

## Does Matthew 19:9 Justify Loveless Marriages?

I. Introduction: This lesson is about what one party in the marriage can control. There are obviously situations not addressed in this outline (cf. **I Corinthians 7:12-15**).

A. In the beginning God ordained: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (**Genesis 2:24**).

1. The word translated “cleave” means: “properly to impinge, that is, cling or adhere; figuratively to catch by pursuit: - abide, fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard, after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take” (Strong’s # 1692).

2. From this, Jesus taught that what had been joined together was not to be put asunder (**Mark 10:7-9**).

3. A person is bound to their mate as long as they both are alive (**Romans 7:1-3**). *\*With one exception we shall read about in our main body point.*

B. We know the Lord hates putting away (**Malachi 2:14-16**).

1. He does not permit jumping from one marriage to another to “be happy” as the world teaches (**Mark 10:11-12**, **Luke 16:18**, and **I Corinthians 7:10-11**).

2. Question: Could these instructions leave a couple married just so that they do not sin? That would mean they appear married, but they really do not have love one for another?

II. Body: Does **Matthew 19:3-9** Justify Loveless Marriages Just So There Are No Divorces?

A. In the context of **Ephesians 5:22-6:4**, what command exists in **Ephesians 5:25**; **5:28**; **5:33**?

1. What does **Colossians 3:19** command?

2. What is written in **Titus 2:3-5**?

B. What happens when we are given an instruction (i.e. love your wife/husband) and we disobey that instruction (**Romans 2:7-8**, **Romans 6:16**, **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**, **Hebrews 2:1-3**, and **II John 1:9**)?

1. How could a person proclaim love for God and then disobey God by not loving his or her spouse (**John 14:15**)?

2. How could anyone not take clear instructions of our Lord seriously (**Hebrews 10:26-31** and **I Peter 4:17-18**)?

C. Taking a spiritual point, to make the carnal... If the love isn’t there, do the first works to get it back (**Revelation 2:1-5**).

1. We know how to please God because we listen to what is pleasing to Him (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2**). Listen to your spouse.

2. Put in the work to please your spouse (**I Corinthians 7:31-34**).

3. Think about how the Law of Moses addressed then first year of a marriage (**Deuteronomy 24:5**).

4. Point your desires towards your spouse (**Song of Solomon 7:10**).
5. Not just sexual, but companionship too (**Song of Solomon 5:16**).
6. A solid marriage has to be strong outside of the bedroom and beyond physical desires (**I Peter 3:1-7**; cf. **Proverbs 11:22; 31:30**).

- a. Yes, marriage is a solution for sexual desires (**I Corinthians 7:1-5** and **Hebrews 13:4**).

- b. If that is the only reason one marries, what is going to happen to that marriage WHEN [not if] the flesh is not the same as it once was (cf. **I Peter 1:24**)?

D. Love in the marriage is supposed to be *“all the days of thy life”* (**Ecclesiastes 9:9**).

1. A man needs to rejoice [be glad; merry] with his wife (**Proverbs 5:18**).

2. If two faithful Christians are married, love shouldn't take any work. It should be there already and include all that comes with it (**Romans 12:10**, **Galatians 5:13**, **Ephesians 4:2**, **I Thessalonians 4:9**, and **I Peter 3:8**).

- a. Furthermore, there should be a non-carnal longing for one another (**Philippians 4:1**); desiring to be in each other's company (**II John 1:12**).

- b. Joy should be ever present (**I Thessalonians 2:20** and **Philemon 1:7**).

3. If one is struggling with loving their spouse, in the flesh; what do you think that means about lasting love for God? Think of this principle spoken about brotherly love... **I John 4:20**

III. Conclusion: Remember, love is not just in word; but also in action (**I John 3:18**). Don't just tell your mate you love he or she, show them you do!