

BASIC OPTIONS, BIBLICAL AND OTHER... MT. 19:1-14

When thinking Biblically about marriage, divorce, remarriage...it is important to have a sense of priorities and proportion that the Bible itself establishes.

Matthew 19:1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan; **Matthew 19:2** And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there. **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? **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? **Matthew 19:8** He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. **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. **Matthew 19:10** His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. **Matthew 19:11** But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. **Matthew 19:12** For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

1st: Stay single!

Matthew 19:10 His disciples say unto him, **If** the case of the man be so with his wife, **it is not good to marry.** **Matthew 19:11** But he said unto them, **All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.** **Matthew 19:12** For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. **He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.**

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.** **1 Corinthians 7:2** Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1 Corinthians 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath **his proper gift of God**, one after this manner, and another after that. **1 Corinthians 7:9** But **if** they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is **better** to marry than to burn.

The single life:

- Given to some
- Not given to all / even most
- Might be given for a while / a period of time

- Can be given for various reasons

Born that way

Made / forced

Chosen

- Can only be received as a gift

2nd: God's **original** intent: Marriage, **no** divorce and **no** remarriage!

1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. **1 Corinthians 7:9** But **if** they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. **1 Corinthians 7:10** And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let **not** the wife depart from her husband:

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.

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.

3rd: The fall-back position: Divorce and no remarriage

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.

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.

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.**

4th: The exception(s): Divorce and remarriage for very limited reasons

Matthew 5:31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: **Matthew 5:32** But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, **saving for the cause of fornication (πορνείας)**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, **except it be for fornication (πορνεία)**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: **If** any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, **let him not put her away. 1 Corinthians 7:13** And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, **let her not leave him. 1 Corinthians 7:14 For** the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. **1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.**

This assumes:

- People who divorce almost inevitably remarry
- The problem really is in the remarriage and not the divorce
- Remarriage should not be the first choice
- Remarriage can only be if there is an exception
- Remarriage is never commanded
- Remarriage is only allowed

How many exceptions are there?

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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.

5th: The **modern** view: Divorce and remarriage for many reasons