

body, but gives it to his wife, how can he be permitted to unite with another? The bond is indissoluble; for he condemns all the divorces which were daily allowed by the philosophers, and not punished by the Mosaic law among the Jews. "A man shall not discard his wife, nor she depart from her husband:" why? Because they are united in an indivisible relation. "Not I but the Lord;" this direction is in the law of which God is the author: for when Jehovah testified in the beginning that the conjunction of a man and woman was so sacred that he should leave his father and mother for his wife, he asserted that the relation is indestructible. A son is bound by nature to his father and mother, and cannot be relieved from the yoke, much less can he be released from the tie of matrimony, which the Apostle denies can be destroyed either by dissensions or divorce. It is a covenant consecrated in the name of the Lord, which neither stands nor falls by the will of men. Other contracts depending upon human sanctions may be broken; but those who are joined in marriage cannot be separated nor live in any other state; and the believer ought to remain with the unbeliever, because divorce is averse from the Christian profession. When Paul asked, if he were not at liberty to lead about a sister wife; he declared the holiness of the union; how affectionate should be the connection between pious part-