

# Protestant Churches Discuss Rules on Divorce-Remarriage

By LOUIS CASSELS  
 Washington—(AP)—A new view of a long-disputed Bible passage is leading some Protestant churches to modify their rules on divorce and remarriage. The trend is away from rigid church laws and toward a policy of treating each individual case as a problem for pastoral counseling.

Two Lutheran groups—the United Lutheran Church and the American Lutheran Church—recently have liberalized their rules to reflect the new policy. Southern Presbyterian took a step in the same direction by giving local church committees power to decide eligibility for remarriage.

There is vigorous debate on the question in the Methodist and Episcopal churches and several other denominations. Churchmen who favor the new policy insist that it does not involve any watering-down of the Christian teaching that marriage is a lifelong union and that divorce is contrary to God's law. They say it is simply a matter of applying the spirit of the whole Christian gospel, rather than the letter of a particular Bible passage, to the human tragedy of a broken marriage.

The opposite point of view—held by many Protestants as well as Roman Catholics—was stated by Pope Pius XII. He said Jesus instituted clear and specific "laws of marriage" which the church "has no right

to change." The doctrinal dispute centers around Jesus' answer to the pharisees who asked his attitude toward divorce. The answer, recorded in Matthew 19:9 of the King James version of the Bible was: "Whoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and who marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

On the basis of this passage, many Protestant churches condone divorce if a mate has been unfaithful, and permit remarriage in the church of the innocent party to a divorce granted on grounds of adultery.

Modern biblical scholars, however, have challenged the authenticity of the phrase "except it be for fornication." They point out that the gospels of Mark, Luke and John recorded Jesus' answer without the disputed phrase.

They also say it is inconceivable that Jesus would deliver a fundamental moral teaching about the indissolubility of marriage and then provide a loophole.

Strict application of Jesus' words as recorded by Mark, Luke and John would mean that a church could never approve of divorce and remarriage under any circumstances.

**Catholic Stand**  
 This is the stand which the Catholic church has taken. The

absolute Catholic ban on divorce applies only to marriages which the church views as having been "valid" in the first place. A Catholic who marries outside the church is regarded as having never been truly married and a civil divorce terminating such a marriage is no bar to a subsequent church marriage.

Some Protestants are moving in the opposite direction. They take the view that Jesus was upholding a spiritual ideal—the permanence of the marriage union—rather than laying down an inflexible "law" against divorce.

Theologians who hold this view assert that nowhere else in the gospels is Jesus recorded as "legislating." On the contrary, they say, he taught that God's overriding purpose is to redeem men and that all moral laws should be applied in the light of His love, mercy and forgiveness.

This viewpoint was expounded at some length in the statement on marriage adopted by the United Lutheran church at its convention in Harrisburg, Pa., this month.

"Marriage," as ordained by God, is a life-long indissoluble union," the Lutherans said. "...any breaking of the marriage bond involves sin and suffering."

**First Job Of Church**  
 Therefore, the statement said, the first job of the church is to try to hold marriage together by extending its help to husbands and wives "when they face difficulties threatening their unity."

"Where marriage failure and divorce occur among Christian people, the church should recognize its involvement in the failure and seek to lead all concerned to repentance and forgiveness."

If the question of remarriage of a divorced person arises, Lutheran pastors "should make their decisions on the particular circumstances in each case." They should be guided by the principle that while "divorce and remarriage do violate God's order, nevertheless God in His love does accept the sinners and deals with them according to His need."

The Lutheran stand doubtless will have considerable impact on some other denominations in which there is lively debate on the issue.

But it seems evident that a large body of Protestants, perhaps the majority, and the entire Roman Catholic communion will hold fast to the traditional view that Jesus made a very explicit and final pronouncement on divorce and that his followers have a clear duty to obey it.



The Rev. and Mrs. Ellmore J. Gilstrap study pictures in a recent issue of the Turner Memorial Home publication at their home at 523 North Bartlett. They plan to live at Turner following Mr. Gilstrap's retirement from the ministry this month. The pastor of the Central Church of Christ and his wife helped organize the Turner home in 1933 for retired ministers. Last month the Medford Ministerial association voted Mr. Gilstrap a life membership in the local group.

