



WHAT THE BIBLE
HAS TO SAY ABOUT...
MARRIAGE,
DIVORCE
AND REMARRIAGE!

(A Mid-Week Bible Study Lesson Series)

*“And these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.”*
-1st Corinthians 13:13 (New International Version)

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SOME OPENING KEY AND CRUCIAL COMMENTS!

AS WE BEGIN this study on this most important topic, it is imperative and important that we understand that the goal of the CHRISTian is to be **REDEMPITIVE AND NOT PUNITIVE!**

That is to say, our goal is not to judge others in a self-righteous, condescending way. Nor is it our goal to place ourselves on some pedestal of purity while looking down on others who “*fall short*” of our glory.

Instead, our goal is to seek to reconcile, restore and rescue the hurting, humiliated and humbled believers in our band- and love them back into SPIRITual health!

That being said please consider the following concrete conclusions according to The Scriptures!

1. **GOD** loves us one and all.
2. **GOD** has given every person free will.
3. **GOD** has a divine plan for each of our lives.
4. **GOD** desires that we follow His plan for marriage! And that means that we marry a fellow CHRISTian believer and stay married until “*death do us part*”.
5. **GOD** hates divorce.
6. The blood of **JESUS CHRIST** cleanses us from all sin, sickness and dis-ease- including the scars left in our lives from broken marriages. Even when the marriage was broken because of our own infidelity!
7. **GOD** desires that we be in holy, healthy and happy marriages.
8. **GOD** has graciously permitted divorce for the CHRISTian in certain cases! That is to say, when the reason for the divorce is one of the four reasons we find in Scripture. Specifically: The death of a spouse- (*this brings to an end the Covenant Marriage of believers*); desertion by a spouse, adultery and SPIRITual deadness (*marked by abuse etc.*)
9. **GOD** and **GOD** alone, determines when a divorce for the believer is legitmate!
10. **GOD** has the first, middle and last word in all marriages! And His word is **LOVE!**
11. **GOD** only acknowledges a divorce when it lines up with **HIS WORD!** That is to say, when a CHRISTian divorces according to **HIS WORD!** All other divorces are “*illegitimate*” in the sight of Almighty **GOD!** **GOD** views marriage as a **HOLY COVENANT-** not just a human contract!

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT...

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE!

INTRODUCTION: Tonight we begin in earnest a serious and oh so important Bible Study on the matter of “*Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage*”... according to The Scriptures.

Let there be no doubt that this subject is considered by some to be a “*hot potato*”! This subject is considered by some to be a mystical and mysterious matter in the Bible. And, if the truth be told this subject is one that is often avoided by CHRISTians because we are afraid of finding out what the Bible really has to say on the matter.

However, by the love, mercy and grace of our **GOD**- our aim, goal and objective over these next few weeks is to see clearly what the Bible has to say about Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage.

Now then, let’s consider the following opening information.

The subject of Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage is Relevant!

It affects ALL of us! If it is true (*and it is*); that strength of people and nation can be found in their families- than this subject of grave importance!

The matter of Divorce & Remarriage in particular seems to have **INFECTED** many of us! Too often in today’s world, people make decisions too quickly! That is to say, we often watch as we make choices based on emotion alone. Choices that are neither in tune nor in touch with The **HOLY SPIRIT** and His direction in our lives. These choices far too often include the decision to divorce and/or remarry. When we divorce and remarry outside of the parameters as laid out in The Scriptures, we in affect **INFECT** ourselves with sordid sin- and we most often do it **UNKNOWINGLY!**

Finally, lets ALL understand that **GOD LOVES US ONE AND ALL!** He loves us all THE SAME! His love for us **DOES NOT CHANGE BECAUSE OF OUR BAD CHOICES OR WRONG DECISIONS!**

So then, with that said- let us all understand that the goal of this Bible study series is to *Educate* us on what **GOD’S WORD** has to say; better *Equip* us to help others who are dealing with this matter; and Encourage all of us to live in the *Emancipating* freedom of a right relationship with **GOD** through **JESUS CHRIST**- *Empowered* by the fact that The blood of **JESUS** has already paid the price for our sins and we are free to live victorious CHRISTian lives!

Now then, let’s begin our study-

1.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!

