

RESPONSE TO: IF YOU HAVE LEFT THEM

Repent and enter into peace with God!

SEPARATION is the first step, and the dress rehearsal for divorce, and, as such, is sin. It is the tentative, "trying the waters," toward actually divorcing. It is sin.

There are rare occasions on which, with mutual agreement, a couple might feel that they need time alone. This is understandable. But, the departure of one or both of the spouses from the marriage situation is against God and against His intentions for the family.

There may also be rare occasions on which a person might have to flee a literal physical danger in their home. This, "physical danger," would *not* be any of the multitudinous excuses to leave one's spouse labeled by today's society as, "abuses," but would be actual, "physical danger."

Such separation, however, would justify neither divorce nor remarriage. Divorce, even that, "divorce," recognized only by society (not by God) would imply that the the two parties would be free, in God's eyes (the only legitimate Authority), to re-marry, and would probably even encourage it!

But I say unto you, That 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.

Matt. 5:32

God tells us that, while we are commanded not to separate, if we do so, we are not to remarry, but to remain single or be reconciled to our spouse.

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 Cor. 7:11

Therefore:

- 1) If we have departed from our spouse we are commanded to return.
- 2) If return is impossible because of physical danger we are commanded to remain single.

- otherwise:

- 1) We are disobeying God.

If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:15

- 2) It is quite possible that one of the very reasons that our spouse married was to keep themselves from sexual sin!

Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1 Cor. 7:2

Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

1 Cor. 7:5

We run the risk of either committing adultery ourself or of inciting our spouse to do so. And THAT is a serious offense!

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the *person* by whom the temptation comes!

Matt.18:7 (RSV)