

Marriage Divorce and Remarriage

Intro: Marriage is one of the great blessings God has given to man. After the creation of man, God said it was not good for man to be alone; Gen. 2:18 “And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*” Thus, God created woman and instituted the marriage relationship.

I. MARRIAGE

A. Marriage is the joining of a man and woman together by God as husband and wife.

B. What constitutes a marriage?

1. There must be the decision by both parties (man and woman) to live together as husband and wife.
2. Both parties must be eligible for marriage (they must meet God’s requirements).
 - a. One who has never been married.
 - b. One who has lost their mate through death.
 - c. One whose mate has been put away for fornication.
3. They must meet any requirements of the state for entering the marriage relationship provided they are harmonious with God’s law
4. God then joins these two in that holy union of matrimony; Mat. 19:6 “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

C. The man and woman live in that marriage until death dissolves the relationship.

1. Gen. 2:23-24 “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. ²⁴Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
2. The vow we make before our mate and before God is “till death do us part.”

II. DIVORCE

A. Mal. 2:16 “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.”

B. Since God does the joining, only God can do the un-joining.

C. The General law

1. Luke 16:18 “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”
2. Rom. 7:2-3 “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.”

D. The exception to the general law.

1. Mat. 5:32 “But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”
2. Mat. 19:9 “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

E. Some false views:

1. Aliens are not amenable
 - a. This says that only children of God are subject to God’s marriage laws.
 - b. Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
2. Matthew 19:9 is a covenant passage
 - a. This says that it only applies to Christians.
 - b. It would not apply to:
 - (1) a non-Christian married to a non-Christian
 - (2) a non-Christian married to a Christian
 - (3) a Christian married to a non-Christian
 - c. “Whosoever” means anyone and everyone.
3. Abide in the same calling
 - a. This says that one must stay with the mate they are with 1 Cor. 7:20 “Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.”
 - b. If one is a drunkard, liar, homosexual, or etc., they must remain such.
4. One cannot “live in” adultery
 - a. This holds that adultery is an act while marriage is a relationship or state.
 - b. Col. 3:5-7 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”
5. Desertion
 - a. 1 Cor. 7:15 “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*: but God hath called us to peace.”
 - b. They teach the bondage is the marriage bond.
 - c. Bondage:
 - (1) This word never refers to the marriage bond.
 - (2) In the perfect tense which means something completed in the past once and for all and not needing to be repeated.
 - (3) If it refers to marriage it would mean they were married but never married—nonsense.
 - (4) It means that the Christian is not bound to renounce their faith for the sake of retaining the unbelieving mate.
6. Civil law overrides God’s law in a divorce (or a “weak bond view”).

7. Baptism washes away sin
 - a. Since baptism washes away sin, they can remain with the one they are with.
 - b. Baptism avails nothing unless there is first repentance.
 - (1) Luke 13:3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 - (2) Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 - (3) Repentance demand that one get out of his sinful situation; being baptized while remaining in sin makes the baptism worthless.
8. Repentance does not demand restitution
 - a. There are some things which cannot be restored (if someone should kill another, you cannot restore the life).
 - b. If one steals some money, repentance would demand they return the money.
 - c. Luke 19:8 “And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.”

Conclusion: Marriage is a wonderful gift God has given us; Gen. 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Marriage is an honorable state; Heb. 13:4 “Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Only those three groups discussed previously have the right to marry; all others will stand condemned by God.