(Written by: Shirley Elkhart & Sung by: Bonnie Raitt- 1985)

*People are talking,
Talking 'bout people
I hear them whisper,
You won't believe it!
They think we're lovers
Kept under cover
I just ignore it,
But they keep saying:
We laugh just a little too loud
We stand just a little too close
We stare just a little too long
Maybe they're seeing something we don't, Darlin'.*

*I feel so foolish,
I never noticed
You'd act so nervous,
Could you be falling for me?
It took a rumor to make me wonder
Now I'm convinced I'm going under
Thinking 'bout you every day
Dreaming 'bout you every night
Hoping that you feel the same way
Now that we know it,
Let's really show it, Darlin'.*

*Let's give them something to talk about
Let's give them something to talk about
Let's give them something to talk about
How about LOVE, love, love, love?*

*Let's give them something to talk about
A little mystery to figure out
Let's give them something to talk about
How about LOVE, love, love, love?*

*"He who finds a wife finds a good thing,
And obtains favor from The Lord."
-Proverbs 18:22*

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN FOR

MARRIAGE!

(What The Bible Has To Say)

I. **MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT- NOT A CONTRACT!**

If we are to correctly understand what marriage was originally designed to be, we must examine the very first marriage.

A. **The Creation of Marriage-**

*“Then God said, ‘**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;... So God created man in His own image;**
In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Then God blessed them, and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea,
Over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on earth.’”
-Genesis. 1:26a-27 & 28 (New King James Version)*

*“And the Lord **God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone;**
I will make him a helper comparable to him.’
Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air... But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.
And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept;
And He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.
Then the rib which The Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and
He brought her to the man. And Adam said:
‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of man.’”
-Genesis 2:18, 19a 20b – 23 (New King James Version)*

Marriage began with **GOD!** It all started with The Sovereign **GOD** of the universe! The very first marriage we ever see in all of humanity was instituted by **GOD**. He presided over the first wedding ceremony!

And notice several other interesting facts.

1. **GOD** saw the need Adam had for a helper “*comparable to him*”!
2. **GOD** created exactly what Adam needed- using substance that came from Adam himself.
3. **GOD** brought the woman Eve to Adam and introduced them to one another.

Now let's address this matter of Marriage being a divine *COVENANT* and not just a human contract!

Here are some key questions for our consideration:

1. What is a covenant?
2. Where do we find them in Scripture?
3. What does the word mean?

WORD STUDY: The Hebrew word for “*Covenant*” is the word: “*Beriyth*”; (*ber-eeth*); or “*Berit*”. It is a “*Binding agreement between two parties...*”

The first time we see the word “*Covenant*” used in the Bible is in Genesis chapter six and verse eighteen. In Genesis chapter six we see something *VERY, VERY, VERY IMPORTANT!*

Here it is:

GOD establishes a “*Covenant*” with Noah... with man! He then goes on to explain it in Gen. 9:8-17. In this Covenant **GOD** vows to never destroy the earth again by water! (*Remember it will be “fire next time”!*). This covenant is called the Nohaic Covenant. It means the “*binding agreement GOD made with Noah*”.

You know the good thing about our **GOD** is that He never, ever, ever, breaks His promise!

*“God is not man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
-Numbers 23:19 (New King James Version)*

The Bible records four other Covenants:

1. The Abrahamic Covenant- Genesis 17:7-27
2. The Priestly Covenant- Numbers 24:10-13
3. The Davidic Covenant- 2nd Samuel 23:5
4. The New Covenant - Jeremiah 32:40

Finally now, let's consider the Marriage Covenant as seen in The Scriptures!

In the book of Malachi, we find a most interesting situation. In this book our **GOD** deals with the treachery and deceit of Israel in matters of faith and allegiance.

In this book we see the relationship between **GOD** and His people described in “*Marriage Language*”. As we read this book (*and the first two chapters in-particular*) we can see just how deeply our **GOD** feels about marriage. And how seriously He takes it.

Let’s read Malachi 2:10-17!

