

Theme: God may allow remarriage, but the sinful conduct which destroyed the previous marriage must be rectified first through repentance and proper actions.

I. Intro – Review

- A. Summary of what we have discovered so far
- B. Divorce is allowed under two circumstances
- C. Can sinful divorce be forgiven?
- D. What about remarriage?
- E. What about those unlawfully divorced/remarried?

II. What Happens in a Divorce?

- A. Marriage is a covenant between two people
 - 1. Gen 2:24 – leave, receive, cleave, one flesh
 - 2. Forsake all others; until death; **covenant oath**
- B. Divorce is the official destruction of the marriage covenant
 - 1. Divorce officially ends marriage covenant
 - 2. Jer 3:8 – bill of divorce; Hos 2:2 – not my wife
 - 3. Ancient Hebrew divorce certificate (Adams, 29)
 - 4. First covenant no longer in effect
- C. Biblical provisions for divorce – porneia & desertion
 - 1. Only legal reasons for divorce

- 2. All other divorces are sinful – should not be free

III. Can Sinful Divorce Be Forgiven?

- A. The “innocent” party – nothing to forgive!
 - 1. They are free from any guilt (1 Cor 7:15)
 - 2. This party has not violated their covenant
 - 3. They are the victim – not the offender!
- B. The covenant breaker – yes – with repentance
 - 1. They have violated covenant – a serious sin
 - 2. They must **repent** and **prove** it by deeds (Acts 26:20)
 - 3. This sin can be forgiven! (Mat 12:31; 1 Jo 1:9)

IV. What About Remarriage?

- A. Remarriage for widows allowed & encouraged (Ruth; 1 Tim 5:14)
- B. The “innocent” party in the divorce may remarry
 - 1. Mt 19:9 – Remarriage included in clause
 - 2. 1 Cor 7:15, 39 – Not bound = free to remarry
 - 3. 1 Cor 7:27-28 NASB – Released=divorced; distinct from virgins
 - 4. A plea for patience & hope for reconciliation – Tammy R.
- C. The covenant breaker should not remarry
 - 1. Matt 19:9 – unlawful divorce & remarriage sin

- 2. Mark 10:11-12 – unlawful remarriage adultery
 - 3. 1 Cor 7:10-11 – reconcile or remain single
 - 4. The goal – restore the original marriage!
- D. Can the covenant breaker ever remarry?
- 1. If the innocent partner has died or remarried
 - 2. If the innocent partner will not reconcile
 - 3. In all cases, must be repentance, confession, etc.
- E. Forgiveness and consequences
- 1. Covenant breaker can be forgiven after repentance
 - 2. There can be consequences after forgiveness (David)
 - 3. The life of the covenant breaker should be hard! (Pr 13:15)

V. **Objections and Assurances Today**

- A. Our culture – this seems too legalistic and hard!
- 1. We have lost our understanding of covenant!
 - 2. What is hard is the damage wrought by divorce!
 - 3. Consequences would change conduct!
- B. Some Christians – any remarriage = adultery
- 1. Jesus, Paul, and Moses allow remarriage

- 2. Divorce is not the unforgivable sin!
 - 3. Divorce truly breaks the first covenant
- C. A word to those wrongfully divorced and remarried
- 1. 3 R's – recognition, repentance, restitution
 - 2. Receive God's forgiveness (1 Cor 6:9-11)
- D. The path of blessing – God's way!
- 1. God desires for you to find blessing in life
 - 2. The path of blessing is God's Word!

Divorce and Remarriage Today

Matthew 19:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

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Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Basic principles regarding divorce

God created marriage

Men created divorce

Divorce always stems from human sin

God allows divorce for sexual immorality

God allows divorce if an unbeliever leaves

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

8 I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries... Jeremiah 3:8

2 Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, **for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband**. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts. Hosea 2:2

...but now I have dismissed thee...so as to be free at their own disposal, to marry whomsoever thou pleasest, without hindrance from anyone from this day forever. Thou art therefore free for anyone [who would marry thee]. Let this be thy bill of divorce from me, a writing of separation and expulsion, according to the law of Moses and Israel." Quoted in Jay Adams, *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*, 29.

20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, **I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds**. Acts 26:20

31 And so I tell you, **every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men**, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Matthew 12:31

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

14 So **I counsel younger widows to marry**, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 1 Timothy 5:14

27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. 1 Corinthians 7:27-28 NASB

11 He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. 12 And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." Mark 10:11-12

The covenant breaker can remarry only if:

- The innocent partner has died or remarried – thus finally severing the original covenant
- The innocent party refuses reconciliation after a long period of attempt
- Note: Repentance, confession, and proper actions must always precede any remarriage

15 Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard. Proverbs 13:15

9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11