

If I'm Divorced, can I Re-Marry?

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This is a question that I've been asked several times through the years and I'm not sure if I've ever fully answered the question, but I will make an attempt here to do so.

I, myself, am acutely aware of how far below God's standard of holiness that I am, that I would never consider passing judgment on someone else -- so anything that you may read here and interpret as judgmental on my part, I apologize for at the very beginning and assure you that is not the case at all. Only by God's grace is there hope for any of us.

The first question to ask yourself is: **Are you sure of your relationship to the Lord?** This issue should be resolved before anything else is even considered.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23

No one deserves to have eternal life in heaven.

"God sent His Only Son Jesus to pay the price for our salvation" John 3:15

"If you confess with your mouth - Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead you **shall** be saved." Rom. 10:9

(7) *Saying,*

**"Blessed are those whose
sins are forgiven, and
whose sins are covered."**

(8) **"Blessed is the man to whom
the Lord will not count sin."** [Ps. 32:1-2]
(Rom. 4:7-8)

The important thing is that **God does not count our sin if we have accepted His Son Jesus as our Lord and Savior.** This also implies that you really believe that Jesus was truly born of a virgin, that He lived a sinless life, that He died on the cross to pay for our sins, that He arose from the dead to prove His victory over sin and death, and you believe that He is truly coming back again to take us to be with Him forever. **Not because we deserve it, but because of His love for us.** -- Our salvation is not based on our works, but on the Free Gift of God and His PROMISES. If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, **NOW** is the time to do that!! Here is a suggested prayer:

Suggested prayer:

Father, I know that I have sinned against You and I have not lived the kind of life I know You want me to live. Please, forgive me for the ways I have failed You. I know that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price for my salvation and I believe You raised Him from the dead to become King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I believe that one day soon He is coming back again to reign forever and ever. I accept Your Son, Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior. With Your help, I will strive to live for You and to be the person You want me to be.

Father, let Your Holy Spirit come into my heart and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I know I do not deserve what Jesus has done for me, but forgive me and help me to live for You every moment of my life. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

If you are sincere and believe the things in this prayer you have the **promise** of God that your salvation is assured. Your salvation is based on His faithfulness, **not yours**, and **He is always faithful**.

* **The question at hand is can a divorced person re-marry.** *
* There are many things to consider concerning **your relationship to the Lord which** *
* **directly affects your relationship to everyone else around you, especially in** *
* **marriage, but the short answer is this -- a "certificate of divorce"** *
* **by definition means that two people are no longer legally married and are** *
* **therefore FREE to re-marry.** [Deut: 24:1-2; I Cor. 7:1-6] The certificate of divorce *
* was primarily a protection for the woman in Biblical times, because most women had no *
* means of financial support and if a man **unjustly** divorced her, she needed to be able to *
* marry someone else who would take care of her. *
* *

Everyone knows that it was **NEVER** God's will that anyone get a divorce {see Mark 10:9 below}. For a divorce to occur, one or both partners must be **outside** of God's will. According to scripture, divorce is not **required, even in the case of infidelity**, but God's plan is **always** that forgiveness will take place and the partners be reconciled. However, we do not live in a perfect world, and the fact is that divorce happens, even between Christians when both aren't **striving daily to live for the Lord and put their mate and their mate's desires before their own.**

Biblically speaking, however, **there is in fact one instance where divorce is required - in I Cor. 7:15 we are told that if a believer is married to an unbeliever and the unbeliever wants out of the marriage, the believer is required to let them go and the believer is no longer bound by the marriage** [this assumes that the believer became a believer **after** being married and their spouse is still not a believer; since believers are **NEVER** permitted to marry unbelievers in the first place.] -- see my note below on I Cor. 7:15.

Husbands and wives are required to **submit** themselves **to one another** { see Eph. 5:12f below}. Usually, men will quote the part about the wives being submissive to the husbands, but they usually leave out the part that they are **likewise** to submit to their wives.

I would caution those who are **recently divorced** not to rush back into marriage. Two things need to be carefully and prayerfully considered:

- 1. If you divorced for the purpose of marrying someone else [i.e. you already had someone else in mind], according to Jesus, both you and the person you marry are guilty of adultery and the person you marry is guilty of causing you to commit adultery. [Mark 10:11-12; Mat. 5:32] {For definition of fornication and adultery, see note below on Matthew 5:32.}**

2. Believers are NEVER permitted to marry unbelievers. That was true in the Old Testament days, and Paul makes it abundantly clear that it still applies today. [II Cor. 6:14-15; I Cor. 7:39]

In either of these two cases you cannot expect God to bless a new marriage that is carried out in defiance of Him. If God isn't blessing your marriage, you are throwing the door wide open for Satan to make it a living nightmare.