*“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? **Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning; the covenant of the fathers?**”*

*Judah has dealt treacherously; and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For **Judah has profaned The Lord’s holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god.***

May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob the man who does this, *being awake and aware, Yet who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts!*

*And this is the second thin you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and crying; so **He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.***

Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

But did He not make them one, having a remnant of The Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

*‘For **the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce,** for it covers one’s garment with violence,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘Therefore take heed to your spirit that you do not deal treacherously.’*

You have wearied the Lord with your words; yet you say, ‘In what way have we wearied Him? In that you say, ‘Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, And He delights in them,’ or ‘where is the God of justice?’”

-Malachi 2:10-17 (New King James Version)

Notice some key things:

- **GOD** is dealing with Israel with regard to their relationship with Him!
- **GOD** says that “*Profaning the Covenant*” is dealing treacherously with one another!

- **GOD** says that Judah has profaned “*The Lords holy institution which He loves*” by marrying the “*daughter of a foreign god*”!
- **GOD** “*cuts off*” the man who does this! And **GOD** no longer regards/receives their offering with “*goodwill*”.
- **GOD** calls the marriage relationship between a husband and wife a *COVENANT*! Read Malachi 2:14 again:

“... *Yet she is your companion
And your wife by covenant.*”
-Mal. 2:14

Finally we read clearly how **GOD** feels about divorce: The Bible says He hates it!!!

The key point we want to make here is that **GOD** calls marriage a Covenant!
Man calls marriage a Contract!

As CHRISTians, we are to view marriage as the Covenant that **GOD** created and not the contract we’ve tried to turn it into.

The difference between a Covenant and a Contract are monumental to say the least.

II. **The Concrete Purpose(s) For Marriage!**

We know that **GOD** never, ever, ever does anything on accident! He never performs a miracle to simply show off His power! He never preaches a sermon so that we can simply hear Him speak! Everything our **GOD** does has divine purpose to it!!!

There was purpose in the creation of the earth, water, creeping things, crawling things, birds of the air, fish of the sea, the sun, the moon and the stars! In like fashion our **GOD** has His own divine purpose(s) for marriage!

The question is what are they? What does **GOD** intend for us to learn in marriage?

1. **GOD** wants to reveal Himself to us in marriage!

“*Let Us make man in Our image; according to Our likeness...*”
-Gen. 1:26a (NKJV)

- a. Marriage is a place where we can learn about “*One-ness*”- what it means to become “*one flesh*”.
- b. Marriage is a place where we can discover what it is to be SPIRITually and not just physically connected to another person.

- c. Marriage is a place where we can learn the importance of things such as sharing, selflessness, dependence and ultimately agape love!
2. **GOD** wants to provide combat loneliness and alone-ness for us!
- “And the Lord **God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone;’**”*
-Gen. 2:18a (NKJV)
- a. Marriage is an institution divinely inspired and instituted by **GOD** Himself, to combat our innate need for companionship. Marriage is designed to eradicate loneliness and alone-ness from a ‘*human perspective*’.
- b. Marriage is designed to give us a human companion for life.
4. **GOD** wants to give us a ‘*help meet*’; a ‘*helper*’; a co-partner and companion that will help (*not hurt*); us on our journey through life!

“I will make him a helper comparable to him”
-Gen. 2:18b (NKJV)

- a. **GOD** has given us His **HOLY SPIRIT** as The “*Helper*” (*read: John 14:25 & 26*)! However, in marriage, **GOD** has also graciously provided for us human help- in the form of our spouse!
5. **GOD** wants man to be the steward and procreator He has called man to be!

*“Then **God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on earth.’”***
-Gen. 1:28 (NKJV)

Now we see that another purpose for marriage was that the earth would be filled with people! **GOD** wanted Adam and Eve to have children!

PERSONAL NOTES!

III. The Key Commitments We Make In Marriage!

Let's consider in brief some holy highlights with regard to what **GOD'S WORD** has to say about human commitment in marriage.

