

What does the Bible say about Divorce and Re-Marriage?

1. What has always been God's plan from the very beginning? (Genesis 2:24)

- a. "...man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall _____ unto his wife: and they shall be _____ flesh."
- b. Does one flesh ever come apart? Or should it ever?

2. What did Moses' writings say about Divorce? (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

- a. "...then let him write her a bill of _____ ...and send her _____ ." (v.1)
- b. "...when she is departed...she may go and be _____ ." (v.2)
- c. If the second husband dislikes her and divorces from her, or if he dies, can she go back and remarry the first husband which she had before? (v.3,4)
- d. ... "it would be a _____ before the Lord..." (v.4)

3. In one situation the Nation of Israel orchestrated a national divorce campaign to divorce all those who had sinfully inter-married with the idolatrous and unbelieving nations around them. This effort went on for 3 months. They did this in an effort to regain God's favor (Ezra 10:10-19, 44; Nehemiah 13:23-27). We have no other examples of this in the Bible, and it does not say whether these people ever remarried or not.

4. What did Jesus say about divorce and remarriage? (Matthew 5:31,32)

- a. "...whoever shall put away his wife, _____ for the cause of _____, causes her to commit _____ : and whoever marries her that is divorced commits _____ ." (v.32)
- b. What is the only allowable reason Jesus gives for a divorce?
- c. What sin do you or the other person commit if you go and remarry?
- d. Jesus came to "..._____ the Law, and make it _____ ." (Isaiah 42:21)

5. How did the Pharisees question Jesus about Moses' Law? And how did He respond? (Matthew 19:3-12) *Note: Mark also describes this scene here (Mark 10:2-12)*

- a. They asked, "...is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for _____ reason?" (v.3)

- b. Jesus replied, "...have you not _____...a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall _____ unto his wife: and they two shall be _____ flesh?" (v.4, 5)
- c. "...they are no longer _____, but _____ flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let _____ man _____." (v.6)
- d. "...Moses, because of the _____ of your hearts allowed you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was _____ so." (v.8)
- e. "And I say unto _____, whoever will put away his wife, except it be for _____, and shall marry another, commits _____; and whoever marries her which is put away does commit _____." (v.9)
- f. Jesus' disciples immediately replied, "If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is _____ good to marry." (v.10)
- g. "But Jesus said unto them, All men cannot _____ this saying, except those to whom it is given...[Jesus then explains the various situations with eunuchs—unmarried men]...He that is _____ to _____ it, let him receive it." (v.11,12)

6. **What did the Apostle Paul teach us about these matters? (1 Corinthians 7:10-16)**

- a. "Unto the _____ I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife _____ from her husband." (v.10)
- b. "But and **if she depart**, let her r _____ u _____, or be r _____ to her husband: and let not the husband depart from his wife." (v.11)

When an unbelieving spouse is in the picture:

- c. "But to the rest speak I [Paul], not the Lord: If any _____ has a _____ who believes not, and she is pleased to dwell with him, let him _____ put her away." (v.12)
- d. "And the woman who has a husband who _____, if he be _____ to live with her, let her not _____ him." (v.13) *Note: Your holy example in the home may save their unbelieving souls and your children (v.14).*
- e. "But if the unbelieving depart, let him _____. A brother or a sister is not _____ in such cases..." (v.15). *Note: the unbeliever has not submitted themselves to God's word and there's not much a person can do if they choose to leave.*

A godly Christian author, Ellen White once gave counsel regarding a woman who had sinfully and mistakenly married an unbeliever: *(the case described by Paul above deals with someone who becomes a believer and is found tied to a spouse who does not believe. For a believer to go and marry an unbeliever is **strictly forbidden** in God's word (2 Corinthians*

6:14). *We should hope and plan to never be in such a situation!*) **The counsel below** deals with someone who made the sinful mistake of marrying an unbeliever while already knowing the truth:

- f. Mrs. White said of the woman, “**Her marriage was a deception of the devil. Yet now she should make the best of it**, treat her husband with tenderness, and make him as happy as she can without violating her conscience; for if he remains in his rebellion, this world is all the heaven he will have. But to deprive herself of the privilege of meetings, to gratify an overbearing husband possessing the spirit of the dragon, is not according to God's will. He wants this trembling soul to flee to Him...” –**Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p.101**. *Those words seem to be packed with wisdom for us!*
- g. *Note: this shows the binding nature of the marriage vows. Even if a believer made the mistake of marrying an unbeliever they must still try to make the best of the bad situation (without forsaking their relationship and duty to God).*

7. The Apostle Paul counsels us once more: (1 Corinthians 7:39)

- a. “The wife is _____ by the Law as long as her husband _____; but if her husband be dead, she is _____ to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” (v.39)

8. We cannot always fix the mistakes of the past. God calls us to work from the position or situation that we are in when we become converted to Him (1 Corinthians 7:17-22):

- a. “Each one should _____ in the situation which he was in when God _____ him” (v.20, NIV). “Were you a slave when you were called? Don’t let it trouble you—although, if you can gain your freedom, do so...” (v.21, NIV).

9. What are the basic concluding principles on divorce and remarriage?

- a. According to Jesus, the only acceptable reason for a divorce is sexual immorality or unfaithfulness in marriage. Even so, divorce is only permitted, not required.
- b. Even if you (being a converted Christian) are found married to an unbeliever you should still be faithful to your marriage vows. Don’t just leave them. Remain faithful to God.
- c. If an unbelieving spouse chooses to divorce and leave you, then you (as a Christian) are not under bondage to your old vows in that situation. If they do not want to be with you anymore, this you cannot avoid, you are free to marry a believer.
- d. Marriage vows last for all of life until your spouse is dead, then you are free to marry another if you so choose. If you divorce or separate from your spouse, then you should remain unmarried or be reconciled to them.
- e. Technically, if your spouse has divorced you, and remarries, then they have committed adultery. That is biblical grounds for a divorce, which means you are free to remarry.