason for divorce based on the “not bound” phrase in 1 Corinthians 7:15.

Are there any other valid reasons for divorce beyond these two? Perhaps, but we must be careful not to go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 7:15). Once we start presuming Scripture, we put ourselves in the dangerous position of claiming to know what God meant instead of submitting to what God actually said.

A bad marriage can be heart-wrenchingly painful, and it is immensely difficult to know how to bring healing and restoration. Even if one spouse has a valid reason for divorce, he or she should never be quick to file. God’s desire for marriage is a one-flesh relationship of a man and a woman in an unbroken union for life (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5–6). Divorce is always a tragedy with many lasting ramifications, even if it occurs for biblical reasons.

Even more difficult, biblically, than the question of divorce, is the question of remarriage. The vast majority of people who divorce either remarry or consider getting remarried. What does the Bible say about this?

Matthew 19:9 says, "I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery." (See also Matthew 5:32). These Scriptures clearly state that remarriage after a divorce is adultery, except in the instance of "marital unfaithfulness."

Matthew 19:9 AMPC

9 I say to you: whoever dismisses (repudiates, divorces) his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

In certain instances, a person is allowed to divorce and remarry without being guilty of adultery: a person whose spouse commits adultery, for example, and a believer whose unbelieving spouse abandons the marriage. This is not saying that a person under such circumstances should remarry. The Bible's instruction to divorced people is to remain single or be reconciled (1 Corinthians 7:11). At the same time, God offers His mercy and grace to the innocent party in a divorce and allows that person to remarry.

1 Corinthians 7:11 AMPC

11 But if she does [separate from and divorce him], let her remain single or else be reconciled to her husband. And [I charge] the husband [also] that he should not put away or divorce his wife.

Remember, you and I can be forgiven, however, there are natural consequences to disobedience.

A person who gets a divorce for a reason other than the reasons listed above, and then gets remarried has committed adultery (Luke 16:18).

Luke 16:18 AMPC

18 Whoever divorces (dismisses and repudiates) his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

The question then becomes, is this remarriage an "act" of adultery, or a "state" of adultery. The present tense of the Greek in Matthew 5:32; 19:9; and Luke 16:18 can indicate a continuous state of adultery. At the same time, the present tense in Greek does not always indicate continuous action. Sometimes it simply means that something occurred. For example, the word "divorces" in Matthew 5:32 is present tense, but divorcing is not a continual action. It is our view that remarriage, no matter the circumstances, is not a continual state of adultery. Only the act of getting remarried itself is adultery.

In the Old Testament Law, the punishment for adultery was death (Leviticus 20:10). At the same time, Deuteronomy 24:1-4 mentions remarriage after a divorce, does not call it adultery, and does not demand the death penalty for the remarried spouse.

The Bible explicitly says that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16), but nowhere explicitly states that God hates remarriage. The Bible nowhere commands a remarried couple to divorce.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 does not describe the remarriage as invalid. Ending a remarriage through divorce would be just as sinful as ending a first marriage through divorce. Both would include the breaking of vows before God, between the couple, and in front of witnesses.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 AMPC

1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a bill of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

2 And when she departs out of his house she goes and marries another man,

3 And if the latter husband dislikes her and writes her a bill of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies, who took her as his wife,

4 Then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife after she is defiled. For that is an abomination before the Lord; and you shall not bring guilt upon the land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.

No matter the circumstances, once a couple is remarried, they should strive to live out their married lives in fidelity, in a God-honoring way, with Christ at the center of their marriage. A marriage is a marriage. God does not view the new marriage as invalid or adulterous. A remarried couple should devote themselves to God and to each other—and honor God by making their new marriage a lasting and Christ-centered one (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Note: A divorce does not disqualify you from heaven, however a person is disqualified from being a senior pastor or bishop if a divorce has occurred. We studied this in the beginning of this series, found in 1 Timothy 3.

1 Timothy 3:2 KJV

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 3:2 AMPC

2 Now a bishop (superintendent, overseer) must give no grounds for accusation but must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, circumspect and temperate and self-controlled; [he must be] sensible and well behaved and dignified and lead an orderly (disciplined) life; [he must be] hospitable [showing love for and being a friend to the believers, especially strangers or foreigners, and be] a capable and qualified teacher

What does the Bible say about sex outside of marriage?

Fornication defined: fornication translates the Greek word *porneia* and the Hebrew word *zanah*. It means any sexual activity or misconduct outside the boundaries of a legally and spiritually recognized marriage covenant. This includes premarital sex, adultery, prostitution, and incest.

1 Corinthians 6:18 & 7:2: Emphasizes fleeing from fornication and using marriage to avoid it.

1 Corinthians 6:18 KJV

18 Flee fornication. *Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

1 Corinthians 6:18 AMPC

18 Shun immorality and all sexual looseness [flee from impurity in thought, word, or deed]. *Any other sin which a man commits is one outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3: Instructs believers to abstain from fornication. Galatians 5:19 & Matthew 15:19: Identifies it as a work of the flesh and an evil arising out of the heart.

In past series we have studied God's Word regarding alcohol. Page 10 has a link to my website on shorter teaching with Bible verses as a reference for you. Also, I want to give you some additional verses to help you hear and understand what God is saying about how "pastors, preacher and teacher" will be deceiving people in the church regarding alcohol.

Proverbs 23:31-34 AMPC

31 *Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the wineglass, when it goes down smoothly.*

32 *At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.*

33 *[Under the influence of wine] your eyes will behold strange things [and loose women] and your mind will utter things turned the wrong way [untrue, incorrect, and petulant].*

34 Yes, you will be [as unsteady] as he who lies down in the midst of the sea, and [as open to disaster] as he who lies upon the top of a mast.

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel's] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.

11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].

12 Come, say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

Micah 2:11 AMPC

11 If a man walking in a spirit [of vanity] and in falsehood should lie and say, I will prophesy to you of wine and strong drink, O Israel, he would even be the acceptable prophet of this people!

Here's is the just the beginning of the qualificatn to be a senior pastor, lead pastor, overseer, bishop...

1 Timothy 3:2-12 KJV

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 **Not given to wine**, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

My website contains bible studies along with 20-25 minute videos on different subjects, one of which is alcohol. Got to the link below and scroll down to what does the bible say about “alcohol”.

<https://www.grantwilliamsministry.com/whatdoesthebiblesay>

Matthew 22:29 NKJV

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Matthew 22:29 AMPC

29 But Jesus replied to them, You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor God’s power.

Matthew 22:29 MEV

29 Jesus answered, “You err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Romans 8:1 AMPC

8 Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19 AMPC

19 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious)

Note: _____



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