A common mistake people make is that they say that they have "fallen out of love." Christian love is not merely an emotion, but a commitment. We all have emotional ups and downs, and personally I suspect that for women this even more true than for men. However, a genuine commitment means: "I will love you -- even if I do not 'feel' like it."

I believe it is God's will for most of us to be married and have a partner to help us through life. That is why Eve was created for Adam. I also believe that for most of us fornication can become a MAJOR problem if we are not married and Paul alludes to this in I Cor. 6:9-20 and I Cor. 7:1-9. I suspect that this is usually more of a problem for men, and that for women the problem is usually more a problem of loneliness. For these reasons I would recommend that most should re-marry -- but **IN THE LORD**. [i.e. be very sure that the person you intend to marry has accepted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior.]

In I Cor. 7:11 Paul states that if a woman gets a divorce, she should either remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband. Obviously, if the husband has married someone else, it is no longer a possibility for a woman to be reconciled to her husband as once again becoming his wife.

Now this is my opinion about what Paul was saying and you can take it for what it is worth -- God always wants us to be reconciled to one another, whether it is in a marriage relationship, or any other relationship. However, I personally would never encourage anyone, women especially, to return to a spouse who was physically or verbally abusive to her. In my opinion any man who is physically or verbally abusive to his wife has **rejected the clear command of God** to love his wife "as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her" [Eph. 5:25] -- such a man has no concept of Christian love and should not, in my opinion, be allowed to have a wife.

There are also some signs to look for, but first and foremost -- talk to the Lord about your desire to marry and who **He** would have you to get married to. He is a far better judge of character than anyone and He knows things about the other person that you could never know. **He** will lead you to the **right** person if **you** will let Him.

Does the person you are considering marrying attend church on a regular basis as they have opportunity to do so? [**Do you?**] [not just one or two Sunday morning worship services a month] Heb. 10:25 says: "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together [in the

churches] as is the habit of some." -- If a person isn't faithful to the Lord, they will not be faithful to another human being.

Does the person you are considering marrying attend Bible studies at times other than Sunday morning **to learn how the Lord** wants us to live? [**Do you?**] Most Sunday morning worship services are geared to the "lost" and "baby" Christians. Most Sunday morning Bible studies are geared to "baby" and "adolescent" Christians. Most Bible studies held at other times during the week are usually geared for the more "mature" Christians who are more serious about their relationship with the Lord.

Has the person you are considering marrying been running down his ex-wife? -- In many cases when a man runs down his ex-wife he is attempting to gain sympathy with another woman in an attempt to worm his way into a sexual relationship with her. In most such cases if you marry such a person, you will soon learn **after** marriage that he has "changed" from how he treated you when you were courting and soon he will be seeking some other woman to "conquer".

You can't expect to find a someone who will be faithful to you in a bar, where men go to get away from home and pick up women. When a woman comes to a bar, even if it is with her husband, she is usually considered "fair game." And that is not for meaningful relationships.

It is my opinion that if you want a genuine relationship -- the best place to find that special someone is in church or a church function. Although it is true that just because someone goes to church or to a church function does not necessarily mean they are faithful to the Lord or even that they will be faithful to you, the odds are much better than at any secular event or activity. **It is also my opinion that the best place to take a date is to church.** There you will find out real quick if they are comfortable even being in a church. If they won't go to church with you **before** you marry, you can be very sure that they never will **after** you marry.

Finally, if he wants to live with you or have a sexual relationship with you before marriage, the odds are very good that he really is only interested in one thing, and it's NOT a genuine relationship with you. In most cases he will NEVER marry you, but will use you as **his free prostitute** as long as you will let him and as soon as he gets tired of you, he will be gone because he was never "committed" to you in the first place.

