**DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE:**

**“*Straightening out the issues*”**

**SOME MISCONCEPTIONS**

* The marriage is not working out *so you can just* get a divorce
* Spouses no longer love each other *so they can just* get a divorce
* You married the wrong person *so you can just* get a divorce

**A MAJOR MISCONCEPTION**

🡺 God hates divorce *therefore* God does not permit divorce

**Scriptural Observation:**

* Malachi 2:14-16
* Jeremiah 3:6-8

**A MAJOR MISCONCEPTION**

🡺 A spouse is physically abusive *therefore* the abused spouse can get a divorce for their safety

Is physical abuse to the spouse a justifiable reason to protect the spouse from danger or loss of life?.... YES! Certainly, every effort should be made to help & counsel the abuser but *if he or she will not change then it is wisest and best for the abused to protect themselves from further harm.*

Some abused persons opt to *separate without divorce*, while others seek to divorce themselves from the abusive relationship. If a person chooses to separate for their safety then that is ok, life must be preserved at all cost. (See Prov. 22:3)

Proverbs 22:3 *“A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished”*.

Note however that if an abused person chooses to divorce; ***physical abuse is still not cited in scripture as grounds for divorce.***

In respect to remarriage some people may choose to remain unmarried after coming out of an abusive relationship while others may feel justified to remarry. ***Again, physical abuse is still not sited in scripture as grounds for remarriage.***

Those of us who are not sure how to judge such cases should refrain from making any judgment or giving consent until God gives us wisdom and a settled peace about the issue of abuse.

BIBLICAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

➊ **Sexual Immorality or Infidelity**

* Deuteronomy 24:1-2
* Matthew 5:31-32
* Matthew 19:3-12

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

**“UNCLEANNESS”: (literally or figuratively disgrace or blemish)**

* Nudity
* Nakedness
* Shame
* Indecent conduct
* Immoral act
* Sexual indiscretion
* Sexual intercourse

**Divorce & remarriage was allowed in the Old Testament on the grounds of immorality before Matthew was even written! In the New Testament Jesus then comes and permits similar grounds (that is, fornication) for divorce & remarriage.**

Matthew 5:31-32

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

Matthew 19:9

*“…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”:**  **Any kind of immoral sexual activity**

* Adultery
* Unchastity
* Prostitution
* Homosexuality
* Incest
* Bestiality (sex with animals)

**(Examine Matthew 19:3-12)**

The exception clause illustrated in another sentence:

*Whosoever shall kill another person, except it be for self-defense, committeth murder: and shall be put to death by hanging.*

**What do you conclude from the above?**

The exception clause illustrated in another sentence:

*Whoever shoots a bird, except during hunting season, has broken the animal preservation law: and will be fined and sent to prison.*

**What do you conclude from the above?**

**The conclusion you draw from the previous sentences should coincide with the statements in the Matthew verses. You should come to the same logical, consistent conclusion regarding the exception clause, according to the laws of language.**

**CONCLUSION**

*If a person divorces their spouse for a* ***reason that is* unacceptable *by God*** *& marries another;* ***that person commits adultery****. But if a person divorces their spouse for a* ***reason that is* acceptable *by God*** *& marries another;* ***that person does NOT commit adultery****. Therefore Jesus permits divorce and remarriage on this acceptable reason; which is, on the grounds of fornication.*

➋ **Desertion by the unbelieving spouse**

**1 Corinthians 7:10-17**

**“DEPART” (Greek - *Chorizo*): *To place room between***

* *Separate*
* *Part*
* *To go away*
* *Put asunder (split)*

**“PUT AWAY/LEAVE” (Greek: Aphiemi)**

* *Send away (dismiss)*
* *Desert (abandon)*
* *Forsake*
* *Leave*

Verse 14: *“For the unbelieving husband is consecrated through union with his believing wife; and the unbelieving wife, through union with her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unholy, but now they are consecrated (legitimate) to God.”*

Verse 14: *“For, through his wife, the husband who is an unbeliever has become associated with Christ's people; and the wife who is an unbeliever has become associated with Christ's people through our brother whom she has married. Otherwise your children would be 'defiled,' but, as it is, they belong to Christ's people.”*

**CONCLUSIVE STATEMENTS**

* The Christian husband & wife are commanded not to separate from each other (Vs. 10-11)
* If separation occurs the Christian spouses are to remain unmarried or be reconciled with each other (Vs. 11)
* If a believer is married to an unbeliever and the unbelieving spouse is satisfied with the believing spouse, then the believing spouse should not leave the unbelieving spouse (Vs. 13-14)
* If the unbelieving spouse chooses to depart from the believing spouse, then the believing spouse is free to divorce & re-marry (Vs. 15)

Verse 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.”*

**“UNDER BONDAGE” – *enslaved, bound, tied***

**The term “under bondage” is derived from the same root meaning that is used to describe the binding used in *1Cor. 7:39* & *Rom. 7:2-3*. These verses state that when a spouse is dead then the living partner is no longer bound to the marriage because death has freed them from such a tie and is free to remarry. The same phrase is used to say that when the unbelieving departs, the remaining spouse is no longer bound to the partner and is free from such a tie… to divorce & remarry**

BIBLICAL CONCLUSIONS

* **It is contradictory, and a poor interpretation of Scripture to claim that God does NOT permit divorce & remarriage for any reason; when God himself issued divorce papers to unfaithful Israel.**
* Jeremiah 3:6-8
* **Divorce & remarriage is permitted by God on the grounds of sexual immorality or infidelity.**
* Deuteronomy 24:1-2
* Matthew 5:31-32
* Matthew 19:3-12
* **Divorce & remarriage is permitted by God on the grounds that the unbelieving spouse leaves the marriage.**
* 1 Corinthians 7:10-17
* **Scripture does not site any other reasons for divorce. However, a third reason for remarriage is due to the death of the spouse *(no divorce needed since the spouse died)*.**
* Romans 7:2-3
* 1 Corinthians 7:39
* **Scripture does not site any other reasons for divorce or remarriage other than those already stated. Therefore any other reason would be unbiblical in the sight of God. There are some unfortunate situations that will occur in some marriages which would be legitimate reasons for divorce or remarriage according to the *laws of the land*… but *NOT* legitimate according to the *laws of the Lord*!**

**Common issues which have no biblical grounds for divorce or remarriage:**

* Physical abuse
* Emotional abuse
* Imprisonment of spouse
* Falling out of love
* Marriage is not working out
* Married the wrong person
* Irreconcilable differences

**To the unmarried Christian:**

You need to know what you are getting into and know how you are *biblically* getting out of it! (D. Madden)

**To the married Christian:**

If you get married *before God’s face* then you should not get divorced *behind God’s back*! (D. Madden)