

Divorce & Remarriage

In Matthew 19:3 Jesus Christ was specifically asked by the Pharisees if a man could divorce his wife for just any reason. Jesus then answered their question by telling them that a man could not divorce his wife for *any* reason except for 3 specific things: sexual immorality, fraud, and desertion. RIGHT? Well, *not* really! And yet this is what many people apparently think Jesus said (for they teach exactly that)!

But please notice what Christ actually did say! Matthew 19:9—“And I [Jesus Christ] say to you, whoever divorces his wife, EXCEPT FOR SEXUAL IMMORALITY, and marries another, commits ADULTERY; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits ADULTERY.”

Did you catch that? Jesus Christ said that we could ONLY divorce our mate for ONE reason and ONE reason only! And that one reason is for *sexual immorality* (NOT fraud, desertion, or any other reason)! And if you think otherwise, then you are contradicting Jesus Christ! For He said (not me, but Christ said) that sexual immorality is the ONLY reason that we are permitted to divorce our mate! Christ also said that if someone divorces their mate for ANY OTHER REASON (and any other reason certainly includes fraud, a mate who deserts us, etc.) and remarries, then that person is an ADULTERER (and so is the person who marries such a person)! And the Bible makes it plain that those who commit adultery (unless repented of) will NOT inherit eternal life (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8)!

Hopefully someday I will finish the above article, but for now I have copied and pasted down below what I've written in another section of this website concerning this topic.

Divorce & Remarriage — Jesus Christ plainly stated that no one could divorce and remarry—except for one reason—sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32, 19:9). Jesus also said that anyone who divorces his or her mate for any other reason and remarries commits adultery. And unless repented of, no adulterers will enter the Kingdom of God. Instead, they will be thrown into the lake of fire—the second death—where they will remain dead for all eternity (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8).

SEPARATION — Now there are certain circumstances in which someone may *just separate* from their mate (but not divorce their mate). Such a person may not remarry—they must either stay separated from their mate (and unmarried to anyone else) or else be reconciled to their mate (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

Mat 19:3-12 — The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it

was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **EXCEPT FOR SEXUAL IMMORALITY**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.”

Mat 5:31-32 — “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce (Deut 24:1).’ “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason **EXCEPT SEXUAL IMMORALITY** causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 — WEB— Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor *adulterers*, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:8 — But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, *sexually immoral*, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Mark 6:17-18 — For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. For John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your *brother's wife*."

Lev 18:16 — You shall not uncover the nakedness of your *brother's wife*; it is your brother's nakedness.

Lev 20:21 — If a man takes his *brother's wife*, it is an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be childless.

Mark 10:2-12 — The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to *divorce* his wife?" testing Him. And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept (command). But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." And in the house His disciples asked Him again about the same matter. So He said to them, "Whoever *divorces* his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman *divorces* her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

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

Jer 3:8 — “Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed *adultery*, I had put her away and given her a certificate of *divorce*.”

Isa 50:1 — Thus says the Lord, “Where is the certificate of your mother’s *divorce*, whom I have put away?” ...“for your transgressions your mother has been put away.”

Jer 3:1, — “They say, ‘If a man *divorces* his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man’s, may he return to her again?’ Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me,” says the Lord.

Jer 3: 14-15 — “Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

Mal 2:11, 14-16 — Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has profaned the Lord’s holy institution which He loves: he has married the daughter of a foreign god... Because the Lord has been witness between you and the *wife of your youth*, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make

them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the Lord God of Israel says that *He hates divorce*, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

Rom 7:2-3 — For the woman who has a husband is BOUND [Strong's Concordance #1210 — "deo"] by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

1 Cor 7:39 — A wife is BOUND [#1210 — "deo"] by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

Separation

1 Cor 7:10-11— Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: 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 Cor 12-15 — But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: if any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.... But if the unbeliever departs, let him

depart; a brother or a sister is not under BONDAGE in such cases [Strong's #1402— douloo: enslaved, under bondage, servant; (this Scripture uses the word “BONDAGE,” and NOT “BOUND”— #1210, which is a totally different word — deo: to bind, be in bonds, knit, tie, wind)].