



Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

What does the bible say?

God's Marriage Law

- There is a lot to understand.
- Many think it cannot be understood.
- Is it hard to understand or hard to accept?
- The apostles thought it is was hard to accept so acknowledge that it is
- Decide before you study that you want to accept the truth regardless of the cost
- Emotions always get in the way of truth.
- Our Approach to the study
 - Briefly review passages
 - Pull it all together
 - Answer some questions to sharpen our understanding of the verses.

OT Verses Concerning Marriage

- Gen 2:18-25 – God institutes marriage
- Deut 22:13-24 – Husband does not find his wife to be a virgin
- Deut 24:1-4 – Laws of pertaining to a certificate of divorce
- Lev 20:10 – punishment for adultery
- Ex 34:16, Neh 13:24-37 – Marrying foreign wives is sinful
- Mal 2:14-16 – God hates divorce
- Ezra 9-10 – Repentance involved foreign wives being put away even if they had children
- There are other verses
- **NOTE:** Given Jesus corrects the OT laws on marriage we cannot use these laws as binding unless we keep them ALL. Same principle as works of the Law vs acts of faith.

NT Verses Concerning Marriage

- Gen 2:18-25 – God institutes marriage
- Matt 19:1-6 – God explains the OT marriages laws are what God wants
- Matt 19:7-12 – Divorce and remarriage.
- Luke 16:18, Matt 5:27-32 – Sin of Adultery, Divorce and remarriage
- Mark 10:11-12 – Divorce and Adultery
- Rom 7:1-4 – Marriage bond
- 1 Cor 7 – Marriage advice
- Eph 5:22-33 – Marriage is Like Christ & Church
- Heb 13:4 – Sexual relationship

