

MARRIAGE --- DIVORCE --- REMARRIAGE

We'll begin with marriage.

MARRIAGE - - - - Finding A Partner for Life

Marriage was God's idea. He instituted marriage for ONE MAN (the husband) and ONE WOMAN (the wife). God causes them to become ONE flesh for LIFE:

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.

So, then, What are God's Guidelines for Choosing a Mate?

The basic formula for marriage is NOT to lock yourself into it with someone who is not saved. Although this instruction could be used in other areas as well, let us apply it in the pledge of marriage:

2 Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

If you join in marriage with someone who is unsaved, then you won't have the sweet companionship that you desire because you and your marriage partner are not in agreement on the scriptures.

If you are NOT already united with an unbeliever, then you better heed the warning, and DON'T marry one, or you will be sorry.

If you are already in that position, God has instructions for you. We will look at that when we get to the area concerning Divorce.

The world tells you to have sex with each other BEFORE marriage to see if you will be "compatible." But God counsels you to do just the opposite! He made our bodies to serve Him, not our own flesh:

1 Cor. 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

On down a couple of verses, we see that we should not join our bodies with a whore or whoremonger:

1 Cor. 6: 15-17 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

*God says to “run away” from fornication (that is sex before marriage) because that is the **ONE sin that you commit against your OWN self!***

1 Cor. 6: 18-20 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

To “FLEE” means “to run rapidly away from danger -- to hasten to escape evil.”

So, in seeking a mate for life, we need to beware of having sex with them before we get married. God just told us to FLEE fornication. He also tells us how to avoid fornication:

1 Cor. 7:1,2 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Men ought to keep their hands OFF of women. That would obviously stand true for boys NOT to touch girls either! Both sexes are stimulated by touching. This is a serious warning that should be heeded.

We find a wonderful statement about the sanctity and pureness of marriage in the epistle to the Hebrews:

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

To be “undefiled” means to “not be foul or impure --- not corrupted of chastity - --not violated or tainted in character --- not unclean or dirty --- not impure with sin.”

A “Whoremonger” is one who practices illicit (not permitted nor allowed -- that is prohibited) sex, lewdness (criminal indulgence of lust), unlawful (or unmarried) sexual intercourse or commerce --- a fornicator --- a harlot --- a prostitute --- a gigilo --- also called a whore.

When picking a marriage partner, you should consider before-hand these “marital requirements:”

In both of these next passages, notice that God gives His command to the woman FIRST, before He commands the man:

Eph. 5:22-24 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**.

Ladies need to make sure that they are willing to transfer their submission from their father to the particular man they are considering to marry. They are to submit to their OWN husbands in every thing, not someone else’s. Many times in today’s society, too many women are guilty of submitting to another woman’s husband who is their boss at work, but not to their own husband at home. Beloved, these things ought not be!

*To “SUBMIT” means “to surrender --- to yield one’s person to the power, opinion, will, or authority of another -- to give up resistance **without murmuring**.”*

Then God instructs the man:

Eph 5:25-30 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Here we have the identical principal applied to us the two becoming one, as Adam also said about Eve in:

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.

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

That last verse in Gen. 2:24 is the one we read already, and it is basically the same as the next one in the Ephesians 5 passage we were reading:

Eph 5:31-33 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

We find similar instructions in:

Col. 3:18-19 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Women are to love their own husbands and OBEY them:

Titus 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

It is important that a woman be trained to "hold her tongue." Daughters should be taught it, so that if they marry, their husbands will not have the problem of being married to a loud-mouthed wife. The word "silence" means "quietness":

1 Tim. 2:11-14 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

That commandment goes all the way back to the original sin in the Garden of Eden , where God told the woman that her husband would RULE over her. She had been tricked He was not.

Gen. 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

A parallel truth is also in 1 Peter 3:1-7, where Peter also tells the wives to obey their own husbands, and the husbands are to honor their wives, as weaker vessels.

Another issue you should think about is that your bodies will actually belong to your spouse. The context indicates that each person is to please the other physically:

1 Cor. 7: 3-5 Let the husband render unto the wife due **benevolence**: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

("Benevolence" is the "disposition to do good --- kindness -- charity accompanied with a desire to promote the other person's happiness.")

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 **Defraud** ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your **incontinency**.

To "defraud" means "to with-hold wrongly -- to deprive of a right that which is justly due to another."

"In-con-tin-ency" is "lack of restraint of the sexual appetite or passions -- indulgence of lust -- lewdness -- unchastity."

