

## The Marriage Bond

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### Introduction: Are Married People *Bound* in Holy Matrimony?

- A. For many, marriage is no longer viewed to be: “Until death do you part.”
- B. Many couples do not understand the significance of the marriage bond: *Do you?*
- C. Only those who do have any chance of “going the distance” in marriage.

### I. The Permanency of the Marriage Bond.

- A. From the beginning, God intended marriage to be permanent (**Gen. 2:24**).
  - 1. The married must “leave” father and mother (i.e., forsake or renounce rule, yet still honor them - **Eph. 6:2; 1 Tim. 5:4**).
  - 2. Husband and wife are to “cleave” to one another (i.e., to join, cling or stick together, to stay close together).
  - 3. Husband and wife are to be as “one flesh” (sexual union) (cf. **1 Cor. 6:16**).
- B. *God is the One* who joins a man and a woman together in matrimony (**Mat. 19:4-6**).
  - 1. God’s marriage law must be respected for the joining to take place (**Mt 19:4-6, 9; 5:32; Mark 10:11-12; Lk 16:18; Rom 7:2-3; 1 Cor 7:10-15; 39**).
  - 2. Government laws must also be obeyed for the joining to take place (**Rom. 13:1-4**), provided those laws do not contradict God’s laws (**Acts 5:29**).

### II. What Does it Mean to Be Joined Together by God in Marriage?

- A. Man and woman is bound together by the law of God (**Rom. 7:2; Mal. 2:14**).
  - 1. The marriage bond is a **covenant** of God that joins man and woman together.
  - 2. God Himself witnesses or ratifies the covenant **making it binding for life!**
- B. *Only in the event of death* of either husband or wife is the marriage bond loosened (only one other exception - **Mat. 5:32; 19:9**) (**Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:39**).
  - 1. Once death occurs, the husband or wife who still lives may remarry.

### III. Leaving a Marriage Unlawfully (Divorce in Violation of God’s law) Does not Dissolve the Marriage Bond.

- A. To marry another person *while your spouse still lives* is “adulterous”! (**Rom. 7:3**).
  - 1. Adulterous because the woman is still bound to her first husband.
- B. Though a man and a woman marry, they are *not necessarily “bound” by God* (i.e., lawfully married according to **God’s** law).
  - 1. Just because a couple is married according to “civil authority” (**Rom. 13**), does not mean that the marriage is approved of God!
  - 2. A couple may be married according to civil law, but not “bound” with respect to God’s law (e.g., **Mark 6:17-18**).
- C. To divorce for any other reason **other than the cause of fornication** will not dissolve the marriage bond (**Mat. 19:9**).
  - 1. The cause of fornication stands for not only adultery, but all unlawful sexual intercourse (e.g., incest, homosexuality, lesbianism, prostitution, bestiality).
  - 2. There is **no** other cause for divorce permitted by God in His word.
- D. When divorce for a reason other than fornication occurs and remarriage to others takes place, adultery is the result (**Mat. 19:9; 5:32; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18**).

#### IV. Is Remarriage Ever Acceptable to God?

A. When divorce takes place for the cause of fornication, only the innocent person (who did not commit fornication) may remarry (**Mat. 5:31-32; 19:9**).

1. The innocent party who did not commit fornication may “put away” (divorce) his mate who is guilty of fornication.

2. Only when God’s law for divorce is followed is the marriage bond loosened, allowing the innocent party to remarry (**Mat. 5:32; 19:9**).

B. The guilty person who has been “put away” (divorced) for fornication may **not** remarry (**Mat. 5:32; 19:9**).

#### V. When Divorce Occurs for a Cause Other Than Fornication, Sin Has Been Committed.

A. To divorce for a reason not authorized by Christ is to break His law or sin (**1 Jn 3:4**).

B. To receive forgiveness from God, repentance is required (**Acts 8:22; 2 Cor. 7:9-10**).

#### VI. If Divorce Occurs without a Lawful Cause, What Does Repentance Require?

A. “*If she does depart*” (divorce), **then** she must either “*remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband*” (**1 Cor. 7:10-11**).

**Note:** “Depart” from CHORIZO, is the same word used in Mat 19:6 translated “*put asunder.*”

1. This is a conditional instruction: **If** she departs / divorces, then

this is what she must do: Remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband.

2. Compare to **1 John 2:1-2**. **If** anyone sins (not by permission of God, but by mistake), there is a way of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

3. The Lord, through the apostle Paul, is not giving permission to divorce, anymore than he gives us permission to commit any sin!

4. But **if** sin does occur, which unfortunately does (**Rom. 3:23**), then there are instructions we must follow to get right with God again.

B. Unlawful divorce (which is sin) requires true repentance which requires an **honest** and **sincere** attempt to reconcile (**1 Cor. 7:11**).

1. One cannot choose to “remain unmarried” without trying their best to reconcile!

2. True repentance will be demonstrated by our actions and not just what we feel in our hearts: “*Therefore bring forth **fruits** in keeping with repentance*” (**Lk 3:8**).

C. If reconciliation is not possible (it takes both the husband and wife to reconcile), then they must remain unmarried (**1 Cor. 7:11**).

1. They must remain unmarried, though they are still “bound by law” (God’s law) to one another (**Rom. 7:2**)

2. *Remember Herod and Herodias?* They were married according to civil law, yet unlawfully married according to God’s law, therefore not bound (**Mark 6:17-18**).

3. In **1 Cor. 7:11**, they are unmarried, but still bound to one another by God’s law.

#### Conclusion: Respect the Marriage Bond!

A. Understanding the permanency of marriage will lead to greater commitment.

B. Recognition of the marriage bond will cause couples to work out their problems instead of divorce.

C. Keeping the marriage bond in your heart leads to a dedication to obey all of God’s will on how marriage should be conducted (**Eph 5:22-23; Col 3:18-19; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7**).