The Role & Responsibility of the Husband: Ephesians 5:18-32

To provide for his wife and family: Ref.: _____
To protect his wife and family: Ref.: _____
To parent/raise his children in The **LORD**: Ref.: _____

The Role & Responsibility of the Wife: Ephesians 5:18-32

To respect her husband: Ref.: _____
To rear her children in The **LORD**: Ref.: _____
To maintain a good house: Ref.: _____

NOTE: It is the mutual responsibility of the husband and wife to love one another with the love of The **LORD**. Read: I. Cor. 13:1-3; Eph. 5:18-33
It is the mutual responsibility of the husband and wife to satisfy one another's physical and sexual needs. Read I. Cor. 7:1-5 below:

*“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:
It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless,
Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife,
And let each woman have her own husband.*

*Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her,
And likewise also the wife to her husband.*

*The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does.
And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body,
But the wife does.*

*Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time,
That you may give yourselves to for a time,
That you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer;
And come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of our lack
of self-control.”*

-1st Corinthians 7:1-5 (New King James Version)

I CAN'T MAKE YOU LOVE ME

(Written by: Michael Reid & Allen Shamblin, Sung by: Bonnie Raitt- 1985)

Turn down the lights,
Turn down the bed
Turn down these voices inside my head
Lay down with me,
Tell me no lies
Just hold me close,
Don't patronize – Don't patronize me

Chorus:

Cause I cant make you love me if you don't
You cant make your heart feel something it won't
Here in the dark,
In these lonely hours
I will lay down my heart and I'll feel the power
But you wont, No you wont
cause I cant make you love me,
If you don't

I'll close my eyes,
Then I won't see
The love you don't feel
When you're holding me
Morning will come
And Ill do what's right
Just give me till then
To give up this fight
And I will give up this fight

Chorus:

Cause I can't make you love me if you don't
You can't make your heart feel something it won't
Here in the dark,
In these lonely hours
I will lay down my heart
And Ill feel the power
But you won't, No you won't
cause I cant make you love me, if you don't.

*“Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget,
nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you.”*

-Proverbs 4:5 & 6

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE!

INTRODCUTION: Divorce is without a doubt a matter of great concern for many people in the world today. In fact, if the truth be told, divorce and remarriage are issues of paramount concern for people both within and without the church of **JESUS CHRIST**.

In truth, the matter of divorce and remarriage has affected both the pulpit and the pew alike. That is to say that those who have experienced divorce and remarriage range from Sunday morning pew sitters to choir members. They range from Sunday School Teachers to Deacons and Deaconess. They range from Usher's to Associate Ministers; and from Evangelists to Missionaries! Indeed this matter of divorce and remarriage is a serious one!

And perhaps the greatest confusion in this most very vital area- is found when we hear the varying accounts of so called "*Bible teaching*" on the subject. I mean, it seems as though everyone has an opinion on what the Bible says on the subject and we have various interpretations as to what **GOD** means to say on the matter of divorce and remarriage.

Well then, our plan and purpose this evening is to hear **GOD'S** voice on this matter... and His alone! Our goal in this lesson can be found in a quote from a preaching hero of mine, namely Dr. A. Louis Patterson Jr. Dr. Patterson offers the following statement in relation to what the goal of the gospel Preacher should be. It is to: ...

*"Say again, what **GOD** has already said,
because He said it!
And that means He wants it said".*

-Dr. A. Louis Patterson Jr., Pastor Mt. Corinth M.B.C., Houston, TX.

Too often, we want to sugar-coat the gospel, or make it say something it really doesn't say- so that we are justified in our decisions and behavior. Our hope this evening is to see people *saved, healed, delivered, strengthened and set free* by the power of The **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Let's study **GOD'S WORD** together!

I. GOD'S IDEAL FOR MARRIAGE!

The “*fall of man*” as recorded in the book of Genesis, affected man in every way. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey **GOD**, mankind fell from the perfect, holy and righteous place that **GOD** intended us to be.

With the arrival of sin in the Garden of Eden, again we repeat that mankind was not only affected, but also INFECTED in every way! The autumn season was ushered in for the first time! And grass began to fade, leaves began to fall from trees and the stem of the rose developed thorns! But of all that went haywire, perhaps the most devastating of all was the fact that mankind began to move away from **GOD'S IDEAL** for marriage and family?

As we consider this first point tonight, it's imperative and important that we recognize **GOD'S IDEAL FOR MARRIAGE!** The point we wish to make is that our **GOD DOES NOTHING ON ACCIDENT!** Rather He does everything on incident! When **GOD** creates, He does so with divine purpose in mind.

The same is true when it comes to marriage and family. As we consider the matter of divorce and remarriage, we must start with the understanding that this **WAS NOT GOD'S ORIGINAL** purpose for marriage!

