

"ELDERS - ONE WIFE INTERPRETATIONS"

BY DR. HOYT W. ALLEN, JR.

1 Tim 3:2-4 2 Now the overseer (Elder, Bishop, or Pastor) must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. NIV

1. TO FORBID CONCUBINAGE (HAREM)
2. TO FORBID POLYGAMY (MANY WIVES)
3. TO FORBID MARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE (ADULTERY)
4. TO FORBID DIGAMY (MARRIAGE AFTER A SPOUSE'S DEATH)
5. TO DEMAND MARRIAGE (AN ABSOLUTE MUST)

"UNDERSTANDING THE ABOVE"

- #1 - FORNICATION (ANY ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY)
- #2 - GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN (ONE MATE OR SPOUSE)
- #3 - MATT. 19:1-11; I COR. 6:9-11 (A REASON FOR DIVORCE, BUT INNOCENT PARTY IS FREE TO REMARRY)
- #4 - ROM. 7:1, 2 (MARRIAGE IS AN EARTHLY COVENANT)
- #5 - SOME INSIST, BUT IN III JOHN 1; II JOHN 1 & JOHN 19:26, 27 (NOT ANY MENTION OF JOHN BEING MARRIED)

CONCLUSION:

- 1) Divorce is not the unforgivable sin.
- 2) God is more interested in where a man is today spiritually, than from where he has come.
- 3) A divorced man needs time to get back to "normal" before he is suitable for leadership.
- 4) The stated Scripture is saying that a man is to be a "One Woman Man" and not that a man can never have been married previously. He is not to be single, but to have the experience of raising a family. This grants to him the supervisory experience needed in over-seeing a congregation. He is to have one wife at a time. If his wife & he divorce, that is a "mark" which will take a long time to heal, thus his resignation is in order. When the stated qualification was written, polygamy was common, yet God's plan was one man for one woman; Genesis 1:27; 2:20-24. God was attempting to say that he wanted His church workers to be normal and not as the polygamists or as the "Gays" of Sodom or of our society.