

What the Holy Bible says about divorce and remarriage.

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Hebrews 13: ⁴Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

What does the word of God actually say about divorce and remarriage. Lord willing, with his help I shall give an explanation to the scriptures as I understand them. I will present the evidence, but you must seek the Lord Jesus Christ for his truth and interpretation in all things for yourself and how to proceed if you find yourself in this situation or in need to help someone else. I have included just some of the verses found in the Word of God so if the Lord leads please continue to research this matter further in Jesus Christ's name yourself Lord willing, with sweet Holy Spirit's help.

To begin with let's clarify the biblical definition of a marriage. It is a legal contract between one man and one woman who unite and become as one flesh in the eyes of Father God. It is a holy union. So, when you get married you are taking a binding oath before God, before witnesses, and before the law. This oath is meant to last for a lifetime. But as we know sometimes things change. So, what does the Bible say about marrying and remarrying.

Remarrying after death

When either the man or wife dies in a marriage then the remaining person has fulfilled the vow until its end. The remaining person who is alive is no longer bound by that marriage vow that lasted until the death of their spouse. They can remarry if they choose in the Lord. This is an allowance but not a requirement.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9; 39

⁸I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I.

⁹ But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. By these verses in the instruction from Paul we see he's talking to those who have lost their spouses and for spiritual or ministry reasons he is recommending that they remain single. However, he's clearly telling the person they can remarry who is in the position of widow or widower.

³⁹ The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Romans 7:2 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.

What does the Holy Bible say about divorce?

First, let's determine by Holy Scriptures what Father God in Heaven thinks about divorce.

Malachi 2:14-16

¹⁴ Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

¹⁵ And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

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.

Father God hates divorce. Marriage was created to be a lifetime commitment according to the Bible and when one is joined in marriage, they become one flesh in the eyes of God.

Matthew 19:15-16

⁵ And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

⁶ Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Moses had allowed the children of Israel to give laws through God for divorce as found in Deuteronomy 24 listed below. But we know in Matthew 19:8 Jesus clarified that these laws were given because of the hardness of the people's hearts not because God desired it.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.
2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.
3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;
4 Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Matthew 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

Reasons to be able to divorce according to the Holy Bible

Desertion:

In the below verses 1 Corinthians 7:11-15 we find how Paul is instructing through the Lord, instructions for the married couple and how the wife shouldn't depart from her husband but if she has, she is to remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband but not after either one has been remarried to other people. (Discussed below) The husband is instructed not to put her away, to divorce her. Then he goes further to address an unbelieving spouse in verses 12 through 15. Verse 15 states but if the unbelieving depart, [leaves, deserts] then to let him depart. A brother or sister is not under bondage in such a case.

1 Corinthians 7:10-15

¹⁰ And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

¹¹ But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

¹² But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

¹³ And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

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.

The word bondage in verse 15 is the Strong's Greek word douloo #G1402 and means: enslave literally or figuratively.

The Thayer's Greek Lexicon clarifies it better: under bondage, held by constraint of law or necessity, in some matter.

This means according to the Greek word understanding the believing wife is no longer legally restrained to remain married, and my understanding is she can remarry at this time, but please pray about it in Jesus Christ's Name.

Physical abuse?

The holy Bible doesn't actually address the issue of physical abuse as a justification for divorce, but it does give instructions on how the husband/wife is supposed to treat one another (Remember There's no respect of persons with God. Romans 2:11) in these scriptures below:

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Corinthians 7:3 Let the husband render unto his wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

Ephesians 5:22-25

²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

If he's professing to be a Christian, he is supposed to act like this:

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

The Bible commands all Christians to be gentle in their dealings with one another and for husbands to be understanding in their wives and to treat them as 1 Peter 3: 17 says. Therefore, all forms of emotional, verbal visual, and sexual abuse would be considered sin and forbidden.