- Are you ready? Here we go.

➤ REMEMBER THESE TWO KEY FACTS!

1. **GOD'S** original desire was that marriage (*between one man and one woman*); would last for a lifetime!
Read: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-24
2. **GOD** hates divorce! *Read: Malachi 2:16*

Here's why **GOD** hates divorce: Because it breaks His C_____!

PERSONAL NOTES!

II. BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE WITH REGARD TO A SPECIFIC ORDEAL!

NOW LET'S CONSIDER THIS CRUCIAL AND KEY PASSAGE:

This great Old Testament book of Deuteronomy provides us with **GOD'S** Law concerning Divorce. Let's consider **GOD'S WORD** on this matter as recorded by Moses, the great "*Law Giver*".

- Let's read: Deut. 24:1-4 in both the *New King James Version* and the *New Living Translation* of the Bible!

*"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her,
And he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand,
And sends her out of his house,
When she has departed from his house,
And goes and becomes another man's wife,
If the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce,
Puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,
or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,
Then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife
after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the Lord,
And you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God is giving you
As an inheritance."*

-(Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (New King James Version))

*"Suppose a man marries a woman but later discovers something about her that is shameful. So he writes her a letter of divorce,
Gives it to her, and sends her away.
If she then leaves and marries another man
And the second husband also divorces her or dies,
The former husband may not marry her again, for she has been defiled.
That would be detestable to the Lord. You must not bring guilt upon the land
The Lord your God is giving you as a special possession."*

-(Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (New Living Translation))

In Deuteronomy Chapter twenty four and verses one through four- We have very clear, simple and easy to understand instruction from The **WORD** of **GOD** with respect to a very *Specific Situation* the Children of Israel could (and in fact did); find themselves in from time to time!

At this point in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses provides **GOD'S** instruction to Israel on how they are to behave in this new land, the *Promised Land* that **GOD** has given to them. **GOD** provides instruction on several areas of life. Including worship, leadership, government etc. In the first four verses of Chapter twenty four we have specific instruction on how the matter of Divorce and Remarriage! (*Read also: Deut. 6:1-25; Deut. 7:1-26; Deut. 11:1, 8 - 9, 13-17*)

Here's the scenario we see in this passage.

- ✓ *A man and woman are married.*
- ✓ *The man discovers something “unclean”, “shameful”, “indecent”, “bad”... about his wife..*
- ✓ *The man decides to divorce her.*
- ✓ *He must write out a “Certificate of Divorce” and give it to his wife..*
- ✓ *She then leaves and marries another man.*
- ✓ *The marriage to the second husband ends in either divorce or the husband's death.*
- ✓ *The woman cannot re-marry the first husband!*
- ✓ *Because it is an “abomination”, “detestable” in the sight of **GOD**!*

Now let's point out a few major matters right off the top!

1. **GOD DOES NOT** promote, approve of, condone, or desire divorce for His children in this passage!
2. The women in this culture had very little, to no rights AT ALL- especially as it relates to marriage.
3. The reason for divorce in this passage **COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ADULTERY!** (*Read: Numbers 5:11-28; Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22*) Adultery was punished by death!!

PERSONAL NOTES!

Now then, let's consider some *Key Investigative Questions* as we look at this passage- and line it up with the teaching of The **LORD JESUS** in the New Testament.

IV. DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE... THE REAL DEAL!

Please hear loud and clear that the words above do not say: *Divorce and Remarriage... The New Deal!* **NO!** Rather they read: *"Divorce and Remarriage... The Real Deal!"* The reason for this is simple! **GOD DOES NOT HAVE A NEW DEAL** for a "new day" with regard to Divorce and Remarriage for the CHRISTian!

Rather, our **GOD** gives us clear instruction on this matter- that is good for *EVERYDAY!* As we move now and consider more great passages from the Bible with regard to this topic let's keep this fact in mind.

