

Marriage and Separation

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Although rare, Christian singles who are preoccupied with the Lord and the advancement of His Kingdom have a simpler life compared to Christians who seek marriage and its responsibilities. The main exhortation in 1Corinthians 7 is in v.29, and v.32-35: “But this I say, brethren, **the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none ... I want you to be without care.** Whoever is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--how he may please the Lord. But whoever is married cares about the things of the world--how he may please his wife. There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please her husband. And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and **that you may serve the Lord without distraction.**”

7:7-9 “I wish everyone were as I am [single/unmarried]. But each person has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that [marriage]. But I say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am, **but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry.** For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.” In a similar manner he states in 1Timothy 5:11-15 “[In comparison to real widows who are physically frail and in need of church’s physical support] Refuse younger widows, for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, **they desire to marry ...** And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. **Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan.**”

Contrary to popular “Christian” teaching even among Evangelicals that the marriages of Christian couples continue after death, the New Testament says: “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in Heaven” (Matthew 22:29-30). Luke 20:34-36 “... The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage, nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” Marriage is temporal, always terminated by death, if not by sin.

Marriage Responsibilities and Complexities:

1Peter 3:7 “Husbands likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered.**” Malachi 2:14-16 “... the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one,

having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit and let none deal treacherously [unfaithfully] with the wife of his youth. For YAH God of Israel says that He hates divorce, because it covers one's garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal [unfaithfully] treacherously."

Contrary to perverted culture, Marriage (and sexual purity) isn't something anyone should take lightly. It's a fearful thing: **Matthew 19:10** "His disciples said to Him, if such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry." **God will punish husbands who mistreat their wives.** Hebrews 13:4-6 "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Let your life be without covetousness, be content with whatever you have. For God Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'the LORD is my helper, I will not fear. ...'"

My explanations below are based on the following Scriptures: **Romans 7:1-3**, **Matthew 19:3-12**, **5:32**, **1Corinthians 7:10-16**, **7:39-40**, **Luke 16:18**. **Deuteronomy 24:1-5**, **Jeremiah 3:1-2**. **1Corinthians 7:8-9**, **7:27-28**

What if a woman separated from her husband because he was physically violent towards her? I think she rightfully separated from him. If she seeks to reconcile back to him, that's excellent, if not, she must remain single. If they get back together and the husband continues been physically violent towards her, and she separates again and isn't able to trust him anymore: I think she rightfully separated. Yet according to the Scriptures, if that woman marries another man while her violent husband is still alive, her husband has caused her to commit adultery.

According to the Scriptures, the only just basis for a divorce is sexual immorality. In this case, I don't think mental impurity/lust warrants divorce, it must be physical to be considered worthy of divorce. However, if the offended can exercise God's grace and forgive, then the sinner should be totally humbled at the kindness of God. Please see Jeremiah 3:1-2, God's desire is that we have that spirit of Reconciliation, but in marriage and separation it may be impossible. I think physical violence in marriage is similar to physical sexual immorality and that physical violence is a just basis for separation (for physical safety). In these cases, according to the Scriptures, if an offended and just woman (instead of remaining single while her husband is still alive) marries another man, her husband has caused her to commit adultery.

Another Scenario: A Christian woman separates from a "Christian" man because the man was in a secret place with another woman and they were caressing romantically. Then the Christian woman followed the way of the Lord as outlined in Scripture by **remaining single during years of seeking to be reconciled to her husband**. Eventually her husband who married another woman two years ago is now remorseful and repenting of his wickedness. According to **1Corinthians 7:10-11** and the spirit of **Jeremiah 3:1-2**, in this scenario in which the offended is yielded to the Spirit of God, this means her repentant husband will now divorce the second woman and be married

to his original wife. God's original purpose is: "the two shall become one flesh".
Clearly that scenario included complexities introduced by the evil husband.

According to the way of the Lord, a justly or unjustly divorced woman is still married until her husband die. As long as her husband is still alive, there's no such thing as "a divorced woman". Only the death of her husband makes her free from the marriage. If the husband is still alive, she must continue to seek to reconcile back with him or remain unmarried. It seems 1Corinthians 7:8-9 applies to such a woman as well (i.e., if she cannot exercise self-control regarding sexual purity, then it's better for her to marry than burn with passion) although according to God, it is adultery when a justly or unjustly divorced woman marries while her husband is still alive.

In the case of a woman who was unjustly divorced by her husband or who had to justly divorce her husband, and the husband is still alive, she needs to continue to seek to reconcile back with him. It seems 1Corinthians 7:8-9 applies to such a woman as well, although according to God, it is adultery when a justly or unjustly divorced woman marries while her husband is still alive.

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