

Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage

- Many in the world have come to the conclusion since everything from food containers to inkjet printers, having become disposable, that marriage can be taken lightly and can be just as easily cast aside. But not according to God and His ultimate plan. And those who don't believe in God, who are not of Christ's bride, are still subject to the marriage laws that originated from Him since the beginning of time (*Mat 19:4*). Where would we be if not for our spouses? Eve was created as Adam's "help (*Heb.5828- aid*) meet" (*Gen 2:18, along with other passages that deal with the advantages associated with having spouses.*) The teachings concerning marriage should also apply to those of the single men and women of the church since all Christians make up the bride of Christ.

1Co 7:32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried (*single*) man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. *33* But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, . (*This is not to discourage marriage. Those of us who are married have more on our plates to distribute our time, energy and attention to.*) *34* and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

- So there's nothing wrong with being single. In fact, it was the apostle Paul's desire at that time that the unmarried Christians would stay so (*v. 7*) because of the then future persecution that eventually came from the Roman Empire.

The first marriage from the beginning.

- Which came first? The chicken or the egg? Neither. The rooster came first.

Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. *22* And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. *23* Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." *24* Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast (*Heb.1692- to cling or adhere*) to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (*Heb 1320- body, person*).

Gen 5:2 Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and named them Man (*KJV-Adam Heb.121, the same as 120- mankind*) when they were created.

- When two people become one, there can be no closer relationship. So it is with Christ and His church.

Eph 5:31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast (*Gk.4347- to glue to, that is, to adhere*) to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. (*Gk.4561- body*)" *32* This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (*This was the relationship through which God was able to show the intimacy between Christ and His body, the church. **) *33* However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects (*Gk.5399- be in awe of*) her husband. (*These are commands to married couples!*)

*1Co 12:12 For just as the body is **one** and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are **one** body, so it is with **Christ**.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit (*Gk.5293- to subordinate, to obey*) to your own husbands, as to the **Lord**. (*How a wife respects her husband reflects on her obedience to Christ.**) 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even (*Wives, are you encouraging you husbands to be the spiritual leader of your household? Do others know and respect him as such? ***) as (*on the same level as*) **Christ** is the head of the church, **His** body, and is **Himself** its **Savior**. 24 Now as the church submits to **Christ**, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (*Taking into account 1 Cor 7:15 when her husband is not a Christian she is first "to obey God rather than men"[Acts 5:29]*)

*Pro 31:30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the **LORD** is to be praised.

**Pro 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. (*Something of her reputation added to his being so well known.*)

Isa 62:5 For as a young man marries (*Heb.1166- to be master; hence to marry*) a young woman (*Heb.1330- to separate; a virgin [from her privacy]; sometimes [by continuation] a bride*), so shall your sons (*Heb.1121- a son [as a builder of the family name]*) marry (*Heb.1166- be master*) you, and as the bridegroom (*Heb.2860- husband*) rejoices (*Heb.4885- delight[s]*) over the bride, so shall your **God** rejoice (*Heb.7797- to be bright, that is, cheerful*) over you.

Jer 3:20 Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to **Me**, O house of **Israel**, declares the **LORD**.

- As spiritual Israel (*Rom.2:28-29; O.T. wife of God- children of Israel*) **God**, through **Jesus**, rejoices over us as **Christ's** bride (*i.e., the church*)!

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, **as** (*on the same level as*) **Christ** loved the church and gave **Himself** up for her, (*Husbands are to love their wives to the point of dying for them. Verse 21 states we are to submit to each other "in the fear of God" but I do believe the relationship between husbands and their wives goes even deeper.*)

Eph 5:28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as **Christ** does the church,

- Would we want the relationship between **Christ** and the church imitating our own marriages? Husbands, what if **Christ** never died for **His** bride the church? Where would that leave all of us? Wives, how would you think **Christ** would feel toward **His** church if **His** bride had the same level of respect toward **Him** that you have for your husbands? Would any of us want to be divorced from **Christ**? Based on the direct correlation of Eph 5:31-33 and Gen 2:22-24 (*husband cleaving to his wife*) our marriages are to reflect on how we, as **His** church, are to mirror our marital relationships in the same manner as we would expect our spiritual relationship as the church to be with **Him**. As **Eve** came from **Adam**, so we, as the body of **Christ** the church, came from **Christ**. **Adam's** side was

pierced to give (*physical*) life to Eve (*his wife*). Christ's side was pierced to give (*spiritual/eternal*) life to those of His body, the church (*His wife*).