QUESTION: *WHY was a certificate of divorce given in the first place?*

ANSWER: *The Pharisees asked JESUS the very same question. JESUS said: "Because of the hardness of your hearts" (Read: Matt. 19:7 & 8)*

*"They said to Him, '**Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?**' He said to them, 'Moses, **because of the hardness of your hearts,** permitted you to divorce your wife's, but **from the beginning it was not so.**'"*
-Matthew 19: 7 & 8 (New King James Version)

➤ **Consider this same passage in the Young's Literal Translation and the New Living Translation of the Bible.**

They say to him, 'Why then did Moses command to give a roll of divorce, and to put her away?' He saith to them—
*'Moses **for your stiffness of heart did suffer you to put away your wives,** but from the beginning it hath not been so.'*
-Matt. 9:7, 8 (Young's Literal Translation)

"Then why did Moses say a man could merely write an official letter of divorce and send her away?" they asked. Jesus replied,
*"Moses **permitted divorce as a concession to your hard-hearted wickedness,** but it was not what God had originally intended."*
Matt. 9:7, 8 (New Living Translation)

QUESTION: *WHAT constituted grounds for a divorce in the Bible?*

ANSWER: *This was the issue at hand when the Pharisees raised the question about divorce to **JESUS**. At least two schools of thought on divorce and remarriage existed during **JESUS**' day.*

- 1) One prominent Rabbi taught a very liberal interpretation of this Old Testament Law regarding divorce.
- 2) Another prominent Rabbi taught what was considered a very conservative interpretation of this Old Testament Law regarding divorce.

ANSWER: The short answer to this question according to **JESUS** is "**SEXUAL SIN!**" (*Read: Matt. 19:9a*)

*"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**,
And marries commits adultery;"
-Matthew 19:9a (*New King James Version*)*

Consider the following Word Study on the words: "**Uncleanness**" and "**Sexual immorality**" as used in relation to this subject in the Old Testament passage found in *Deut. 24:1*; and the New Testament passage found in *Matt. 19:9*.

WORD STUDY: *Deut. 24:1-* "**Uncleanness**": 6172 עֲרֻוָּה [*`ervah /er-vaw/*] n f. From 6168; TWOT 1692b; GK 6872; 54 occurrences; AV translates as "**nakedness**" 50 times, "nakedness + 1320" once, "**shame**" once, "**unclean**" once, and "**uncleanness**" once. 1 **nakedness, nudity, shame, pudenda**. 1A pudenda (implying shameful exposure). 1B **nakedness of a thing, indecency, improper behaviour**. 1C **exposed, undefended** (fig.).

1

WORD STUDY: Matt. 19:9- “**Sexual immorality**”: 4202 πορνεία [*porneia* /por-ni-ah/] n f. From 4203; TDNT 6:579; TDNTA 918; GK 4518; 26 occurrences; AV translates as “**fornication**” 26 times. **1 illicit sexual intercourse.** 1A **adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.** 1B **sexual intercourse with close relatives;** Lev. 18. 1C **sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman;** Mk. 10:11,12. **2** metaph. **the worship of idols.** 2A of **the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols.**

2

QUESTION: *WHO in the Church has the right to divorce and remarry?
AND under what conditions?*

ANSWER: The spouse whose partner has violated the marital laws of **GOD** can seek a divorce. And **ONLY** when the violation lines up with the **WORD** of **GOD** with respect to grounds for divorce!

For further clarification on this matter let’s consider the instruction **GOD** gives His Church through the writing of the Apostle Paul in the book of First Corinthians.

Read: I. Cor. 7:1-39

This very key and crucial chapter of The Holy Scriptures provides us with much help and hope with regard to marriage, divorce and remarriage.

There are at least two reasons (*in addition to the sin of adultery already listed by our LORD in the Gospel of Matthew- chapters five and nineteen*); the Apostle Paul records in this chapter as grounds for divorce. They are:

1. **The Death of a spouse:** Read: 1st Cor. 7:39
2. **The Matter of Desertion by a spouse:** Read: 1st Cor. 7:12-15

n n: noun or neuter

f f: feminine

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

TDNTA Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume

GK Goodrick-Kohlenberger

AV Authorized Version

²Strong, J. 1996. *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) . Woodside Bible Fellowship.: Ontario

A quick examination of the context of 1st Corinthians chapter seven reveals several things that are designed for our learning and blessing. While we've mentioned some of these things already, we can nevertheless benefit from this brief breakdown of this crucial and key chapter.

