Did God Threaten to Sin Against Israel ?!?

By WmTipton

Assertions/conclusions of this article

We will show briefly here that divorce is not always sin.

Supporting Evidence

Some say that divorce is always hardhearted and 'sin' by default.

The problem with this logic is that God Himself threatened Israel with divorce...to put her away....for her sins against Him...for breaking His covenant.

Here we see that He actually has given her a bill of divorce...

And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

(Jer 3:8 KJV)

Now, if we are to believe that divorce is ALWAYS sin, then we have no choice here but to declare that God Himself has just taken a sinful step in giving this bill of divorce to Israel.

Now, lets look at what God ACTUALLY said about putting away/divorcement.

For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

(Mal 2:16 KJV)

God hates putting away (divorce).

Now why would God do what He hates? Why would He threaten to do something that He Himself finds detestable?

He did it because His covenant was being continually broken by Israel. In their own hardheartedness, they made idols to worship and followed after strange gods, they committed great fornications with each other, and defiled His covenant of marriage.

So even though God does hate divorce/putting away, He Himself not only threatened it, but also ended that covenant with Israel that He made with the forefathers out of Egypt.

The fact is, if some erroneous doctrines were right, then we would also have to accuse God of being 'hardhearted' as well, since some also believe that ALL divorce is hardheartedness. We know that God is not hardhearted.

God did not threaten to sin against Israel. His threat of divorce and subsequent ending of that covenant was for onging trespasses committed against that covenant by a hardhearted and obstinate people.