

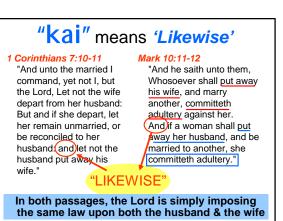
Some are claiming that Mark 10:11,12 proves that "put away" does not involve a civil process

- "And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."
- They argue that women of the 1st century did not have the right of civil divorce. Thus, Jesus' statement proves that "putting away" never involved any civil process.
- This argument is flawed, because numerous authorities can be cited which prove that women of that era DID have the right to "put away"/divorce their husbands using a civil process.
- Evidence that women brought petitions for divorce in the first century is found in the Mishnah and in a recently discovered divorce document. The Mishnah records the results of detailed discussions which appear to originate from demands for divorce brought by women to the courts. . A recently published divorce certificate or get dating from the early 2nd century appears to have been written by or for a woman to her husband. This was discovered in the Judaean Desert in 1951 but it was not published till 1995. . Even before the announcement ... there was a consensus that women could, under many circumstances, gain a divorce from their husbands within first century Palestinian Judaism ... it was perfectly proper for a woman to bring a divorce ase to a Jewish court.
- ...rules designed to compel the husband to deliver a (divorce certificate) in specified cases. In M. Git. 9:8 the court will force the delivery of a (divorce certificate) when it sees fit, even enlisting the aid of gentile authorities to coerce a reluctant husband. According to law, the husband who resists the court's order, the sage sexpressly declared that "we twist his arm until he says, 1 will" <u>Chatter Person?</u> The Staus of Women in the Mishnah, By: Judith Romney Wegner, Oxford University Press, 1988, p.136
- In rabbinic times the contractual obligations of the husband were expanded and elaborated. Many of the grounds that entitled the wife to divorce reflected great sensitivity to women's needs. On Women & Judaism, By: Blu Greenberg, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1981, p.131
 - ... the Mishnah lists a wife's grounds for divorce . <u>Rereading the Rabbis</u>, By: Judith Hauptman, p.105

Does 1 Cor. 7:10,11 Teach A "Second Putting Away?"

"And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart) from her husband: but and if she depart. let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband out away his wife."

- Some have said this is the 1st "putting away"
 And they claim this is a 2nd action of "putting away"
- > They are wrong -- the word "and" ('kai') is the key. Here it means "likewise"
- > The text is simply imposing the same law on the husband that is placed upon the wife.



What We KNOW From 1 Cor. 7:10,11

"And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

- 1. The "departing"/"putting away" in this text was NOT for fornication
- 2. The "departing"/"putting away" resulted in the two people being "<u>unmarried</u>"
- 3. In such cases reconciliation is a proper thing
- 4. There is NO authority here for either spouse to marry another person EVER!
- 5. This text does NOTHING to support the position being defended by bro. Reeves

OSITION & T

he Bible teaches that if a man puts away his scriptural wife for a reason

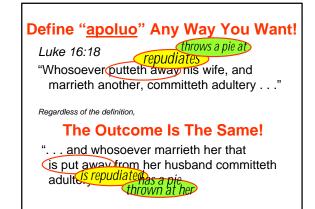
other than fornication and then commits fornication, the

original wife may not remarry." Our debate is

about the original ("put away") wife and her ability to remarry (another man)

ried I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her <u>remain unmarried</u>, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

- This text mentions "remain unmarried"
- It mentions "be reconciled"
- Where does this text even mention the remarriage (to another person) of the "put away" spouse?
- This text provides NO authority for a "put away" mate to ever marry another person?





- Remember:
 - Fred put away Jane when neither of them had committed fornication
 - The fornication occurred AFTER the divorce had been obtained by Fred
 - Therefore, Jane had no "cause" to put away Fred at the time he was unjustly filing for a divorce against her
 - She had no reason to even go to the courthouse, much less race to the courthouse

"Countersuits" Are Not An Issue

In the type of "mental divorce" scenario we are debating, a "countersuit" is not an issue



- Remember: 1 Fred put away lar
 - 1. Fred put away Jane when neither of them had committed fornication
 - . The fornication occurred <u>AFTER</u> the divorce
 - had been obtained by Fred
 - Therefore, Jane had no "cause" to put away Fred at the time he was unjustly filing for a divorce against her -- she had no scriptural grounds to file a "countersuit"
- The argument that a "countersuit" constitutes a "second putting away" simply does <u>NOT</u> apply to the scenario we are debating

Commonwealth of Kentucky Divorce Laws

- The spouse filing for dissolution of marriage must have been a resident for 180 days prior to filing Kentucky Revised Statutes; Title 35, Chapters 403.140 and 452.470
- A final dissolution of marriage will not be granted until the spouses have lived apart for 60 days Kentucky Revised Statutes; Title 35, Chapters 403.140
- If one spouse disagrees that the marriage is irretrievably broken, the court may delay the dissolution of marriage proceedings for 60 days Kentucky Revised Statutes; Title 35, Chapters 403.170

State of Nevada Divorce Laws

- One of the spouses must have been a resident of Nevada for at least 6 weeks prior to filing for divorce Nevada Revised Statutes; Chapter 125; Section 020
- A summary divorce may be granted if the following conditions are met: 1) either spouse has been a resident of the state for at least 6 weeks... 4) the spouses have signed an agreement regarding the division of property... 5) both spouses waive their rights to spousal support or the spouses have signed an agreement specifying the amount of spousal support; 6) both spouses waive ... their rights to appeal the divorce ... 7) both spouses want the court to enter the decree of divorce.

Nevada Revised Statutes; Chapter 123; Sections 020 & 090; Chapter 125; Sections 181-184

What if you lived in a place where no civil divorce was possible?