One thing that can be done is if they attend a church then the Christian woman can call her pastor or some of the elders of the church and after prayer, the husband's actions should immediately be addressed, and he should come under discipline. He should repent. If he does not, he can be excommunicated, which implies that that church will no longer believe in his profession of faith of being saved. It does not make him an unbeliever, but it does declare that that church does not believe he is truly saved. So, in the eyes of the church the woman is now married to an unbeliever which takes us back to 1 Corinthians 7: 15 which says but if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or sister is not under bondage in such case: but God hath called us to peace.

Another point to pray about concerning abuse and desertion in a marriage is it is the abdication of marital responsibility. But you will still need to seek Jesus Christ's will in this matter in such cases.

Adultery

Adultery is a biblical ground for divorce but even though it is grounds for divorce, that does not automatically mean if there is adultery/sexual sins committed in the marriage that this is the step you should take. Remember God's desire is for marriages to stay together. However, if adultery is something you cannot work through, if you choose to divorce on those grounds, then you are free to remarry.

Adultery or sexual sins is one of the legitimate reason one can seek divorce in the eyes of Father God in a marriage. Here are a few of the verses reflecting this.

Matthew 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.

Fornication in this verse is Strongs G4202 Porneia which means illicit sexual intercourse, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals, intercourse with close relatives, with divorced man or woman, etc. We find most of these listed in Leviticus 20:10-21.

Matthew 5:31-32

³¹ It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

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.

Again, it is the same word Porneia used for the word fornication in verse 32 also. So, we now know that adultery or sexual sins as we now know it refers to is biblical grounds for divorce for the one in the marriage who remained faithful to their spouse.

Luke 6:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Romans 7:3 ³ So 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.

Mark 10:11-12

¹¹ And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

¹² And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

These scriptures spoken by Jesus Christ also shows us that if a divorce is not legitimate on the grounds he supplied from the Holy scriptures, then the remarriage is not legitimate. And if the divorce is legitimate then so is the remarriage legitimate. What one can understand from these scriptures is that adultery seems to untie the marriage knot, but the allowance of remarriage is not explicit. In the above verses it sounds like the woman who is divorced will at some time remarry. And if she does, unless her first marriage was dissolved by adultery (on the part of her husband), her second marriage will make her an adulteress. This also goes vice versa for both the man or woman because God is no respect to person as Romans 2:11 tells us. It may be legal according to the laws of the land, but it is not sanctioned in God's eyes. These above supplied Scriptures clearly state that remarriage after a divorce is adultery, except in the instance of "marital unfaithfulness or abandonment/desertion."

Remarrying an ex-spouse who has been remarried.

If you are divorced because of adultery and your ex-spouse marries again, and then you're wanting to remarry this same ex-spouse this type of action is called an abomination before the Lord because it is considered a defilement of the body. You're not supposed to remarry that person again according to the Holy Bible. See the verses below.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

¹ When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

² And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

³ And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;

⁴ Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Jeremiah 3:1 They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

Even when adultery is committed, a couple can, through God's grace, learn to forgive and begin rebuilding their marriage. God has forgiven us of so much more. Surely, we can follow His example and even forgive the sin of sexual sins in a marriage (Ephesians 4:32). However, in many instances if a spouse is unrepentant and continues the immoral behavior. That is when a divorce can be given and be accepted by God when done according to His Holy Scriptures.

In summary, God's Holy Word makes it clear that Father God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) and that reconciliation and forgiveness should mark a believer's life (Luke 11:4; Ephesians 4:32). However, God understands our human nature and recognizes that because of sin divorce will occur, even among His children. A divorced and/or remarried believer should not feel any less loved by God, even if the divorce and/or remarriage is not covered under the legitimate reasons stated in the Holy Word of God.

Please take all of this to prayer in Jesus Christ's Name. I cannot instruct you on what you should do should you find yourself in a remarriage that is not legitimate in God's eyes. You must seek Him for His perfect will and repent of any sins you have committed. He is a just, loving, forgiving God and only He and you know the full circumstances around your situation.

God bless, stay under the blood of Jesus Christ always.