Eph 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. -KJV (*Gen 2:23*)

Joh 6:53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (*Again, are we consuming Christ?*)

Concerning Divorce

Mal 2:16 For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel... (*ASV*)

- It has been said that losing a beloved spouse to death is emotionally, psychologically and financially less stressful than going through a divorce and the constant reminder of having a stain or scar that such an event ever even took place. Especially when children are involved!

Mat 5:31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ (*Gk.647- something separative, that is, [specifically] divorce*) 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except** on the ground of sexual immorality (*There’s the exception!*), makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (*I.e., the wife that is divorced for any reason other than the exception Jesus gave, even if she was not at fault, cannot remarry since she would be committing adultery as well as would the one who marries her. Marriage is a three-way covenant; between husband, wife and God and the only way God will honor that separation is through the exception Jesus gave. And until a scriptural divorce has been recognized by the law of the land, the innocent party is still to recognize their covenant to the Lord. In other words, if the one spouse has an affair, the other must practice celibacy until legally divorced so as not also to be guilty of breaking the three-way marriage covenant with God. See Rom 13*)

Mat 19:8 He said to them, “Because of your (*speaking to the Pharisees who at that time were under the Old Law*) **hardness of heart** Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning** (*pre-Mosaic*) it was not so. 9 And I say to you: **whoever** divorces his wife, **except** (*Gk.1508- if not*) for sexual immorality (*Gk.4202- harlotry [including adultery and incest]*), and marries another, commits adultery.” (*We aren’t to believe there are scriptures that give us reason [Gk.1223- the channel of an act. Webster: a cause or motive.] to divorce. Reason gives the idea of “necessity” while exception gives the idea of “choice”. A spouse has the choice to divorce once their mate has been unfaithful to the “marriage bed” (Heb 13:4) but isn’t under obligation to, especially where repentance has been made. There are many who, when these teachings hit home, will try to find such passages to justify ‘other’ exceptions but they don’t exist now, or ever did, no matter how hard one might try to find them. There is only **one exception**, which is the selfish act of adultery.)*

1Co 7:10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the **Lord**): the wife should not separate (*Gk.5563-place room between*) (*This may be what is termed as ‘abandonment’ which nothing in all scripture states is ‘reason’ or another ‘exception’ for divorce.*) from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. 12 To the rest I say (*via inspiration- Gal 1:12*) (I, not the Lord) (*not*

from what Christ told Paul in person in Arabia- Gal 1:17) that if any brother (*Christian*) has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. 13 If any woman (*another Christian because, in the context, this letter was written to the saints at Corinth*) has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is made holy (*Gk.40- morally blameless. Thayer: "prepared for God with solemn rite, pure, clean"- Mal 2:15- "...seeking...Godly offspring"*) because of his wife (*their marriage is legitimate/scriptural*),, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean (*born and or raised out of wedlock making them illegitimate [especially under the Mosaic law]*), but as it is, they are holy. 15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. (*Gk.1402- to enslave [literally or figuratively] from 1401- a slave. The Greek word used here for bondage, δουλωω [doo-lo'-o], does not refer to marriage. It means that the believer is not obligated [under obligation or out of being a slave which denotes the authority of a master] and should not be forced to leave their service to God [Act 5:29] to keep the marriage intact [Lk 14:26]. But they are still to obey what Jesus said in Mat 19:9 concerning the only exception for divorce. Heb 13:8; Mal 3:6; Rev 22:18-19) God has called you to peace (keeping the peace just might turn things around where getting angry won't).* 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Enslaved: In Rom 7:2 the word "bound" is used in conjunction with marriage (*Gk.1210- to bind; δέω*) and has nothing to do with being enslaved. In 1 Cor 7:15 where "enslaved" is the Greek word δουλόω it was never meant that marriage is to be considered a form of slavery, only that the *Christian* spouse is not to be forced to leave the faith to follow the non-believer as what a slave would have been in obligation to his master.

