

What is God's Will on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage?

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: Do we have the faith to obey God?

- A. We face tremendous pressure to do right when the culture turns against us.
 - 1. The Christians at Ephesus learned this lesson! (**Acts 19:23-28, 35-36**)
 - 2. Consider the major shift in this country on homosexuality.
 - 3. The Bible teaching of marriage and divorce is also despised.
- B. We need to display the faith of Abraham and stand by faith regardless of the consequences! (**Heb 11:8-9, 17-18**)
 - 1. The direction a church takes depends of its leadership and the teaching that is given on a consistent basis!
 - 2. I want my family and all that I know to go to heaven. There is only one kind of faith that will lead there! (**Rom 4:16**)

I. What does God say about marriage?

- A. Our study will focus on the teaching under the New Covenant. (**Col 2:14-17**)
- B. Marriage is a covenant between two people of the opposite sex to enter into the relationship of marriage. (**Mal 2:14**)
 - 1. The Christian will also follow the laws of the government that does not conflict with the laws of God. (**Rom 13:1-4**)
 - 2. Why does a preacher can conduct a “marriage ceremony”?
 - 3. Fornication or the sex act does not constitute a marriage. (**John 4:16-19**)
 - 4. Can two marry themselves? NO.
- C. Who is eligible to marry?
 - 1. One who has never married. (**1 Cor 7:2**)
 - 2. One whose mate has died. (**Rom 7:3**)
 - 3. One who has put away their mate for fornication. (**Matt 19:9**)

II. What does God say about divorce?

- A. God hates divorce. (**Mal 2:16**)
 - 1. How does one who loves God take this lightly?
 - 2. This word should never be used lightly as a threat.
- B. Divorce is a legal breaking of the marriage relationship. (**Matt 19:3-6**)
 - 1. One may break the relationship without breaking the marriage bond. (**Rom 7:2; 1 Cor 7:10-11**)
 - 2. Some “single” people are in fact “bound” to another.
 - 3. Herod had a marriage to one who was bound to another. (**Mark 6:17**)
- C. God only recognizes a divorce for one reason. (**Matt 5:32**)
 - 1. It takes true conviction to stay in a marriage that has turned bad when there is no cause for divorce.
 - 2. A mate who drives another into adultery is not innocent.
- D. There is no such thing as a “mental” divorce or a “mental” marriage!

1. This doctrine has allowed some to block reconciliation. "I am already divorced!"
2. Some take this position because of a desire to justify relatives.

III. What does God say about divorce and remarriage?

- A. When one has put away their mate for fornication, they have a scriptural right. **(Matt 19:9-12)**
 1. Some must be reconciled or stay single. **(1 Cor 7:10-11)**
 2. There are some who are single for the "kingdom of heaven."
- B. If one is not eligible for marriage, they should not date!
 1. Some Christians "fall in love" first, and then investigate.
 2. You should know if the one you wish to date is eligible for marriage.
- C. Some Christians seek to reconcile with the guilty mate.
 1. Once this is done then the "slate is clean" thus the unfaithfulness would not be a cause for a future divorce.
 2. One may put away their mate for adultery and forgive them at the same time! **(Matt 19:9; Rom 12:17-21)**
 3. Even when one is innocent, there are difficult consequences to a divorce.

IV. Positions that fail to recognize that God has spoken.

- A. Discovery of adultery after the divorce. **(Mt 19:9)**
 1. If one divorced without any cause of adultery then it is sin. **(Mt 5:32)**
 2. After the "relief" of the divorce, it is easy to re-create the past.
- B. Mental Divorces and Mental Marriages
 1. Some believe they can divorce and then wait for the other to remarry. They then "put them away in their mind."
 2. This is not a divorce! The divorce has already occurred. There is only one option here. **(1 Cor 7:10-11)**
- C. When one is loosed, both are loosed. **(Matt 19:9; 1 Cor 7:10-11)**
- D. When an unbeliever "leaves" their Christian mate, the Christian may remarry. **(1 Cor 7:10-15)**
 1. The "bondage" here is one in which the Christian was never under.
 2. Does "except" still mean "except"? **(Matt 19:9; 5:32)**
 3. This position is sometimes stated as: "The unbeliever is not amenable to the law of God." If so then there are no marriages in the world!
 4. Baptism does not wash away unlawful marriages. **(Mk 6:17-18)**
- E. These positions have one thing in common, ALL MARRIAGES ARE OK!

Conclusion: Let us carefully apply God's word.