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Study 4 – Adultery

Divorce & Re-Marriage is Adultery Unless The Previous Partner Has Died

There was once a time when the church genuinely was salt and light on this earth, and that unsaved people could look to the church and see how to live in a godly manner. But unfortunately, we live in a time where the church is seeking to be more like the world than like Christ.

And with regards to this doctrine. The absolute vast majority of churches have totally abandoned the direct teachings of Jesus Christ himself! And basically embrace every other permutation and combination of teachings on divorce and remarriage, apart from the truth.

And God will hold them accountable for this, unless they rectify it!

On a personal level I am not saying that I am perfect and have warned as many people as I should have. But what I can say for definite is that of all the churches I have been to, only one, at MAXIMUM!, has taught this as doctrine.

This study will offend a lot of people. However we should fear God, and not man.

And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: **Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.**

Luke 12:4-5

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.
Proverbs 29:25

And the absolute bottom line is that everyone is going to die one day, and stand before God and be judged.

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
Hebrews 9:27

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

And as you can see, either your name is written in the book of life, and you get to spend eternity in Heaven. Or it is not. And if it is not, you get to spend eternity in the lake of fire.

And as a believer, we should want to warn fellow Christians and the unsaved about the standard that you will be judged, ahead of time. So that you can take steps NOW, and that when you stand before God, your name IS in the book of life.

Because adulterers will not be allowed into heaven. Unless they repent.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

And the Word of God calls divorce and remarriage adultery. Unless the previous partner(s) has/have died.

There are people that will dispute this. But as mentioned previously, the reason for this is a lack of understanding.

There are no contradictions in the Bible, and this is a doctrine that is established in the New testament. So sighting divorce and remarriage laws in the old testament is irrelevant. We are not under the old testament. And while it is important to read and understand the old testament, you cannot enforce laws that applied then, to now, unless God decreed that they carried over to the new testament.

Also, some people tackle this topic by going through the scriptures in the wrong order. Because, they begin at passages of scripture that appears to allow divorce and remarriage under a certain condition (other than death). And then basically use this to override all the other scriptures. And this is wrong.

So let us begin this part of the study with some foundational scriptures regarding reasoning. And then read the words of Jesus Christ that make this doctrine perfectly clear. Then we will rightly divide the Word of truth in order to understand the other verses that people commonly use to oppose this stance.

He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it*, *it is* folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 18:13

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Isaiah 1:18-20

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him

alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, **that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**

Matthew 18:15-16

This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you. **In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.**

2 Corinthians 13:1

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*

For precept *must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:*

Isaiah 28:9-10

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

So you must read what is written, before you answer, otherwise you are being a fool. Rather be reasonable, and you will see that what is presented before you is repeated several times for clarification. And that it perfectly harmonises with others scriptures to create sound biblical doctrine.

So let us begin with the words of the Lord

And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, **Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?** tempting him.

And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, for the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife.

And they twain shall be one flesh, so that they are no more twain, but one flesh.

What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.

And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Mark 10:2-12

So in a nutshell. A piece of paper or court order does not dissolve the bond that God created when the man and woman were married.

And lets re-read the last two lines again

And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth

adultery.

Mark 10:11-12

So this is why it is adultery when a divorced person remarries. Because in God's eyes they are still married to their first husband/wife.

I would say that's crystal clear. But lets look for more confirmation.

Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Luke 16:18

The Same again. As clear as can be.

And further, the only way that a marriage can be broken in God's eyes is by the death of one of the partners.

For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as she liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from that law of her husband.

So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Romans 7:2-3

Hence the reason people take the vow, 'til death do us part.

The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:39

The Bible does not forbid separation of a couple.

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

1 Corinthians 7:10-15

However, it must be clear that if a couple decide to separate, they only have two options. Remain unmarried. Or become reconciled.

If the partner dies. Reconciliation is no longer an option, and so now (and only now) can a new marriage be formed.