## Rev. E. J. Gilstrap To Retire After 45 Years In Ministry

The Rev. Ellmore J. Gilstrap will preach his last sermon at the Central Church of Christ, Sunday, Nov. 11, when he will retire after 45 years in the ministry.

Rev. Mr. Gilstrap, who has been pastor of the local church for nearly four years, plans to return to the Turner Memorial home at Turner, Ore. next summer to make his home. He, with his wife, Mary, started the home for retired ministers in 1933.

During his stay in Medford, the Central Church of Christ has improved their church property, purchased a parsonage, and has increased the church membership by 75.

Mr. Gilstrap is a graduate of the International Christian Bible college, now the Minneapolis Bible college, and was field secretary of Eugene Bible university, now Northwest Christian college, for six years. Prior to 1933 he was Texas Christian Missionary association's state evangelist and has been pastor of churches in Texas, Kansas, Washington, and California.

In 1933 he led in organizing and incorporating the Turner Memorial home, a cottage home of homes for retired ministers of Christian churches. He was one of the trustees for the home and was superintendent there for 17 years. During that time his wife was matron at the home.

Prior to Mr. Gilstrap's leaving the home, the assets increased to more than \$125,000 and most of the present buildings were

built. In 1949 he became the pastor of a church in Fowler, Calif.

When the board of trustees of the Turner Memorial home learned that Mr. Gilstrap was planning to retire they voted to provide a home of the Gilstraps. The home is now partly built and will be finished next summer.

After leaving Medford they plan to visit their four daughters in Fresno, Calif., Houston, Texas, Chicago, and Boise, Idaho. One daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fowler, formerly lived in Medford.

**Phoenix Baptists Have New Pastor Starting Nov. 4**

Phoenix—New pastor of the First Baptist church of Phoenix is the Rev. Perry M. Johnson, who will begin his duties there Sunday, Nov. 4.

The Phoenix church was organized in August 1952 as a mission project of Temple Baptist church in Medford. Since its organization the First Baptist church has purchased property on First and Rose sts. where it is completing an auditorium structure as part of a larger building program.

The Rev. Mr. Johnson is also part time chaplain with the Veterans Administration Detachment at Camp White, a position he has held since 1950. Recently he served the First Baptist church of Canyonville as interim pastor.

Mr. Johnson is moderator of the Siskiyou association of Baptist churches. Prior to coming to Medford he was with the Calvary Baptist church in Klamath Falls and was a former instructor in New Testament Greek and registrar at the Golden Gate Southern Baptist Theological seminary in Oakland.

His wife is the former Miss Elaine DeVries of Phoenix. Their son, Richard, is a third year medical student at the University of Oregon. The Rev. and Mrs. Johnson are living in Medford at 819 West Thirteenth st.

## Second Interest Series Starts Sunday At Church

"Paul's Letters to Local Churches" will be one of the interest groups at the second series of the School of Christian Living at the First Methodist church.

This group will be taught by Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb, minister of the church. Dr. Balcomb did graduate work in this area of the Bible. This interest group will meet in the Weeker Memorial chapel at 5:30 p.m.

A second interest group will be led by the Rev. George A. Trobough, "Family Forum," and the first session will be called "Beyond the Vows." This interest group will meet in the library, room 105, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This will be a sharing group experience.

The "Members' class," led by the Rev. Anna Gorby, will meet in the Schweitzer room, number 102.

The School of Christian Living is planned for family participation, with interest groups for all ages. A nursery is provided, and classes for kindergarten, primary and junior age children will be conducted. The Junior High MYF will also meet from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. with Miss Mary Vanderberg as counselor.

Snack supper will be held from 6:30 until 7 p.m. and provided by the Wesleyan Service guilds. Following the snack supper, Mr. Trobough will conduct the "Inspiration Time" around the supper tables, from 7 until 7:30 p.m.

