

Key OT Bible Verses (the heart of God):

Genesis 1 Be fruitful and multiply, fill and subdue, have dominion

Genesis 2 Man from dust, man not good alone, woman created as a helper for man out of man, one flesh marriage

Genesis 3 Wrong leadership order ends with death, woman cursed to have pain and desire contrary or towards her husband, man works in pain

Exodus 21:7-11 Marital rights continuing through multiple marriages (context of lack of female self-provision)

Leviticus 20:10-21 Punishment for adultery is death (under the Law)

Numbers 30 One must hold to vows to the Lord and others, “pledge” “or any thoughtless utterance”

Deuteronomy 22:13-30 Penance for adultery: death or lifelong commitment, protection, and care

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 Don’t remarry someone who divorced you and remarried

Ezra 9:1-10:44 Israel must stay away from their unlawful wives

Proverbs 21:19 it is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman

Jeremiah 3:1-10 remarrying a divorced wife after her other marriage pollutes the land

Hosea 1-2 marry and fight for a harlot to show what God has done for Israel

Malachi 2:13-16 God rejecting offering from those who are unfaithful in marriage, divorce, or don’t love their spouse

Key NT Bible Verses (the boundaries of liberty):

Matthew 5:27-32 “Whoever married a woman who is divorced commits adultery”

Matthew 19:1-6 “what God has joined together, let not man separate” (connected to creation)

Matthew 19:7-8 Moses “permitted you to divorce your wives” “because of the hardness of your hearts”

Matthew 19:9 “whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery”

Matthew 19:10-12 Not everybody can be celibate, but those who are able to should be.

Matthew 19:16-22 You should be able to give up all things for Christ

Mark 10:1-8 Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because of the hardness of your hearts

Mark 10:9 “what God has joined together, let not man separate” (connected to creation)

Mark 10:10-12 “whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her” (visa versa)

Luke 16:18 “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from *her* husband commits adultery.”

John 4:16-18 it is possible to have 5 husbands and a lover who is not a husband

John 8:4-11 Jesus not condemning a woman guilty of adultery, just telling her to sin no more

Romans 7:2 marriage is bound until one spouse dies.

Romans 7:3 if you remarry while your spouse lives you commit adultery. If you remarry after your spouse dies you do not commit adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 It is good to not touch a woman, but to avoid sexual immorality you can get married

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 each spouse has authority over the other’s body and shouldn’t deprive each other except for a short time of prayer and fasting

1 Corinthians 7:6-8 Paul wishes everyone would be unmarried, and it is good for the unmarried and widows to remain unmarried.

1 Corinthians 7:9 But it is better to marry than to burn with passion

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 A wife is not to depart from *her* husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband. And a husband is not to divorce *his* wife.

1 Corinthians 7:12-14 If a Christian has an unbelieving spouse, stay married if you can to witness to them and the children.

1 Corinthians 7:15-16 If a Christian has an unbelieving spouse that leaves, the Christian “is not under bondage” and should “let him depart”

1 Corinthians 7:17-28 live in the state you were called, including married or unmarried

1 Corinthians 7:29-35 “those who have wives should be as though they had none” by caring for the things of the Lord not the things of the world to please his wife. Serve the Lord without distraction.

1 Corinthians 7:36-38 those who can stay single do well, those who must marry do well

1 Corinthians 7:39-40 A wife can’t remarry until her husband dies, but even then is happier single

1 Corinthians 13:4-13 Love suffers long, is kind, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, never fails and is greater than faith and hope.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 We are reconcilers on God's behalf because God reconciled us

2 Corinthians 6:11-18 Do not go into a covenant with unbelievers (and by extension unfaithful believers).

Ephesians 5:1-21 No fornicator "has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" "therefore do not be partakers with them"

Ephesians 5:22-33 Husbands and wives are a picture of Christ and the church in position and conduct (connected to creation)

Colossians 3:18-19 Wives relate to husbands and husbands love wives in the way God instructs.

1 Timothy 3:1-13 Ministry leaders must only have 1 wife and she must be "reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things." If a man can't lead his house he can't lead others.

Titus 1:5-9 Church leaders must only have 1 wife and lead their family well

Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

James 2:20-24 faith should lead you to being willing to give anything up to God

1 Peter 3:1-6 wives submit to husbands to win them over to Christ

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands deal with wives with understanding, honor, like they are weaker so that your prayers aren't hindered

1 Peter 3:8-12 have compassion, love, be tenderhearted, be courteous, don't return for evil, do return blessing for evil

1 Peter 3:13-22 you are and will be blessed for suffering for the sake of righteousness

Question 1: Does the innocent party of a divorce have the liberty to remarry?

Key points:

1. God is very "for" marriage: rooted in creation, the Christ/church analogy, and lifelong vows
2. God is very "against" divorce: citing terms/concepts like "death," "punishment," and "disobedience"
3. The NT mentions "remarriage" after divorce as adultery at least 14 times (6 different chapters)
4. The NT mentions an exception for sexual immorality when speaking about "remarriage" after divorce 1 time
5. There are many reoccurring mentions of celibacy, reconciliation, and sacrifice as preferred options

Question 2: When is one ready to begin thinking about or acting toward remarriage?

Considerations:

1. One must answer "Question 1" before asking "Question 2"
2. NT preference is strongly for celibacy except for those who can't control themselves
3. Remarriage fully ends the option of getting back together with 1st spouse
4. A 2nd marriage is held to the same standards as any marriage
5. One must have a developed theology of how to biblically find a spouse

Two views of biblical divorce:

1. ONLY a faithful spouse can divorce an adulterous spouse
2. Divorce for adultery OR for a form of desertion

Two views of biblical remarriage:

1. ONLY after the death of a spouse
2. After the death of a spouse OR after a biblical divorce

Important Conclusions

1. All divorce is sin except for (1) after your spouse commits adultery against you, and (2) if your unbelieving spouse leaves you but you didn't leave them. However, all divorce is still against God's design, desire, and example for us.
2. All remarriage after divorce is sin except Matthew 19:9 is the only verse in the Bible that might give a provision for remarrying after you get a divorce specifically as a result of your spouse committing adultery against you. However, all remarriage after any divorce is still against God's design, desire, example, and repeatedly prohibited.