See my web site: <http://www.TheWordNotes.com>

Feel free to email me or my wife Susie any time. I do share all things with her and I don't usually check my email very often.

sonny@thewordnotes.com susieaaka@thewordnotes.com

I have included some of the verses dealing with divorce below:

{40} Matthew	
King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(31) It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:</p> <p>(32) But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.</p>	<p>(31) It has been said, Whoever shall divorce his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:</p> <p>(32) But I say to you, That whoever shall divorce his wife, unless she is guilty of infidelity,^k causes her to commit adultery: and whoever shall marry her who is divorced commits adultery.^l</p>
<p>5:32k - Fornication is having sex with someone you are not married to. If either of the individuals is married, then it is also adultery. Deut. 24:1 - See Acts 15:20; I Cor. 6:9-13; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 2:4</p> <p>5:32l - Since the only legitimate reason for a man to divorce a woman is because she has committed adultery – if another man marries her [knowing she is an adulteress] – he himself is guilty of adultery. Or if the man or woman <u>gets a divorce for the purpose of marrying someone else</u>, they are guilty of adultery (see Mark 10:11-12). [Note: a "divorce" by definition means that the woman and the man are legally free to marry someone else.] The certificate of divorce was primarily protection for the woman if she was innocent of adultery since she had no means of financial support. See I Cor. 7:10-11,15f</p>	
40.013 Matthew Chapter 5	

{46} I Corinthians

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.</p> <p>(11) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.</p> <p>(12) All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.</p> <p>(13) Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.</p> <p>(14) And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.</p> <p>(15) Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make <i>them</i> the members of an harlot? God forbid.</p> <p>(16) What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.</p> <p>(17) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.</p> <p>(18) Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.</p> <p>(19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost <i>which is</i> in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?</p> <p>(20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.</p>	<p>(10) Nor thieves, nor covetous {greedy}, nor drunkards, nor revilers {slanderers}, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.</p> <p>(11) And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified {made holy}, but you are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.</p> <p>(12) All things are lawful to me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.</p> <p>(13) Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.</p> <p>(14) And God has both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power.</p> <p>(15) Do you not know that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make <i>them</i> the members of an harlot? God forbid.</p> <p>(16) What? Do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute is one body {with her}? Because He says, the two, shall be one flesh^a.</p> <p>(17) But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.</p> <p>(18) Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body; but he who commits fornication sins against his own body.</p> <p>(19) What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit <i>Who is</i> in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own?</p> <p>(20) Because you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.</p>

6:16a - Gen. 2:24

{41} Mark

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 10

(1) And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

(2) And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away *his* wife? tempting him.

(3) And he answered and said unto them, **What did Moses command you?**

(4) And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put *her* away.

(5) And Jesus answered and said unto them, **For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.**

(6) **But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.**

(7) **For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;**

(8) **And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.**

(9) **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

(10) And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same *matter*.

(11) And he saith unto them, **Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.**

(12) **And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.**

Chapter 10

(1) And He arose from there, and came into the coasts of Judea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people came to Him again; and, as He wanted, He taught them again.

(2) And the Pharisees came to Him, and asked Him, Is it lawful for a man to divorce *his* wife? tempting Him.^a

(3) And He answered and said to them, **What did Moses command you?**

(4) And they said, Moses allowed a bill of divorcement to be written, and to put *her* away.

(5) And Jesus answered and said to them, **Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.**

(6) **But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.**

(7) **For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and cling to his wife;**

(8) **And they two shall be one flesh: so then they are no more two, but one flesh.**

(9) **Therefore what God has joined together, let no man put asunder.**

(10) And in the house his disciples asked Him again of the same *matter*.

(11) And He said to them, **Whoever shall divorce his wife, and marry another, commits adultery against her.**

(12) **And if a woman shall divorce her husband, and be married to another, she commits adultery.^b**