Skip a few verses and read verses 8 & 9:

1 Cor. 7:8-9 I 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.

The "burn" is obviously burning with sexual passion, not eternal damnation.

All those points should be considered when seeking a mate for marriage. You should qualify the candidates and make your selection carefully! It could save a lot of hurt, pain, heartache, and expense later!

When We Look at Marriage Under the Law:

Israel was only to marry within their own nation. When God took Israel into the Promised Land, He specifically commanded them NOT to marry ANY of those people. In fact, Israel was to kill them all:

Deut. 7:2-3 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

Daughters that had inheritance were to only marry in the tribe of their father, to keep the inheritance in the family.

Num. 36:8 And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father, that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers.

You certainly could not pick out someone who was already married to be yours:

Exo. 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

This next verse teaches an important fact . Sometimes people try to say that because the sex act “consumates” a marriage, then “having sex makes you married” but that it NOT so. It is an act of fornication, which is sex before marriage.

Under Israel’s law, if a man had fornication with a woman (who was not already promised), he THEN had to marry her (her father permitting, of course) after the sex act, which proved that “just having sex with someone does NOT mean that you are married to them.”

Exo. 22:16-17 And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.

17 If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.

Next, We'll Look Again at the Wisdom from Proverbs:

A wife is a pretty nice thing to have if you have a good one!

Prov. 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

Prov. 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Prov. 19:14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Prov. 31:10-11, 28 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Here's the FLIP-SIDE of that:

Prov. 21:19 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

Prov. 25:24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

In summary of the MARRIAGE section

God created woman to be a help for man, someone who was "meet" (that is, suitable) for him. One man and one woman intimately united together was God's original design.

MARRIAGE in it's basic form is:

a formal covenant, a legal contract, a permanent agreement for a life-long commitment, relationship, and companionship between a husband and his wife.

That is exactly what God did with the nation Israel in Ezek. 16 He did it by swearing marriage vows to her:

Ezek. 16:8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, **I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.**

Now, We Will Look at the Topic of DIVORCE

In spite the solemn, marriage covenant God had made with Israel, she (as a nation) continually went astray to play the harlot they went a-whoring after other gods:

Deut. 31:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

God repeatedly judged her for her abominations:

Ezek. 23:28 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated:

29 And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

30 I will do these things unto thee, because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols.

God's attitude toward DIVORCE is that He HATES it:

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.

“Putting away” is a reference to divorce. God just said He hates it!

God was so provoked with Israel, that He even came to the point that He DIVORCED her!

Jerem. 3:8-9 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby **backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce**; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

DIVORCE is the formal, legal ENDING of the marriage covenant

DIVORCE is not part of the original plan of God however, the Bible does RECOGNIZE ALLOW PERMIT and REGULATE it.

Let's look at that in the scriptures:

Deut. 24:1-2 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.

NOTICE: There is a 3-step process in a complete, legal divorce

- 1) There is a written document that is deliberate, pre-meditated, binding and legal. It required ACTION that a person "complete the paperwork" to write her a BILL of DIVORCEMENT.***
- 2) The paper is personally served It is the resolution of the matter between the 2 people. He gives it in her hand.***
- 3) She leaves HIS home that is the "final RUPTURE the complete SEVERANCE." He sends her out of his house.***

Listen VERY carefully ----- All DIVORCE is NOT sin but ALL divorce results and comes from sin! God NEVER permits adultery.

Every divorce is NOT wrong, otherwise God could not have divorced Israel (which He did we just read) because God is not unrighteous and He CANNOT sin.

An important point in the passage we just read in Deut. 24:1-2 is that God DID allow divorce, and remarriage, under the law.

Let's look at an instance in scripture, where Israelite men divorced the "strange wives" they had taken when they REPENTED toward God because God had forbade them to take Gentile women as their wives to begin with:

Ezra 10:1-5 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.

2 And **Shechaniah** the son of **Jehiel**, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

4 Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware.

On down a few verses, here is where 113 divorces took place. Those men were guilty of marrying "forbidden" women who caused their hearts to be turned away from the true God. When the men were sorry for their sin, in an effort to HONOR God, they divorced their pagan wives and offered sacrifice to God:

Ezra 10:10-11, 19 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and **do his pleasure**: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

19 And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.

Now, understand that -- that happened in "times past" in Israel. God DOES give instructions for TODAY, under grace, which SPECIFICALLY does NOT advocate believers divorcing unbelievers but we will look at that in a few minutes.