- 1 Does our brother even know of such a place?
- 2 In any given place there is an established method of dissolving a marriage.
- 3 Using such hypothetical cases is exactly what the Baptists do in regard to baptism:

"What if a man is struck by lightning on his way to the river to be baptized?"

Some Accuse Us Of Putting Man's Law Above God's Law

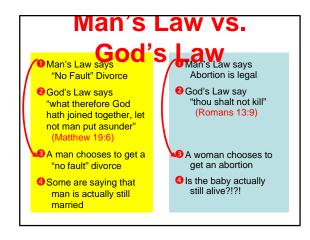
NOT SO!

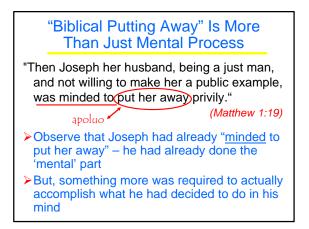
- Man's Law says
 - ✓"no fault"
 - ✓ "marry again as many times as you like"
 - ✓ absolutely no restrictions
- It was the Lord Jesus himself who said
 - "whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

Are We "Literalists/Absolutists?"

- Some accuse us of being literalists and absolutists because we say that "whosoever" is an all inclusive term
- "... and whosoeve) marrieth her that is put away from her hisband committeth adultery."
 - Literal? Absolute? (Luke 16:18)
- Whosoeve believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The word "whosoever" should be interpreted as all inclusive unless some other biblical information modifies or mitigates it





Not A Fellowship Issue?

- Some are saying that this should not be a fellowship issue.
- "...the position I hold does not draw lines of fellowship. I am perfectly willing for you to hold your scruple against the innocent's repudiating and remarrying ..." (email correspondence from Bill Reeves, 2/25/03)
- However, if people follow the teaching of these brethren on this subject, they will be guilty of the sin of adultery and they will be lost if they do not repent.
- Can we continue in fellowship with those who teach a false doctrine that will cause men to be lost in hell? (2 John 9-11)

2 Separate Actions?

Isaiah 50·1

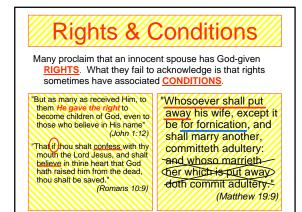
- "Thus saith the Lord, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away?" (KJV) 2 Separate actions? NO!
- "Thus says the Lord, "Where is the certificate of divorce, <u>by</u> <u>which</u> I have sent your mother away?" (NASV)

Jeremiah 3:8

... for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce" (KJV)

2 Separate actions? NO!

. for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I sent her away with a decree of divorce . . ."



Do they teach a "doctrine of devils?"

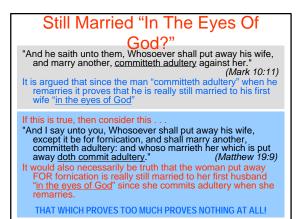
- "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and <u>doctrines of devils;</u> speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; for and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." (1 Timothy 4:1-3)
- Do our "mental divorce" brethren teach that certain persons
- (i.e. put away fornicators) cannot remarry? When they teach this thus forbidding certain persons to remarry are they teaching a "doctrine of devils?"
- Although we disagree about the right of an innocent put away person to remarry, is it fair and honorable for such brethren to use this "doctrine of devils" label against us when, in fact, they also forbid certain persons to remarry?
- Does this do anything to prove their position, or is it simply an attempt to prejudice the minds of others?

Wrong Definition Of "Adultery"

Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man and a woman not his wife, or between a woman a man not her husband" - Webster's New World College Dictionary

Notice how the Scriptures use the word differently

- "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth . . . So then if, while husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall husband liveth, she be marrie be called an adulteress ... "
- "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and <u>shall marry another</u>. committeth adultery, and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (*Matthew 19:9*)



Remember that hypothetical cases DO NOT prove a point

- In MDR discussions, some will present a number of hypothetical cases in an effort to prove their point
- Such cases provide no proof at all
- Baptists do the same with baptism:
 - "What about a man who dies on the way to be baptized . . . "
 - "What about a person in the desert . . ."
 - Etc., Etc., Etc.

Really "Married" or Not? 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.

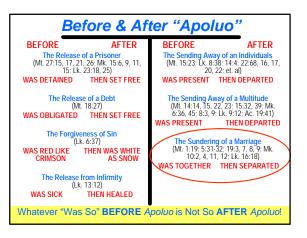
Some say this means: not really married only "accomodatively" "in the eyes of men" not "in the eyes of God"

> They say this means: • really married •"in the eyes of God"

They want the same word to have two different meanings in the same text!

Fornication Does NOT Automatically Break The Bond ✓ When one's spouse commits fornication, the Scriptures authorize him/her to "put away" the guilty fornicator. When he/she takes this action, the marriage is dissolved, and God releases him/her from the bond. The innocent one who has "put away" the fornicating spouse may now remarry without sin. However, the innocent spouse may choose not to exercise this authorized option – choosing not to put away his/her mate who has committed fornication. ☑ In such a case, the bond remains intact and both

- parties are still obligated by the law of God ☑ If this is not true – if the bond is automatically broken
- when fornication occurs what would an innocent person do who wanted to forgive and remain married? How would the bond be re-established?



"Mental Divorce" & 'The Waiting Game'

- If Fred puts away Jane, but not for fornication, all brethren agree that neither Fred nor Jane can remarry.
- But if Jane <u>WAITS</u> until Fred commits fornication, some are saying that Jane can then remarry without sinning.
- Jesus says: "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." (Luke 16:18)

