

# THE MESSENGER



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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## Jesus on Marriage Divorce and Remarriage

**Matthew 5:32** “. . .whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

**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 10:11-12** “Whosoever putteth 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.”

**Luke 16:18** “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marry another committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”

**THE DIVORCER:** “Whosoever putteth 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” (Mark 10:11-12).

**THE DIVORCED:** “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” (Matthew 19:9).

**THIRD PARTY:** “. . .And whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery” (Matthew 5:32). “. . .And whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery” (Matthew 19:9).

**ONE EXCEPTION:** “. . .Whosoever shall put away . . . save for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery . . .” (Matthew 5:32). “Whosoever shall put away his wife except it be for fornication, and shall marry . . . committeth adultery.” (Matthew 19:9).

**SUMMARY:** Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication . . .

1. And shall marry another committeth adultery (Matthew 19:9)
2. Causeth her to commit adultery (Matthew 5:32)
3. Whosoever shall marry her, committeth adultery (Matthew 5:32)

# Unequally Yoked

by Robert Turner, Plain Talk, June 1976

“Unequally yoked” is translated from heterozugeo - - - the later part of that word meaning “yoke” and the former part (hereto) meaning “different” with some hint of “difference that is for the worse”. (Trench, syn. of N.T. has a fine discussion of this.)

The “yoked” is figurative, and does not refer to intercourse or the marriage relation. (In Lev. 19:19 the word is used (LXX) regarding mixed breeding of cattle, but is translated “diverse kind” and another word altogether is used for “gender with”).

A “yoke” is the bar placed across the necks of draft animals, binding them so that they may be worked together. They are “yoked” for the accomplishment of the job - - pulling stumps up, plowing, or whatever. To yoke an oxen to some smaller, weaker, or cantankerous animal would hinder the accomplishment of the task. But if both animals would work toward the same goal, the yoke would assist them in working as a team, and contribute to the desired end.

Now the end or goal under consideration in II Cor. 6 is the fellowship and service of God. Christians are reminded that it is possible to fail-to receive God’s grace “in vain”. The goal requires patience, sacrifice, pureness, etc. (vs. 1-13). Paul says, “Do not accept, as a yoke-fellow, one who has a different goal - - who will not pull with you to the same end - - who will hinder your efforts to serve and have fellowship with God.”

As already noted, the “yoke” does not refer to marriage of itself; it refers to any “teaming up with”. Any “sharing relationship” which keeps one from serving God faithfully must be abandoned. “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,” (vs. 17). The marriage itself is not the “yoke” under consideration, for a believer is told to remain with an unbeliever (I Cor. 7:10,13), accepting separation only when the unbeliever departs. However, marriage can be an “unequal yoking”. If a choice must be made between a marriage relation and God, true disciples will “love God more - - “ (Luke 14:26-33).

Not all association with people of the world is forbidden (I Cor. 5:9-10). But if you are “yoked” to a business partner who is dishonest, and your “yoking” is such that you must be a party to his dishonesty - - “come out”. If you are a member of some civic or social order that functions contrary to the will of God, and your “yoking” is such that you must jointly participate in the error - - “come on out”. If you are a member of some church whose work or worship is not in accord with true service of God, and your contribution and influence are “yoked” to that digression - - “come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” (II Cor. 6:17).

“Unequally yoked” is also defined by its opposite - - “true yoke – fellow” with Paul (Phil. 4:3) and in the final analysis, with God (I Cor. 3:9).

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## NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

*James 5:16*