

Key Biblical Passages On Divorce And Remarriage

Numbers in parenthesis are from the dictionaries of Hebrew & Greek, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, Hendrickson Publishers, 2007

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness (06172) in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, 2 "when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife, 3 "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Jeremiah 3:6-10 The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. 7 "And I said, after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 "Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.

Malachi 2:16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Mt 5:31&32 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever *divorces*(630) his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except *sexual immorality* (4202) causes her to commit *adultery*; (3429) and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Mt 19:3-10 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and

marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." 10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

Mark 10:2-12 The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him. 3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her." 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 be joined to his wife, 8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." 10 In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. 11 So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. 12 "And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Luke 16:18 "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

Romans 7:1-4 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

I Corinthians 7:10-17 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to *depart* (5563) from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under

bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. **16** For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife? **17** But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

06172 *`ervah* {er-vaw'} AV - nakedness 50, nakedness + 01320 1, shame 1, unclean 1, uncleanness 1; 54

- 1) nakedness, nudity, shame, pudenda
 - 1a) pudenda (implying shameful exposure)
 - 1b) nakedness of a thing, indecency, improper behaviour
 - 1c) exposed, undefended (fig.)

630 *apoluo* {ap-ol-oo'-o} AV - release 17, put away 14, send away 13, let go 13, set at liberty 2, let depart 2, dismiss 2, misc 6; 69

- 1) to set free
- 2) to let go, dismiss, (to detain no longer)
 - 2a) a petitioner to whom liberty to depart is given by a decisive answer
 - 2b) to bid depart, send away
- 3) to let go free, release
- 4) used of divorce, to dismiss from the house, to repudiate.5) to send one's self away, to depart

4202 *porneia* {por-ni'-ah} AV - fornication 26; 26

- 1) illicit sexual intercourse
 - 1a) adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.
 - 1b) sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18
 - 1c) sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mk. 10:11,12
- 2) metaph. the worship of idols
 - 2a) of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols

3429 *moichao* {moy-khah'-o} AV - commit adultery 6; 6

- 1) to have unlawful intercourse with another's wife, to commit adultery with

5563 *chorizo* {kho-rid'-zo} AV - depart 8, separate 3, put asunder 2; 13

- 1) to separate, divide, part, put asunder, to separate one's self from, to depart
 - 1a) to leave a husband or wife
 - 1a) of divorce
 - 1b) to depart, go away

Recommended Reading

Divorce & Remarriage; Four Christian Views

J. Carl Laney, William Heth, Thomas Edgar, and Larry Richards
Intervarsity Press © 1990

A somewhat scholarly book, not necessarily written for lay readers. The importance

lies in the way Dr. Edgar carefully uses Scripture. There is a marked difference between his careful exegesis and the way the other writers use the Bible. His conclusion is that there are Biblical, though limited, instances of recognized divorce and remarriage.

Divorce & Remarriage

Guy Duty

Bethany House Publishers © 2002

A down to earth exposition of the issues written in a style that is easily understandable by most Christians. His understanding of Scripture leads to the viewpoint that divorce and remarriage an allowable for desertion or adultery.

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible

Jay Adams

Zondervan Publishing © 1980

Adams does a thorough job of harmonizing the various Scriptural passages that deal with marriage, divorce, remarriage, and church discipline. He is clear, scholarly, and does not strain the texts. He's especially valuable in his focus on marriage, nor just divorce.