Jesus also recognized divorce. Notice VERY carefully exactly what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well:

John 4:16-18 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. **Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:**

18 For thou **hast had** five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

Jesus told her that she spoke CORRECTLY although she HAD - HAD 5 husbands in the past ---- Her 5 divorces were RECOGNIZED by GOD because the Son of God said she was right in saying that she did NOT have ANY husband AT ALL right then

Also, notice that "living with a man" (which she was presently doing) did NOT constitute a marriage.

In this next discussion, Jesus is talking about 3 different time periods as He talks about divorce. It is very important to see that this is a "dispensationally-related" passage.

Matt 19:3-9 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

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.

(verses 3-6 were BEFORE the LAW, as recorded in Gen. 2:24)

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered *(or "allowed")* you to put away your wives: but *from the beginning it was not so.*

(vs. 7-8 were UNDER the law of Moses, with a reference back to PRE-LAW where it says "from the beginning - it was NOT so ---- indicating that God did NOT begin the concept of divorce. It was NOT in God's original design for marriage.")

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. *(verse 9 was in the KINGDOM program)*

Notice those 3 areas, and that they ALL pertain to ISRAEL --- not to the Body of Christ:

- 1) *“In the beginning” that was BEFORE the LAW --- in the book of Genesis.*
- 2) *“Moses permitted it” that was UNDER the law.*
- 3) *“But I say unto you” that was for the KINGDOM law - when Jesus rules.*

Here’s a stiffer concept to see in this next passage. Under the KINGDOM program, Jesus gave MORE information and the sin of adultery was much easier to commit --- because you would be GUILTY of it just by lusting:

Matt 5:27-28 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

You see, under the law, anyone proven to have committed adultery was to be KILLED! BOTH man and woman who were guilty were put to death. Go back to:

Exo. 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Lev. 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

But when Jesus was confronted with a situation in John 8:3-11, He gave mercy to the woman who was “caught in the very act.” It is interesting to notice that the scribes and Pharisees did NOT bring the man who was guilty with the woman. Jesus told the woman that He did not condemn her, but to leave, and NOT do it again.

Let’s go back and look at the MAIN verse that is commonly used as “the exception clause” today. It is written in more than once in the scripture (such as Matt. 5:31-32), but we will use the one we just read. Notice the word “FORNICATION.”

Matt. 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.

Most all the other “versions” (I’ll call them, rather than calling them “Bibles”) -- other than the King James Version --- CHANGE the word “fornication” in order to BROADEN its meaning. They use other words like “sexual immorality” or “unchastity” or “sexual impurity” or “adultery.”

The reason this is important, is because “fornication” has a SPECIFIC meaning. Although all fornication is sexual immorality and impurity the actual definition is that **fornication is sexual intercourse with an UN-married person.**

Please follow this reasoning

In the Jewish culture, a woman would become **betrothed** to a man. It was sort of like our common day **engagement** EXCEPT their betrothal was a **legally binding contract** and the ONLY way to be **released OUT of betrothal was DIVORCE.**

To “betroth” was to promise “by one's truth.” Men and women were betrothed when they were engaged to be married. This usually took place a year or more before marriage.

From the time of betrothal the woman was regarded as the lawful wife of the man to whom she was betrothed (Deut. 28:30; Judg. 14:2, 8; Matt. 1:18-21).

IF a woman was found to have had sexual relations DURING the time of her betrothal, it was still called **fornication**, because she was STILL supposed to be a VIRGIN since the “official **marriage** ceremony” had not yet taken place, and the marriage had not yet been **consummated** by sexual relations with her husband to be.

THEREFORE, IF a woman was found guilty of sex BEFORE her actual marriage, yet while betrothed, her “husband” (as he was even then called) was ALLOWED to **put her away --- or divorce her ---** because HE would have still been sexually pure.

Now, watch this evidenced in the scriptures, concerning Mary and Joseph about the conception of Jesus:

Matt 1:18-19 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was **espoused** to Joseph, **before they came together**, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, **was minded to put her away privily.**

To **espouse** means to betroth (as in 2 Sam. 3:14). The espousal was a ceremony of betrothing, **a formal agreement between the parties then coming under obligation for the purpose of marriage**. Espousals are in the East frequently contracted years before the marriage is celebrated.

But the Holy Ghost intervened, and stopped Joseph from divorce in the next verse:

Matt. 1: 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, **fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife**: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

They were called “husband and wife” during the betrothal period, but they had not “consumated” their marriage yet as verse 18 specifically said it was “before they came together.”