**CHRISTIAN WORKERS MEET**  
 The young Christian Workers of Sacred Heart parish will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory of the church. A parish directory of all organizations of the church is being prepared by the group and a progress report will be given at the meeting.



**L. G. "SHY" MORTHLAND**

Has Done A FINE JOB FOR US — LET'S KEEP HIM IN OFFICE To CONTINUE This Fine Public Service!

- Taxes for County Administration are Low. Only 4 Mills This Year. This Levy Voted on by the People. (Detention Home and Jackson County Museum.) Jackson County has no indebtedness. The mark of an Efficient, Economically Operated County Government. No Direct Levy for County Government.
- Plans were submitted to the Juvenile Committee by Shy Morthland and the architect and have been accepted. Construction specifications will be given to the contractors December 1st. Bids will be opened January 7th, and construction to begin soon after.

• Distribution of \$683,859.09 to county school districts to redeem their bonded indebtedness.

## MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED

- | ROADS  | BRIDGES  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applegate Road</li> <li>2. Little Applegate Road, paving</li> <li>3. Dead Indian Road</li> <li>4. Butte Falls Road</li> <li>5. Butte Falls to Prospect Road</li> <li>6. Meadows Road</li> <li>7. South Fork Little Butte Creek Rd.</li> <li>8. Valley View Road (Medford)</li> <li>9. Foothill Road</li> <li>10. Elk Creek Road</li> <li>11. Thompson Creek Road, paving</li> <li>12. 40 miles of pavement</li> <li>13. Savage Creek Road—paved (Rogue River area)</li> <li>14. West Evans Creek—paved (Rogue River area)</li> <li>15. Evans Creek Road (Rogue River area)</li> <li>16. Coleman Creek Road</li> <li>17. McLaughlin Drive—paved</li> <li>18. Modoc Road—paved</li> <li>19. Rogue River Drive</li> <li>20. East Main Road to Highway 66, Ashland—Under construction</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bear Creek at Hot Springs</li> <li>2. Bear Creek at Talent</li> <li>3. Bear Creek on Table Rock</li> <li>4. Bear Creek on Upton Road</li> <li>5. Beaver Creek</li> <li>6. Little Applegate River</li> <li>7. Star Gulch</li> <li>8. Evans Creek on Meadows Road</li> <li>9. Red Blanket Creek</li> <li>10. McNeil Creek—Butte Falls Road</li> <li>11. Neil Creek—Dead Indian Road</li> <li>12. Jackson Creek bridges</li> <li>13. 2 Griffin Creek bridges</li> <li>14. Kanos Creek</li> <li>15. Snider Creek</li> <li>16. Willow Creek</li> <li>17. Dry Creek</li> <li>18. Griffin Creek—Numerous</li> <li>19. McKee Bridge</li> <li>20. Tresham Lane—Sams Valley</li> </ol> |
- STEEL BRIDGES**  
 1. Steel Bridge—Evans Creek at West Fork.  
 2. Carberry Bridge—Bridge  
 This Was Done Plus the Flood Damage Work

"Shy" serves all the people, county wide, regardless of their party affiliations.

**RE-ELECT L. G. "SHY" MORTHLAND**  
**As Your Working County Commissioner**

**VOTE - X - 124** Pd. Adv. Morthland for County Commissioner Committee, Tom R. Williams, Secy.

## Gerald Dross Leaves On 2-Year LDS Mission

Gerald Dross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dross, Kings highway, Medford, will leave Monday, Nov. 5, to fill a mission for the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints among the Spanish-American speaking people with headquarters at San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Dross, a graduate of Medford High school, was a guest at a testimonial given in his honor at the Latter Day Saints chapel, 648 South Ivy st., Sunday, Oct. 28.

Before leaving on the mission he attended Provo university in Utah for two years.

## Church Loyalty Month Starts At Eastwood

Eastwood Baptist church, North Keene Way dr. at Ridgeway, has designated November as church loyalty month. Every family in the church fellowship has been invited to make regular church attendance their personal goal for the month.