• A Commitment to Mutual, Sexual Satisfaction in Marriage:	I. Cor. 7:1-5
• A Comment on Being Saved, Single & Satisfied:	I. Cor. 7:6 & 7
• A Case for Self Control Among the Unmarried:	I. Cor. 7:8 & 9
• A Command to Keep Your Marriage Vows:	I. Cor. 7:10 & 11
• A Clear Instruction for CHRISTians Regarding Desertion:	I. Cor. 7:12-24
• A Clarification for Single Saints and Righteous Widows:	I. Cor. 7:25-40

CHRISTians have are “permitted” to divorce according to **GOD’S** law when one of these three things take place.

- a) *Adultery/Sexual Sin (Porneia): Sexual sin that is out of line with The WORD of **GOD!***
- b) *Desertion: The willful decision by the unbelieving spouse to leave the physically leave the marriage relationship.*
- c) *Death: The physical cessation of life.*

In each of these cases the CHRISTian is **FREE TO REMARRY!**

Now you may ask: “*But Pastor, what about matters such as continual/on-going physical, emotional, verbal abuse etc.?*”

In cases such as these a CHRISTian can divorce their spouse! In matters such as ongoing physical and emotional abuse- the spouse who is hurting and harming the other is SPIRITually dead!

- **REMEMBER:** **GOD** has called us to peace! (*see: 1st. Cor. 7:15*)
- **REMEMBER:** **GOD** came that we might have abundant life! (*see: John 10:10*)

PERSONAL NOTES!

QUESTION: HOW should a CHRISTian go about getting a divorce according to The Scriptures?

ANSWER: We should take the matter to a seasoned CHRISTian (*i.e. Your Pastor, Minister, Counselor*); and seek righteous reconciliation *BEFORE* going to a secular court and filing papers.

GOD'S COURT!

(A Look At The Role of The Church In Civil Matters)

➤ **LET'S EXAMINE A CIVIL AND INTIMATE** matter in the church of the Church:

Read: 1st Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:1-6!

GOD does not condone divorce for just any reason!

NICK OF TIME

(Written & Sung by: Bonnie Raitt- 1989)

A friend of mine she cries at night,
And she calls me on the phone
Sees babies everywhere she goes
And she wants one of her own.
She's waited long enough she says
And still he can't decide
Pretty soon shell have to choose
And it tears her up inside...
She's scared...scared shell run out of time.

Scene 2

I see my folks, Theyre getting old,
I watch their bodies change...
I know they see the same in me,
And it makes us both feel strange...
No matter how you tell yourself,
Its what we all go through...
Those lines are pretty hard to take
When theyre staring back at you.
Scared you'll run out of time.

Chorus

When did the choices get so hard?
With so much more at stake.
Life gets mighty precious
When theres less of it to waste.
Scared shell run out of time.

Scene 4

Just when I thought I'd had enough
All my tears were shed...
No promise left unbroken,
There were no painful words unsaid.
YOU (*The LORD JESUS*) came along and showed me
How to leave it all behind....
You opened up my heart again
And then much to my surprise.

I found LOVE, love in the nick of time.

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine."

-Song of Solomon 3:1

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT RE-MARRIAGE!

INTRODUCTION: Having searched the Scriptures concerning what the Bible has to say about Marriage and Divorce, we move now into the third and final portion of our Bible Study, namely the issue of “*Remarriage*” and the believer.

With that being said, we acknowledge the fact that our first order of business this evening will be to continue in what we pray is a smooth transition on this entire matter of “*Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage*”. And, this being the case we will attempt- first and foremost this evening to conclude our instruction with regard to the matter of “*Divorce*” and then continue with clarification toward our final conclusion.

I. CHRISTIANS AND CONFLICT... A NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE **PART 1!**

a. **The Problem:** 1st Corinthians 5:1-13

- The church at Corinth was a Real Church with Real Problems!
- The specific problem as outlined in this situation centered around
S_____ I_____!

*“It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality** among you,”*
-1st Cor. 5:1a (New King James Version)

- Moreover this particular situation so heinous, illicit and sick that it was not even “*named among the Gentiles*”.

*“... and such sexual immorality as is not even named **among the Gentiles**—”*
-1st Cor. 5:1b (NKJV)

- To put it plainly, a man in the congregation was sleeping (*that is, having sexual relations*) with his F_____
W_____!

