

QUESTIONS ABOUT

Marriage

Divorce

Remarriage



The Serious Matter of Marriage and Divorce



Marriage: A Serious Matter

- **A Lifetime Commitment**
- **God's Original Intent for Marriage**

Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3, 6

- **A Covenant Relationship**

Mal. 2:14; Hos. 2:2; Num. 30:2; Eccl. 5:4-6



Marriage: A Serious Matter

- **Specific Limitations**

- **One Man, One Woman [No Polygamy]**

Genesis 2:24

- **One Man, One Woman [No Same-sex Marriage]**

Genesis 2:24



Marriage: A Serious Matter

- The Spiritual Parallels God Used
- The Relationship of God and Israel

Isaiah 50:1; Hosea 2:2

- The Relationship of Christ and the Church

Ephesians 5:22-33



What God Says About Divorce

- Not Ever Intended by God
 - “Let Not”

Matthew 19:3, 6; Genesis 2:24

- God Hates Divorce

Malachi 2:16



What God Says About Divorce

- Permitted — For ONE Reason Only
- “Sexual Immorality”

Matthew 19:6-9; 5:32

- The Greek Word’s Meaning

πορνεία (*porneia*)

“...used of illicit sexual intercourse; stands for, or includes, adultery.”

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

“...of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse.”

Arndt & Gingrich Greek-English Lexicon

“generally, of every kind of extramarital, unlawful, or unnatural sexual intercourse.”

Analytical Lexicon of the Greek NT

“prop. of illicit sexual intercourse in general.”

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the NT



What God Says About Divorce

- What is NOT Permitted
 - The Various Reasons of Man [Legal]
[Different from state to state.]
 - Abuse, Abandonment, Pornography
[All are unacceptable, all demand repentance & correction.]



The Consequences of Divorce

- Immediate Consequences
- Unlawful Divorce: Neither Party May Remarry
- Lawful Divorce: Who May Remarry?

Matthew 19:9; 5:32; Mark 10:11; Luke 16:18

*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.*

But some say we should read it in this way:

*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced **[except for sexual immorality]** commits adultery.*

Some will then argue, “That is illogical; if the man who puts away his wife for sexual immorality is no longer married to that woman, why is she still considered ‘married’ and, thus, cannot remarry without committing adultery?”

What must be considered in every case of marriage:

The man, the woman, the vow, and God’s action.

‘Married’ does not mean ‘bound,’ and ‘unmarried’ does not mean ‘loosed’ [free to remarry].

John 4:16-18

*“And I say to you, **whoever** divorces his wife...”*



Is this man now married, or unmarried?

“...and marries another, commits adultery”

If unmarried, why is it adultery upon marrying another?

But what about cases where the man puts away for 'sexual immorality'? Aren't both then free to remarry?

Matthew 19:9

In Matt. 19:9a, the exception clause tells us [by inverse] that if the divorce was for sexual immorality, he does not commit adultery upon marrying another.

But the text here says nothing about a woman put away for sexual immorality. So, is she free? How can we know?

First, in no Bible passage does the 'exception clause' apply to the woman put away. It is just not there.

Here, we must consider a factor often overlooked: the vow.

Let's go back to God's parallel of marriage to the relationship of God & Israel:

Isaiah 50:1; Hosea 2:2

- **God and Israel were 'married' by covenant.**
- **Israel violated the covenant by spiritual adultery.**
 - **God put Israel away bec. of her unfaithfulness.**
 - **God promised He would make a new covenant.**

Was Israel now free to be joined to another god?

In all cases where two parties enter into a relationship by a vow, covenant, or contract, if one party breaks the agreement, or fails to live up to the agreement, the ‘innocent party’ may take the ‘guilty party’ to court, and they will be compelled to fulfill their agreement. In no situation [except fraud] is the ‘guilty’ released from the agreement and freed to make an agreement with another, and are often punished in addition to this judgment.

Where would we get the idea that God treats the marriage vow any differently than any other?



The Consequences of Divorce

- Long-Lasting Consequences
- Remarriage(s)
- Eternal

1st Corinthians 6:9, 10; Hebrews 13:4



The Consequences of Divorce

- Far-Reaching Consequences
- Generations Will be Affected Negatively
- Churches [Brethren] Will Be Affected

“For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce.”

Malachi 2:16

*“Therefore what God has joined together, let not
man separate.”*

Matthew 19:6