

# VIEWPOINTS<sup>+</sup> MT. 19:3-12

Marriage, divorce, & remarriage is a constant source of confusion around the world.

**USA experience: We have a “broadly Christian” & “broadly based on Scripture” background.**

- No bigamy
- No polygamy → especially true when Utah & Mormons joined the union!
- Divorce...? Well, yes
- Divorce highly limited to 2 causes that had to either proven or conceded in a court of law
- This was true up till the late 1960s & early 1970s
- Then “no fault” divorce was introduced
- The idea was to protect the women

## 1. No divorce, no remarriage

- God’s original design / intent!
- “at the beginning”

**Matthew 19:3** The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, **Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?**

**From an initial reading we know:**

- This was a trap for Jesus!
- This is **also** a trap for us
- The question is...ludicrous!
- The question is in some ways quite modern!

**Matthew 19:4** And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, Matthew 19:5 And said, For** this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? **Matthew 19:6 Wherefore** they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

**Matthew 19:7** They say unto him, **Why did Moses then** command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

**Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture?** Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**Jesus’ answer:**

- What does Scripture say?
- Have you read it?
- **Start at the beginning** → God’s original design / intent
- **Start with marriage, family, and NOT divorce!**
- God created us male & female
- God created us for marriage (the norm, not the absolute)

**F. D. Brunner:**

“If God had supremely intended solitary life, God would have created humans one by one; if God had intended polygamous life, God would have created one man and several women; if God had intended homosexual life, God would have made two men or two women; but that God intended monogamous heterosexual life was shown by God’s creation of one man and one woman.”

- One man, one woman for life – was & is **God’ design & intent**
- God Himself **designed** the family unit | the concept of the family
- God’s original design is the starting point of all discussions
- Marriage was God’s original design – divorce wasn’t!!!

## 2. Divorce, **no** remarriage

- The fallback position
- **“and shall marry another”**

**Matthew 19:9** And I say unto you, 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.

**Mark 10:10** And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. **Mark 10:11** And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, **and marry another**, committeth adultery against her. **Mark 10:12** And if a woman shall put away her husband, **and be married to another**, she committeth adultery.

**Luke 16:18** Whosoever putteth away his wife, **and marrieth another**, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

### This viewpoint:

- Is based on the premise that people will remarry
- Divorce → remarriage (and it **seems** the Bible assumes this also)
- This view finds remarriage to be the problem

[**Malachi 2:16** For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith **that he hateth putting away**: For one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: Therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.]

- **Paul seems to agree with this position**

**1 Corinthians 7:10** And unto the married I command, yet **not** I, **but** the Lord, Let **not** the wife depart from her husband: **1 Corinthians 7:11** **But and if she depart**, let her remain **unmarried**, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

### On a practical and personal level, I find this position helpful:

Divorce is **not** the first option

Divorce is permissible

Divorce & then stay single

Divorce & reconcile if possible

Divorce and stay single **until...** | **for...**a long time!