

Methodist Changes On Divorce

Matthew 19:9 ... 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.

Mark 6:17-18 For Herod himself had ... laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, **It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.**

Some conservative groups believe that divorced people who marry another spouse are living in sin. However, **the number of divorces in the United States has led most denominations away from that teaching.** - Anthony Dunnivant in the *Orange County (California) Register* (1870 1 in 34 marriages ended in divorce, 1900 1 in 12, 1940 1 in 5, 1970s 40%)

1896 Methodist Creed Book: No divorce, **except for adultery**, shall be regarded by the Church as lawful; and no Minister shall solemnize marriage in any case where there is a divorced wife or husband living; but this rule shall not be applied to the innocent party to a divorce for the cause of adultery (The Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church)

1914 Methodist Creed Book: ... Ministers shall be prohibited from solemnizing ... matrimony between divorced persons, except ... innocent parties who have been divorced for the **one scriptural cause.** → **These two look just like Matt 19:9, right?**

1940 Methodist Creed Book: No Minister shall solemnize the marriage of a divorced person whose wife or husband is living ... but this rule shall not apply ... to the innocent person when it is clearly established by competent testimony that the true cause for divorce was adultery **or other vicious conditions** which through mental or physical cruelty or physical peril invalidated the marriage vow ...

1960 Methodist Creed Book: In view of the seriousness with which the Scriptures ... regard divorce, a minister may solemnize the marriage of a divorced person only when he has satisfied himself by careful counseling that (a) the divorced person is sufficiently aware of the factors leading to the failure of the previous marriage, (b) the divorced person is sincerely preparing to make the proposed marriage truly Christian, and (c) sufficient time has elapsed for adequate ... counseling.

1984 Methodist Creed Book: Where marriage partners, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, are estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce as **regrettable** but **recognize the right of divorced persons to remarry.** ... We encourage an ... **accepting** ... commitment of the church ... to minister to the members of divorced families.

2015 United Methodist Church ... leadership voted to submit ... a ... legislative proposal ... that removes "prohibitive" language from The United Methodist Book of Discipline concerning homosexuality. ... the proposal would allow United Methodist pastors to perform same-sex marriages in United Methodist churches. ... this proposal does not consider homosexuality incompatible with Christian teachings even though Methodists have historically recognized the practice ... as sinful.

Compromise on adulterous marriage eventually leads to compromise on gay marriage - preacher Ken Wilson writes: I have proposed a path for these pastors that allows them to embrace people who are gay, lesbian, and transgender and to accept them fully — welcome and wanted — into the company of Jesus. I wrote A Letter To My Congregation when I realized my views had changed and I needed to communicate the intense theological, biblical, pastoral, and spiritual process that I had been through to get to this new place. It began with a burr beneath the saddle of my conscience: why was I willing to let so many divorced and remarried couples know that they are welcome and wanted while refusing that same welcome to gay and lesbian couples? **How could I say to the remarried couples, whose second marriage was clearly condemned by the plain meaning of scripture, 'You are welcome and wanted,' while saying to the two (lesbian) mothers raising their adopted child together, 'I love you, but I hate your sin'?**

Almost all churches have also made this same **gradual, but drastic change.**

Russell D. Moore, president of the public-policy arm of the **Southern Baptist Convention**, recently wrote in a blog post - "It is **not** inconsistent for a church to accept divorced and remarried members with 'mercy and grace' but require homosexuals to leave their gay lifestyle before joining the congregation."

Romans 7:2-3 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the 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 that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Almost all type churches have made similar compromises on Divorce And Remarriage and on other topics:

- Romans 1:26-27 the same change is beginning on the marriage of homosexuals – it is just a matter of time
- Acts 20:7 denominations changed the frequency of the Lord's Supper from once a week to less often
- I Corinthians 14:34-35 almost all churches used to forbid "women preachers" - now almost all allow it
- many other changes/departures from the Bible over the centuries

And what does II John 9-11 teach about bidding Godspeed to those churches which are not abiding in the doctrine of Christ