

## The Ethics of Marriage and Divorce.

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“AND there came unto him Pharisees tempting Him and saying, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And He answered and said, Have ye never read that he that made them from the beginning made them male and female and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and the twain shall become one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why then did Moses command to give a bill of divorce-ment and to put her away? He sayeth unto them, Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery, and he that married her that is put away committeth adultery.” Matt. 19:3-9.

The text is a statement made by our Lord on the subject of marriage. The Pharisees had come to Jesus with a catch question in order that He might be led to commit himself and so run counter to the generally accepted standards of his day. But Jesus embraced the opportunity to declare the mind of God on the whole marriage question, and as the subject of marriage, including di-