

Why have so many difficulty seeing that God instituted marriage as an unbreakable covenant for life? Why can't they see that our Lord Jesus explained this in Mark 10:6-9 with, "<sup>6</sup> *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.* <sup>7</sup> *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;* <sup>8</sup> *And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.* <sup>9</sup> *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*".

My advertisement on page 9 of *The Journal* of January 2008 (also available as article A1 at my Home Page) explains this may be called God's *No-Divorce & No-Remarriage Law (No-D & No-R)*. This article should be reviewed.

In 1 Corinthians 7:39 Paul illustrates the *No-D & No-R Law* for women with, "*The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.*". But our Lord explained in Mark 10:11-12 that the law applies to both men and women, "<sup>11</sup> *And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.* <sup>12</sup> *And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.*"

It may come as a shock to many that we may not remarry after divorce or marry a divorced person but that is the plain message of God's Word.

Many appeal to 1 Corinthians 7:27-28 to put asunder God's *No-D & No-R Law* and replace this with man's *D & R Law*. It

will be seen this misinterprets Paul when we read his intended meaning from those verses instead of reading our carnal desires into them.

Before we examine 1 Corinthians 7:27-28 let us look at a recurring theme of chapter 7, namely Paul's advising single converts that it is best to stay unmarried so that they may devote themselves to God without being distracted by a spouse. However, Paul concedes that it is not a sin for single converts to marry (lawfully) but that this will present them with problems.

Paul first raises this theme in verses 7-9 by expressing he would that others were unmarried like him.

With verses 10-16 Paul changes to another theme of this chapter concerning the married.

After that Paul returns in the passage 17-26 to the theme that single converts had best stay single. If you are a freeman when called stay a freeman. If you are circumcised when called, stay that way. Likewise, if you are single when called, stay single.

Next we come to verse 27, which is the first of the two verses we must examine.

With verse 27 Paul returns to his married theme, saying, "*Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.*"

This verse conveniently splits into two parts, which may be called verse 27<sup>a</sup> and 27<sup>b</sup> and these are examined next.

Verse 27<sup>a</sup> with "*Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed ....*" gives the *No-D* part of the *No-D & No-R Law*. In

other words when married, seek not a divorce.

Verse 27<sup>b</sup> with: "*...Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.*" gives the *No-R* part of the *No-D & No-R Law*. In other words do not remarry after divorce.

The reader should satisfy himself that jointly verse 27<sup>a</sup> and 27<sup>b</sup> give God's *No-Divorce & No-Remarriage Law*.

That leaves the claim that Paul negates this meaning of verse 27 with verse 28<sup>a</sup>, "*But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned....*".

That claim fails to recognize that with verse 28 and indeed with the passage 28-38 Paul returns once more to his theme that it is best for single converts to stay single – note for example verses 32-35.

That is why Paul opens verse 28 saying that it is not a sin to marry (for single converts). Obviously with this Paul is not negating God's *No-D & No-R Law* as expressed in verse 27 but he qualifies his advise to single converts to stay single that their marrying is not a sin.

Let no one wrest Paul's teaching to his destruction (2 Pet 3:15-16) and claim that verse 28<sup>a</sup> cancels God's *No-D & No-R Law* as restated in verse 27.

Surely Paul would not replace God's *No-D & No-R Law* with man's *D & R Rule* and so contradict his own teaching of verse 39 and our Lord's teaching of Mark 10:11-12.

Let us complete this brief study of 1 Corinthians chapter 7 by noting that in verse 40 Paul returns once again to his

theme that single converts should remain single, with "*But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.*"

This article's message that Paul also teaches God's *No-D & No-R Law* will be hated by many in the churches of God because they have hardened their heart against God's *No-D & No-R Law*.

My January 2008 advertisement (Article A1) explains this hardening was a 1974 rerun of carnal's Israel's hardening of heart under Moses and which caused Moses to grant Israel man's *D & R Rule* in place of God's *No-D & No-R Law*.

Objectors will argue that surely God would have intervened. God did intervene through preventing this spreading to priests marrying divorced women (Lev 21:7, 14).

Therefore we know that priests must abide by God's *No-D & No-R Law* but let the reader remember that the Elect are called as potential royal priests in God's Kingdom and there will have to uphold God's *No-D & No-R Law*!

Let us recognize that in 1974 Mr Armstrong rejected God's *No-D & No-R Law* that had come down to him from the Apostolic church of God. It was possibly the worst apostasy ever in God's church and we need to repent of having said Amen to that apostasy.

Download papers P3, A1 and P1 from my Home Page at [www.rightly-dividing.net](http://www.rightly-dividing.net) or request these from: Henk Jens, PO Box 121, Belmore, 2192, NSW, Australia.