

Remarriage

I. Introduction.

- A. What are the 3 ideal conditions for any marriage?
 - 1. It is only to be with 1-Male and 1-Female (**Gen. 2:18-25**).
 - 2. Both are to be virgins (cf. **Lev. 21:14**).
 - 3. Both are to be Christians (**1Co. 7:39**; **2Co. 6:14-17**).
- B. What is the duration of Marriage?
- C. How do you define remarriage?
- D. Why is this such an important topic?
- E. **My challenge to you.** Seek earnestly a view on remarriage that is most pleasing to God. Let Scripture determine your view. Do not find people who will justify what you want to be God's view/ideal. Pray earnestly God will give you wisdom on this very, very, difficult topic. Give mercy and grace to people with differing views.

II. Scripture.

- A. **Deu. 24:1-4** – *"¹When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. ²And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. ³And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; ⁴Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."*
- B. **Rom. 7:1-3** – *"¹Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that*

she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

- C. **1Co. 7:39** – *"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."*
- D. **1Co. 7:10-11** – *"¹⁰And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, 'Let not the wife depart from her husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.'"*
- E. **Mar. 10:11-12** – *"¹¹And he saith unto them, 'Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. ¹²And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.'"*
- F. **Luk. 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."*

III. Understanding.

A. Key Views on Remarriage.

1. **Permitted if "legally" divorced.** If legal in the government's or law's eyes, this view believe remarriage is always permitted, under any circumstance, as long as with just 1 person at a time.
2. **Permitted if "spiritually" legally divorced.** If they were the "innocent" party (no fornication) from a divorce in God's eyes. This view has some limited exceptions like some of **the 5-Ds: 1) Dead-deeds** (divorce before saved), 2) **Desertion** (innocent party deserted or divorced by spouse), 3) **aDultery** (some believe Christ's exception permitting divorce permits remarriage), 4) **Divorced-spouse** (spouse divorces you and you are innocent), or 5) **Death** (spouse dies so no longer bound).
3. **Permitted if "divorced before became a Christian."** If any deeds done before becoming a Christian are "Dead-deeds;" all has been forgiven, they are now a new creation—they cite **1Co. 5:17** – *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"*).

4. **Permitted if an unbelieving spouse leaves, deserts, or divorces an "innocent" spouse.** They cite **1Co. 7:12-15** – *"¹²But 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. ¹³And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. ¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵But 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")*.
 - a. **All can divorce and remarry** (If 1) they were sexually innocent, and 2) their spouse divorced or dissented them).
 - b. **All can divorce, but NOT remarry.**
 - c. **All can separate, but NOT divorce, and thus NOT remarry.**
5. **Permitted if spouse committed adultery on them and divorced them** (and they were "innocent" spouse).
6. **Permitted only if they remarry their divorced spouse if neither have been remarried to anyone else** (**Deu. 24:1-4; 1Co. 7:10-11**).
7. **Permitted if spouse died** (and neither were married to anyone else; a widow or widower; **Rom. 7:1-3; 1Co. 7:39; Mat. 22:23-28**).
8. **NOT permitted if ever divorced** (**Mar. 10:11-12; Luk. 16:18; 1Co. 7:10-11; Rom. 7:1-3; Mat. 5:31-32; 19:9-12**; John Stott, Heth and Wenham, John Piper, Charles Ryrie, J. Vernon McGee).

IV. Application.

A. Which remarriage view do you believe God teaches?

#	Key Remarriage View
1	Always permitted if “legally” divorced (government legal).
2	Permitted if “spiritually” legally divorced (you are “innocent”).
3	Permitted if “divorced before a Christian” (dead-deeds).
4	Permitted if “unbeliever deserts innocent” spouse (a. All, b. Divorce ok/no remarriage, c. separate/not divorce/no remarriage).
5	Permitted if “spouse committed adultery and divorced them” (and they were “innocent” party).
6	Permitted if “they only remarry their divorced spouse” (neither has been remarried to anyone else).
7	Permitted if “spouse died” (and neither were married to another).
8	Never permitted if divorced (except for views 6 or 7).

B. Guidance.

1. Everyone “**be fully persuaded**” in your own heart and mind (**Rom. 14:5**), and willing to help others on this sensitive issue.
2. If a person is remarried un-Biblically/wrongly, they should repent/confess (**1Jo. 1:9**), but remain married and committed to the new promise they made to their new spouse (cf. **1Co. 7:20**).
3. If a person has divorced or left you, but is not yet remarried, forgive, pray, wait, and hope that God will restore them to Him and you (cf. **Deu. 24:1-4**; **1Co. 7:10-11**). Also, live undistracted as a full follower of Jesus Christ.
4. Affair-proof your marriage.
5. Pray for your marriage and encourage others to remain faithful.

C. Let’s pray and earnestly continue praying for all our marriages.