*“... that a man has his **father’s wife!**”*
-1ST Cor. 5:1c (NKJV)

- Finally, we note that this is a matter that the Apostle Paul has **ALREADY GIVEN INSTRUCTION TO** in terms of how it is to be handled! But the Church ignores his initial instruction!

“For indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.”
-1st Cor. 5:3 (NKJV)

Now Let's Continue Studying All of Chapter Five!

b. The Prescription:

“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may bde saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

-1st Cor. 4 & 5 (NKJV)

Some Key phrases to pay attention to:

1. *“In the name of The Lord Jesus Christ”.* Verse 4
2. *“Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of The Lord Jesus.”* Verse 5
3. *“A little leaven leavens the whole lump?”* Verse 6
4. *“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.?”* Verse 7
5. *“I wrot to you ... not to keep company with sexually immoral people.”*
“... not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner- not even to each with such a person.” Verse 9 & 11

II. CHRISTIANS AND CONFLICT... A NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE PART 2

Without question- chapter five of First Corinthians is describing a conflict in the church. Let's pay close attention now as the Apostle Paul provides us with further insight into how the believer/the Church is to respond when we have internal conflict in the body of Christ.

Read: 1st Corinthians 6:1-20

- CHRISTian COURT!

It is crystal clear in this chapter that the Apostle Paul is providing instruction that calls for righteous judgment in matters of conflict among believers!

Our **GOD** gives us clear instruction through the Apostle Paul here. Let's consider a some helpful highlights.

1. CHRISTians should seek righteous judgment from fellow seasoned CHRISTians first and foremost! 1st Cor. 6:1-6
Let's Pause Here And Read: Matt. 18:15-17 & Galatians 6:1 & 2
2. CHRISTians should not seek to deceive or cheat one another! 1st Cor. 6:7-10
3. CHRISTians should always keep in mind that we have all been redeemed by The blood of **JESUS CHRIST** and washed clean because of HIM! 1st Cor. 6:11.
4. CHRISTians should recognize that we should not do everything we can do (*according to the law*); just because we can do it! Even if we know we'll "*get away with it*". That is to say, no man will know what we've done! 1st Cor. 6:12-20
5. Every CHRISTian is connected (*joined*) to The Lord! What we do matters to **GOD**! 1st Cor. 6:17

REMEMBER:

"You may be the only Bible some people ever read!"

PERSONAL NOTES!

III. THE MATTER OF THE CHRISTIAN AND REMARRIAGE!

*“A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.**”*

-1st Cor. 39 (NKJV)

CONCLUSION:

A CHRISTian ***CAN REMARRY AFTER DIVORCE!***

However, certain things ***MUST*** line up!

They include the facts that:

1. The CHRISTian who remarries **MUST** marry another believer- if they want **GOD’S** approval of this marriage!
2. The CHRISTian who remarries **MUST** understand **GOD’S** holy plan for marriage- if they want a successful marriage!
3. The CHRISTian who remarries **MUST** understand **GOD’S** love, mercy and grace- if they want a successful marriage!

✚ Consider the following commentary:

[The role of the church and of believers must always be redemptive. With God, forgiveness is as if it never happened. No sin or tragedy is beyond God’s forgiveness.

After seeking and receiving God’s forgiveness, which all do repeatedly, a woman who remarries has a new understanding of God’s incredible grace. She must then seek anew an understanding of God’s plan for marriage (Gen. 2:24), commit herself wholeheartedly to pursuing His plan, and consider her vows of marriage binding before the Lord (Matt. 19:5, 6).

See also Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2, 3; 1 Cor. 7:10–16, 27, 28; notes on Commitment (Matt. 16); Divorce (Matt. 19); Marriage (Gen. 2; 2 Sam. 6; Prov. 5; Hos. 2; Amos 3; 2 Cor. 13; Heb. 12); Stepparenthood (Gen. 35)]

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³Thomas Nelson, I. 1997, c1995. *Woman's study Bible* . Thomas Nelson: Nashville

FILL IN'S

1. Page 9: **COVENANT**
2. Page 17: **Sexual Immorality**
3. Page 17: **Fathers Wife**