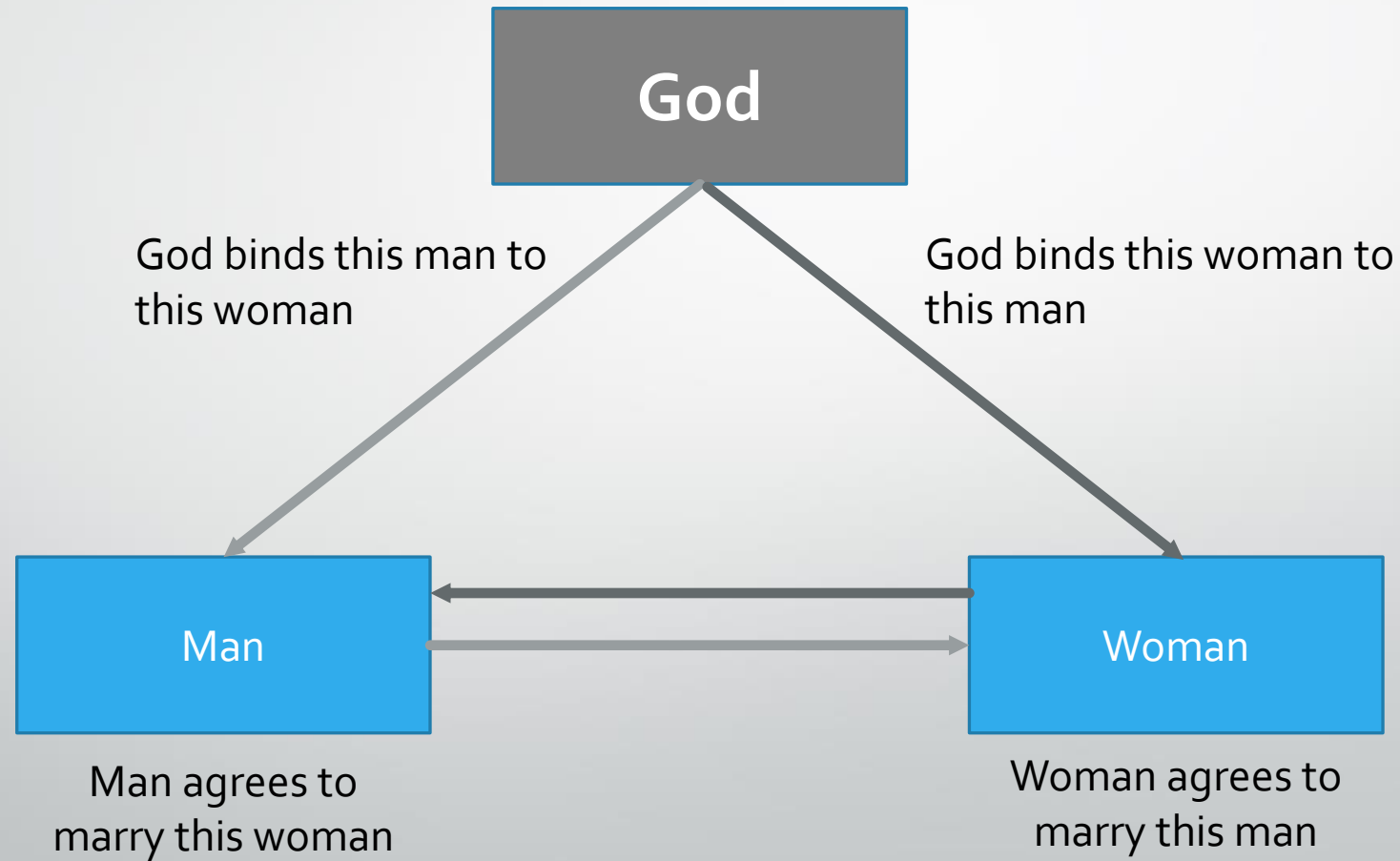
Questions from Gen 2:18-25, Matt 19:1-6

- Who joins them?
- How did God bind them together? Rom 7 confirms what is implied
- Who can separate?
- How many wives can a man have?
- How many husbands can a wife have?
- How long is marriage for?
- Is divorce allowed?

Gen 2:18-25, Matt 19:1-6

- Woman was made for man. A Helper.
- Children grow up, leave parents and start their own families. God's plan.
- God's plan has always been the same.
- Between one man and one woman.
- God joins them together as one.
- God is the only one who can separate.
 - Marriage is for life.
 - Divorce is sinful. Other verses provide exceptions.

Marriage is A Bond Between 3 Parties



Mt 19:7-12, Mt 5:27-32, Mk 10:11-12

- Divorce and remarriage is allowed if:
 - You divorce (put away) your spouse because your spouse committed adultery.
 - You are not guilty of adultery
 - Note: Adultery is voluntary sexual contact with someone other than the lawful spouse.
- Divorce is sinful except for one condition per these passages.
 - We learn of another special condition in 1 Cor 7
- A divorced person who marries another commits adultery. Applies to husband and wife.
- The one who has committed adultery does not have authority to divorce nor remarry. He/She is still bound by normal marriage laws.
- These marriage laws were hard for the Jews (and people today) to accept

Questions Based on Previous Verses

- When can a person divorce and remarry?
- How does one divorce or put away their spouse?
- Is divorce sinful if done because she is a bad cook, he is lazy bum, etc?
- Can you divorce and remain single?
- What do you do if just cannot “stand” or “live with” your spouse any longer? What if you are being physically abused?
- Can you remarry the person you divorced for adultery?

Rom 7:1-4

- Marriage is used as illustration. It is not the primary focus of passage.
- Law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives.
- One is obligated (or bound) to your spouse as long as your spouse lives.
- Being married is different than being bound by law.
- One can be bound and married. Husband and wife are bound upon initial marriage
- One can be bound and unmarried.
- One can be bound and unmarried while his/her spouse is free to remarry.
- One can be bound while unscripturally married to another.

1 Cor 7, Heb 13:4

- A sexual relationship is only allowed within the marriage relationship.
- Your body belongs to your spouse.
- It is spiritually better not to marry but you must have self-control.
- Divorce is sinful. Remain married.
- If divorced, remain single or be reconciled.
- When married to unbeliever, remain married.
- If unbeliever leaves(divorces), you are not guilty of the sin of divorce.
 - You do not have to maintain the marriage
 - There is no authorization for remarriage

Questions for Discussion

- If you commit adultery OR have a non-sexual romantic relationship while married to another, what should you do?
- If both parties commit adultery while married, can they scripturally divorce each other? We know remarriage is not allowed in this situation. Does your answer change based on who committed adultery first?
- If the husband is having a romantic relationship (no sexual contact) and the wife has a sexual relationship with another can/should the husband divorce his wife?
- Can one repent and be forgiven for an unscriptural divorce? How?
- Can one repent and be forgiven for an unscriptural marriage? How?
- If wife is unscripturally married to her husband who has never been married before and the wife's first spouse dies, what happens?
- If the husband commits adultery and the wife chooses not to divorce him, can she divorce him 6 months, 1 year, or some time in the future?

Conclusion

- There is a lot to understand. It is not “complex” but hard to accept.
- Study this now and come to your own conviction before the situation is upon you or a close family/friend
- Emotions can always get in the way of truth.
- Always remember
 - God hates divorce. So do not consider it an option in your marriage
 - Do not believe that marriage problems are ALL your spouse’s fault. Both the husband and wife are at fault
 - You need to fix your part before dealing with your spouse.
 - Reconciliation is possible.
 - God only allows divorce and remarriage under one condition (Matt 19:9)