Divorce: Heb.3748- a cutting away (of the matrimonial bond) that is, divorce.

Putting away: Heb.7971- to send away... (in a variety of applications)

Mal 2:16- divorce

Eph 4:25- sin (*Gk.659*)

1 Pet 3:21- filth of the flesh (*Gk.595*)

Questions

- If a married person becomes a *Christian* but their spouse doesn't, is that an **exception** given to divorce? What if a *Christian* was married to a non-*Christian* and the non-*Christian* spouse dies, can they then marry another non-*Christian*? Should a *Christian* who is single marry a non-*Christian*? Let's see what the scripture says on these very controversial teachings.

Rom 7:2 For a married woman is bound (*Gk.1210- Thayer, "to be bound to one: of a wife*) by law to her husband (*marriage*) while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the **law of marriage**.

1Co 7:39 A wife (*again, here speaking to the church at Corinth*) is bound (*Gk.1210- [by law of marriage]*) to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord** (*Only to someone of the opposite sex who is also scripturally qualified to marry.*).

1Co 7:40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think **that I too have the Spirit of God**. *(This covers those who argue certain writings of Paul were inspired and others were not and would say that Paul gave his own opinion on certain matters concerning marriage. So then, who today can make that distinction?)*

Only in the Lord

1Co 7:39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord**.

- In Eph 6:1 children are to obey their parents “in the **Lord**”. They are to obey whatever commands their parents give them as long as they don’t violate **Scripture**. Using that same thought but by adding “only” in the passage above narrows the widow’s choices down to where she can only marry a scripturally qualified man to become her new husband, i.e., a man who was never an adulterer or was never divorced for other than the exception the **Jesus** made.

2Co 6:14 Do not be **unequally yoked with** *(Gk.2086- to yoke up differently, that is, [figuratively] to associate discordantly [to conflict or clash])* unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? *(Like yoking a large bull with a small calf.)*

1Co 5:9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— **10** not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

- We are not to become so separate from people that we don’t associate with the world around us either. That would be going to the other extreme. How then would we be able to reach the lost with the gospel of **Jesus Christ**? *(Mat 28:19-20)*

“Under the Old Testament mixed marriages (i.e. Hebrews were married to people like the Canaanites) were condemned. Such marriages were not inherently wrong; they did pose a threat to Israel being a distinctive people and were a potential threat to many of God’s promises to Abraham.”
Brad Price

Exo 34:14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the **LORD**, **Whose** name is **Jealous**, is a jealous **God**),

- More often than not when a **Christian**, who is supposed to do things with a good conscience, gets involved with a non-**Christian** there can be the tendency to go against what is scripturally, ethically or morally right *(like Old Covenant Israel when they married among the Gentiles; and even before that when “the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive... they took as their wives any they chose” – Gen 6:1-6)* An example of this would be when a **Christian** makes a legal partnership with a non-**Christian**. By law the contract might be legal but there remains a tendency for the **Christian**, by influence of the non-**Christian**, to go against his conscience when making ethical decisions. If this is so true when it comes to business relationships, how much more then might it pertain to marriages? **Christians**, then, are permitted to marry **scripturally qualified** non-**Christians** since the marriage is still honored by **God’s** law but there could always be the tendency to favor the non-**Christian** spouse when making

decisions on spiritual matters in order to “keep the peace”. Way too often then, the Christian in this case, becomes less involved in Christ centered activities and more in the worldly. Eventually many fall away but not in every case.

On paper.