10:2a – Gen. 2:24; Deut. 24:1; at. 5:32; Mat. 19:9f

10:12b – Mat. 19:3-9 – see Mat. 5:32

41.036 Mark Chapter 10

{46} I Corinthians

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>Chapter 7</p> <p>(1) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: <i>It is good</i> for a man not to touch a woman.</p> <p>(2) Nevertheless, <i>to avoid</i> fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.</p> <p>(3) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.</p> <p>(4) The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.</p> <p>(5) Defraud ye not one the other, except <i>it be</i> with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.</p> <p>(6) But I speak this by permission, <i>and</i> not of commandment.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(8) I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.</p> <p>(9) But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.</p> <p>(10) And unto the married I command, <i>yet</i> not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from <i>her</i> husband:</p> <p>(11) But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to <i>her</i> husband: and let not the husband put away <i>his</i> wife.</p>	<p>Chapter 7</p> <p>(1) Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: <i>It is good</i> for a man not to touch a woman.</p> <p>(2) Nevertheless, <i>to avoid</i> fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.</p> <p>(3) Let the husband render to the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife to the husband.</p> <p>(4) The wife does not have power over her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband does not have power over his own body, but the wife.</p> <p>(5) Do not deprive one another, except <i>by mutual</i> consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.</p> <p>(6) But I speak this by permission, <i>and</i> not of commandment.</p> <p>(7) Because I would <i>desire</i> that all men were even as I myself. But every man has his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.</p> <p>(8) I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they stay even as I.</p> <p>(9) But if they cannot contain themselves, let them marry: because it is better to marry than to burn.</p> <p>(10) And to the married I command, <i>yet</i> not I, but the Lord, Do not let the wife depart from <i>her</i> husband:</p> <p>(11) But and if she departs, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to <i>her</i> husband: and do not let the husband divorce <i>his</i> wife.</p>

{46} I Corinthians

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(15) But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such <i>cases</i>: but God hath called us to peace.</p> <p>(16) For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save <i>thy</i> husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save <i>thy</i> wife?</p> <p>(17) But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>(39) The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.</p> <p>(40) But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.</p>	<p>(12) But to the rest I speak, not the Lord: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.</p> <p>(13) And the woman who has a husband who does not believe, and if he is willing to live with her, let her not leave him.</p> <p>(14) Because the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else your children would be unclean; but now are they holy.</p> <p>(15) But if the unbelieving departs, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage^a in such <i>cases</i>: but God has called us to peace.</p> <p>(16) Because how do you know, O wife, whether you shall save <i>your</i> husband? or how do you know, O man, whether you shall save <i>your</i> wife?</p> <p>(17) But as God has distributed to every man, as the Lord has called every one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all churches.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>(39) The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wills; only in the Lord^b.</p> <p>(40) But she is happier if she so lives, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.</p>

7:15a - not under bondage - i.e. if the unbeliever leaves the believer, the believer is free to remarry
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7:39b - marry in the Lord - i.e. a believer must never marry an unbeliever. The previous verses about believers married to unbelievers has to do with those who become believers but are still married to unbelievers. A believer must always be sure the person he or she is planning to marry is a believer. See II Cor. 6:14-15; Lev. 34:16; Ezz. 9:2,12; Neh. 13:25; Mal. 2:11

{47} II Corinthians

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?</p>	<p>(14) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers: because what fellowship does righteousness have with unrighteousness? and what communion does light have with darkness?^b (15) And what agreement does Christ have with Belial {Satan}^c or what part does he who believes have with an infidel {unbeliever}^d</p>
<p>6:14b – believers are never allowed to marry unbelievers – see I Cor. 7:39; Lev. 34:16; Ezz. 9:2,12; Neh. 13:25; Mal. 2:11 6:15c - Belial - worthlessness - another name of Satan 6:15d - infidel - an unbeliever - one who willfully rejects the Lord</p>	
<p>47.011 II Corinthians Chapter 6</p>	

{49} Ephesians

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(21) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.</p> <p>(22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.</p> <p>(23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.</p> <p>(24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so <i>let</i> the wives <i>be</i> to their own husbands in every thing.</p> <p>(25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;</p> <p>(26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,</p> <p>(27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.</p> <p>(28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.</p> <p>(29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:</p> <p>(30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.</p> <p>(31) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.</p> <p>(32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.</p> <p>(33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife <i>see</i> that she reverence <i>her</i> husband.</p>	<p>(21) Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.</p> <p>(22) Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord.</p> <p>(23) Because the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the savior of the body.</p> <p>(24) Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so <i>let</i> the wives <i>be</i> to their own husbands in everything.</p> <p>(25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;</p> <p>(26) That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,</p> <p>(27) That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.</p> <p>(28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.</p> <p>(29) Because no man ever yet hated his own body; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord does the church:</p> <p>(30) Because we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.</p> <p>(31) For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.^a</p> <p>(32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.</p> <p>(33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife <i>see</i> that she respects <i>her</i> husband.</p>

5:31a – Gen. 2:24; Mat. 19:15; Mark 10:7,8