

DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

God's view of divorce

"For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel..." - Malachi 2:16

"They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way."
- Matthew 19:7-8

"And some Pharisees came up to Him, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" And they said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. "But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." - Mark 10:2-12

Remarriage & Adultery

"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife, and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance." - Deuteronomy 24:1-4

"And it was said, 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce'; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery." - Matthew 5:31-32

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." - Matthew 19:9

"And in the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery." - Mark 10:10-12

"But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not send his wife away." - 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

"So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man." - Romans 7:3

Cases when remarriage permitted

- Death of previous spouse

"For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man." - Romans 7:2-3

"Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach." - 1 Timothy 5:14

- Marital Unfaithfulness

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"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality..." - Matthew 19:9

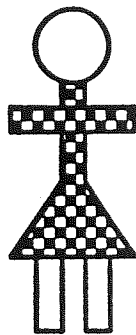
- Abandonment or divorce by an unbeliever

"And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace." - 1 Corinthians 7:13-15

- Reconciliation not possible due to remarriage of divorced spouse

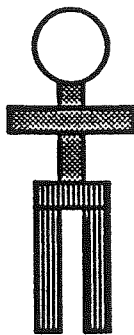
"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife, and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance." - Deuteronomy 24:1-4

"But if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband..."
- 1 Corinthians 7:11



Woman

D



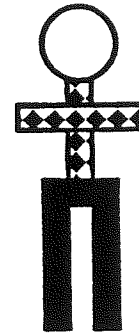
Husband

A



Wife

B



Man

C

SUMMARY OF BIBLICAL PASSAGES

1. If A puts away B and then B marries C, B cannot remarry A (Deut. 24:1-4).
2. If A puts away B except for the cause of fornication, A is causing B to commit adultery, (forcing her unwarranted remarriage) (Matt. 5:31-32).
3. If C marries B, C is committing adultery unless B's marriage bond had been broken by adultery on the part of A.
4. If A divorces his wife and married D, A is committing adultery unless his marriage bond with B had been broken by B's immoral conduct (Matt. 19:9).
5. If B divorces A and marries C she commits adultery unless her marriage bond had been broken by A's immorality (Mark 10:12).
6. God's ideal is that B should never depart from A. If she does, however, she should remain unmarried or be reconciled to A. Likewise, A should not divorce or put away B. (Recap of Jesus' teaching.) (1 Cor. 7:10,11).
7. In the event one of the partners is a believer and the other is not, a. the believer should not leave nor force the unbelieving mate to leave, b. If, however the unbelieving mate departs, this desertion, if seen to be irreversible, amounts to divorce. The bond has been broken.