Jas 5:12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

- “Oh, but it’s only a contract like all other contracts!” Marriage is a covenant, whether spoken or written, between three persons; God, husband and wife. So, no, it’s not like all other contracts! If either of the two spouses breaks it, it thus is also broken with God. And if the bond is broken because of adultery, it would be the same as worshipping God in a way He doesn’t sanction. Remember Nadab and Abihu (Lev 10)?

Mat 12:36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless (futile) word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (There’s a recorder going on in Heaven. Unless we are repentant of our words, we need to be careful of what we say because that tape will be read back at the judgment. – Rev 20:12)

Concerning Re-marriage
Scripture dictates truth, not man

1Co 7:8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

- Paul was not here going against the only exception Jesus made, and as an inspired apostle who was influenced by Holy Spirit he wouldn’t. Remember, Father, Son (Jn 10:30) along with Holy Spirit (Lk 10:21; Jn 14:26) are all One in purpose (Gen 1:26). For anyone to make the claim that this passage nullifies (or, by inference, adds to what has not been stated) what Jesus said in Mat 19 is stating that Jesus contradicted His Own words and is thus reading into it for the sake of some personal agenda. If a person is not scripturally qualified, no matter how strong their sexual urges may be, they are not to be included in Paul’s reference here to those who “cannot exercise self-control” or that “they should marry” but should remain celibate.* And again, abandonment is not ‘another’ exception for divorce since neither Jesus nor the inspired writers said it is. There are no commands, examples or necessary inferences to back that claim.

* Mat 19:9 And I say to you: **whoever** divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.” 10 The disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” 11 But He said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have **made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of Heaven**. Let the one **who is able** to receive this receive it.”

1Th 4:2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the

will of **God**, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

- Sex outside scriptural marriage is “sexual immorality”. To “control his own body” takes a lot of self-discipline if the desire is to attain “sanctification” (*Gk.38- purification*).

Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, (*Here concerning marriage [as in all things]: The respect toward scriptural, undefiled truth, of the clean minded is different than that of the contaminated mind that use such to openly express themselves as being in contempt of the truth.*) but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **16 They profess to know God**, but they **deny Him by their works**. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

- How we act on the word of **God** determines our purity. Paul’s “desire” for the Colossian church was for them to “be filled with the knowledge of [God’s] will in all wisdom and **spiritual** understanding” (*Col 1:9*). Not everyone can understand or accept this, although those who are spiritually minded can.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the **Spirit Who** is from **God**, that we might understand the things freely given us by **God**. **13** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the **Spirit**, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **14** The natural person does not accept the things of the **Spirit of God**, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. **15** The spiritual person judges (*Gk.350- to scrutinize, investigate, interrogate, determine*) (*If we aren’t doing this concerning any and all scriptural doctrine without bias, we aren’t spiritual!*) all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. **16** "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?" But we have the mind of **Christ**.

- Those who make excuses or give seemingly incessant hypotheticals concerning marriage, divorce and re-marriage, must be themselves trying to justify, before **God** through man’s wisdom, their own (*or loved one’s*) marital conflicts as they relate to scripture.

1Co 1:20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not **God** made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Isa 55:8 For **My** thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways **My** ways, declares the **LORD**. **9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **My** ways higher than your ways and **My** thoughts than your thoughts.

- **Jesus** commented on things that would keep people from Heaven through hyperbole in **Mat 5:29-30**. Anything that would keep anyone from Heaven’s shores isn’t worth the momentary pleasure that would keep them from an eternity of bliss.

In conclusion.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as **Christ** loved the church and gave **Himself** for her, **26** so that **He** might sanctify her, having cleansed her **by the washing of water with the word**, **27** so that **He** might present the church to **Himself** in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she might be holy and without blemish.

Have you been washed so that when **Christ** appears you will be part of **His** bride?

Hear: Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in Him Whom they have not heard?"

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Repent: Act 3:19 ... "Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Confess: Mar 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Be baptized: Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing (*baptism*) of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Remain faithful: Rev 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

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