

Series: Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: A Closer Look at What the Bible Really Tells Us
Session 4 – A Biblical View of Remarriage

Review of Divorce – Part 2

Divorce Among Unequally Yoked

1 Cor 7:12-16 - If an unbelieving partner desires to stay married, the believing partner is obligated to stay in the marriage ... but if not, then divorce is authorized. God has called the believer to peace ... God's plan is that believers not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

Divorce Among Believers

For believers, divorce is basically not an option. Exception clause ... given by Jesus in **Matt 19:9** – *except for the case of sexual immorality (fornication)*.

Resolving Issues

God expects us to reconcile and so He has provided us with a remedy for these situations. **Matt 18:15-17**.

Christians are not to go to court against each other ...

1 Cor 6:4-6 - *So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?*

Remarriage

Remarriage is generally **APPROVED** of by God.

Rom 7:3 – *“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.”*

1 Tim 5:14 – *“Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach;”*

1 Cor 7:8-9 – *“But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”*

1 Cor 7:39 – *“A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”*

Remarriage After Divorce

1 Cor 7:27-28 – *“Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.”*

Two key points:

1. Remarriage, in general is not only allowed but in some cases encourage and commanded. It is looked upon favorable in the NT.
2. Remarriage after divorce is not disallowed, but in cases where one has been properly released from their spouse it is plainly authorized by God. There is no reason to believe that the NT's favorable view of remarriage does not apply equally to all such cases.

Who May Remarry After Divorce and Under What Conditions?

Only those who have met their **BIBLICAL OBLIGATIONS**.

What are the covenant obligations with marriage between divorced believers?

1. Divorce breaks a marriage ... even a sinful divorce.
2. They must seek forgiveness from God and each other for the circumstances that led to the divorce.
3. If the divorce occurred for other than authorized reasons, then the spouses must seek to reconcile and return to the married relationship.
4. Until the reconciliation process is completed, neither spouse must date or remarry ... to do so is to commit the act of adultery by bringing in a third person into a relationship that can still be reconciled.
5. The partners must pursue **Matt 18** reconciliation

When believing spouses do not make the attempt to resolve the issues and simply divorce? Can they remarry?

Only if they meet their covenant obligations.

What if they remarry anyway?

They have **SINNED** by failing to meet their covenant obligations. They must attempt to meet all covenant obligations short of pursuing a second divorce. **Matt 5:23-24** guidance.

But truly repentant hearts can be forgiven.

Summary

1. There is no blanket biblical prohibition concerning remarriage following divorce.
2. Following a divorce, remarriage is permitted and sometimes even encouraged as long as all prior covenant obligations are met.
3. Divorce for improper reasons is sin ... but truly repentant hearts can be forgiven. Longer-term consequences may still apply as with any other sin.