This Sunday the pastor, the Rev. Richard M. Jones, will be continuing his once a month communion meditations on the church covenant. The theme of the sermon will be "A Closer Walk." The chancel choir will sing, "Lead Me, Lord" with E. Ron Rice as baritone soloist.

The hand of fellowship will be extended to new members who have come into the church during October.

The interesting series of discussions on Christian Brass Tacks will be continued in the evening service at 7:30 p.m. "What Is Sin?" is the topic for discussion. The evening is ended with an inspiration time.



The Rev. Harold Chalfant, missionary field representative of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, will be guest speaker Sunday, Nov. 4, at the Foursquare church, East Jackson and Biddle rd. Mr. Chalfant, who has spent more than 20 years preaching from South America to Asia and Africa, will illustrate his talk with slides. He will also have on exhibit artifacts from the many countries he has visited.

KEEP A **WEATHER EYE** on the **Big Buys** You'll Find Here!

**OK MARKET**  
 1202 North Riverside  
 OPEN EVERY NIGHT 'TIL MIDNIGHT

## Unitarian Fellowship Plans Sermon Reviews

The Unitarian Fellowship of Medford and Ashland will have its next three meetings based on three Unitarian sermons of the past. They are: "Unitarian Christianity," by William Ellery Channing; "The Divinity School Address," by Ralph Waldo Emerson; and "The Transient and the Permanent in Christianity," by Theodore Parker.

Dr. Arthur Kreisman, professor of literature at Southern Oregon college, will lead the three meetings. Copies of the sermons in condensed form and a commentary prepared by Dr. Kreisman will be available.

The meeting on the first sermon will be held at 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4, at the Labor Temple, 24 1/2 South Grape st., Medford. It is open to the public.

The Fellowship meets the first and third Sundays of each month. Recently plans were made to hold the first meeting of each month in the Labor Temple, Medford. The second meeting of each month, on the third Sunday, will be held in the home of various members.

**TO SHOW FILM**  
 The color film, "Ming May of Malaya" will be shown at the First Methodist church, Ashland, Sunday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. during the world outlook institute for the family.

# Paul Selby

**WANTS YOUR VOTE FOR MAYOR**



The Public Interest Will Be His First Consideration Always! Experienced Progressive Leadership.

**Vote for Medford's Progress—VOTE FOR SELBY**

8 Years' City Councilman, 3 Years President of Council, Chairman of Finance, Police, Fire Committees, Past President Junior Chamber of Commerce, Past President-Medford Kiwanis Club, Member Chamber of Commerce, Medford Business Man for 16 years.

Clayton W. Lewis, Campaign Manager—Paid Pol. Adv.

now you can **COOK EVERYTHING** in the book **AUTOMATICALLY!**



2 AUTOMATIC OVENS!  
 HAND-OVER GRILL!  
 ROAST-RIGHT THERMOMETER!  
 MEALTIMER!

**Hotpoint**  
 new **PUSHBUTTON AUTOMATIC** electric range

Fry, broil, simmer, and stew... deep-fry, bake and grill—all automatically! New time-and-temperature control for range-top cooking. New Custom-Cooker and Server. New banquet-size, 2-way Rota-Grill. Calrod® Golden griddle optional now or later. All this and your choice of Hotpoint Colortones or Classic White.

The Finest in Automatic Cooking as low as **\$5.20** a week

**See a FREE Demonstration**

# DeLuxe Double Oven RANGES

## \$319.95

**COOK YOUR ENTIRE THANKSGIVING DINNER AT ONE TIME**

"Look to Hotpoint" for the Finest—First!

# City Appliance, Inc.

"Jackson County's Exclusive Hotpoint Dealer"

127 North Central Ave. • MEDFORD, OREGON • Phone 3-5306  
 137 East Main • ASHLAND, OREGON • Phone 9-5831

**OPEN WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 'TIL 9 P.M.**