This concept is further seen when the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary announce her conception to her:

Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

It may have been embarrassing to Joseph, to be staying with and even going ahead and marrying a girl who was ALREADY SO pregnant:

Luke 2:3-5 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
5 To be taxed with Mary his **espoused** wife, being great with child.

*When the Jews were in one of their “sessions” with Jesus, they STRONGLY implied a **SLUR** upon Him knowing that His mother was pregnant with Him BEFORE she was actually married:*

John 8:37-41 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, **We be not born of fornication**; we have one Father, even God.

Those Jews were attempting to shame Jesus, by bringing up “what they thought was sexual impurity” in His mother.

*So all that was for the point of the “so-called **exception clause**” of Matt. 19:9, to say that we do not even have a custom of betrothal today in our country and our similar thing called “engagement” does NOT require a divorcement to get out of a girl can simply “give the engagement promise ring” back. That actually makes a second reason (the first reason being that it is for the KINGDOM program) that verse **cannot** be used for US today.*

NOW with the subject of DIVORCE -- thus far -- we have been dealing with “times past” or the “ages to come.” So NOW let’s look in the writings of the apostle Paul to get OUR instructions on this issue.

*First, we will see **God’s command for 2 believers, under grace.** Please turn to:*

1 Cor. 7:10-11 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.

This tells both parties NOT to divorce AT ALL for ANY reason because “under grace” we know that we are to forgive each other because God has already forgiven us (according to Col. 3:13 and Eph. 4:32).

BUT.... if they do divorce they are to remain UNmarried so that their marriage may possibly be re-established in the future if they later learn to forgive each other.

Next, we will see what God says whenever

one person is a believer, and their spouse is unsaved:

1 Cor. 7:12-13 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.

So, first, if the unbeliever is WILLING to stay in the marriage the believer is NOT to divorce. (Remember when we read where some men in Israel divorced their "strange wives"??? Well, that is NOT what God wants US to do. Those verses exactly addressed that issue.)

1 Cor. 7:15-16 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.

16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

*There in verse 15, the believer is **released from the marriage** if the unbeliever gets the divorce. That believe is "free to re-marry."*

Verse 16 indicates that it may be possible, or there may be some chance, that the unbelieving spouse will get saved so the saved individual should NOT give up hope that their partner may someday get saved.

*Next, on the subject of **REARRIAGE**:*

1 Cor. 7:8-9 I 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.

*In those verses 8 & 9, Paul is **including divorced people** We can see this because back in verse 11, he specifically called a **divorced** person by the title of **UN-married** AND Paul is **including virgins and widows**.*

But in verse 8, to begin with, Paul recommends staying single if you can. Probably because of these next verses:

1 Cor. 7:32-35 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord **without distraction**.

Obviously, having a spouse demands time and care for them and if you don't have a spouse, then you are FREE to serve the Lord without having to consider another person.

*Here is another instruction regarding **MARRIAGE and DIVORCE**:*

1 Cor. 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

Quite frank ... and quite clear

Are you married? ---- Don't get a divorce.

Are you divorced? ---- Don't hunt for a marriage partner.

1 Cor. 7:28 (the next verse) But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. **Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh:** but I spare you.

Again, quite simply

If you are divorced, and you get re-married

or if you are a even virgin, and you get married for the first time

you have NOT sinned but you WILL experience "trouble in the flesh."

In the dispensation of grace today, we live under the principle of “sowing and reaping.”

Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

In closing, let's look at one more passage:

Romans 7:1-4 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

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.

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.

4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

That is teaching about saints today being married to Christ, having died to escape out of our marriage to our first husband, the law. It is not teaching about divorce, but rather about death and remarriage. Since the law would not die (even though we know that Christ nailed it to his cross) we died -- in HIM -- that we would be resurrected to NEW life and there on the “other side” we are married to Christ, and we are dead to the law.

We hope this study has been informative and profitable to you and that you will not let the RELIGIOUS system dictate your life because of what “other people think the Bible teaches” about the subject of marriage, divorce, and re-marriage.

Many demoninations “hold divorced people back” like they are second-class saints depriving them of ANY or even ALL opportunities to serve the Lord in the Body of Christ.

May all of us always strive to rightly divide the scriptures as we are instructed in 2 Tim. 2:15, and may we also continue to

1) seek for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4) and

2) make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery (Eph. 3:9).