This is why Jesus told the woman that had 5 husbands to be reconciled to her first husband and then come to him in order to receive eternal life.

When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

(Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

And he must needs go through Samaria.

Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.

There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

(For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.

John 4:1-26

And notice, he didn't tell her to divorce her other husbands.

Further, we should know that God hates divorce (putting away)

For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for *one* covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Malachi 2:16

And we are commanded not to go before unbelievers for judgement.

Dare any of you having a matter against another, go to the law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to the life?

If then ye have judgements or things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

But brother goeth to law one with another, and that before the unbelievers.

Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to the law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

So in a marriage of two unbelievers. When one of the couple becomes a believer, this is why the believer is not to seek divorce.

Also, believers should NEVER seek to marry an unbeliever. It is just not going to work. And the Bible commands us not to.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Now before we look at the scriptures that many cite in order to permit divorce and remarriage, let us use the Bible to define a couple of words, and clarify the difference between them.

Firstly. Adultery

If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, *both* the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.

Deuteronomy 22:22

So it involves sexual activity between two people where at least one of the participants was married. And in the old testament it carried a death penalty.

Hence the commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Exodus 20:14

Also, if a man lay with a woman while she was engaged (betrothed). And she consented. It was a death penalty for them both.

If a damsel *that is* a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her;
Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, *being* in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.
Deut 22:23-24

Whereas, if she did not consent. And it was forced upon her. Then only the man was put to death

But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die:
But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; *there is* in the damsel no sin *worthy* of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so *is* this matter:
For he found her in the field, *and* the betrothed damsel cried, and *there was* none to save her.
Deut 22:25-27

Now we will define. Fornication.

And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.
If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.
Exodus 22:16-17

If a man find a damsel *that is* a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found;
Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty *shekels* of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.
Deuteronomy 22:28-29

So because both parties were single, and were involved in sexual activity. Their sin did not carry a death sentence. But rather required that they were married. If the women (via her father) consented.

Hence when we look at the new testament, fornication and adultery are separate words.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: **neither fornicators**, nor idolaters, **nor adulterers**, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
1 Corinthians 6:9-10

So in the same way that as a thief is not the same as a drunkard (Although a thief could also be a drunkard). In a like manner, a fornicator is not the same as an adulterer (although a fornicator could

also be an adulterer)

And the following verses confirm that fornication, in this context, is for single people.

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman.
Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.
1 Corinthians 7:1-3

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

And we see here that fornication is a sin against your own body. Whereas adultery is sin against your partner (and destroys your soul!)

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

Proverbs 6:32

So ask yourself, why do the following scriptures use the word fornication and not adultery?

It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:
But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Matthew 5:31-32

The Pharisses also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Matthew 19:3-9

One argument people often use is: the word fornication encompasses all sexual sins including incest and idolatry. Which would open the door for divorce if you discovered your partner was involved in incest or idolatry.

But that would not make sense, because it would be against all the other scriptures we considered. Which were absolutes.

If incest or idolatry were the exceptions, then separation would be the solution. To shame the offending party. So that, Lord willing, they would come to repentance.

So there must be another answer. And there is!

Generally when people get married they do not get married instantly. They are single. Meet each other. Get **engaged** for a time. And then fully consummate the marriage.

The word engaged is not used in the Bible, rather betrothed or espoused.

And so it is only during this time of betrothal or espousal that the marriage can be broken. And divorce is allowed.

You may not see the period of betrothal as part of the marriage. But, as the following scriptures indicate, God does. So unfortunately your opinion is irrelevant on that one!

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:18-20

Mary was espoused to Joseph. Yet Joseph was called her husband. And Mary was called Joseph's wife

And for clarity. Here is the definition of betrothed.

Betrothed

BETROTH'ED, pp. Contracted for future marriage.

And here is the definition of espoused

Espoused

ESPOUS'ED, pp. Betrothed; affianced; promised in marriage by contract; married; united intimately; embraced.

So to repeat, it is only on these conditions that putting away (divorce) is possible. If and only if fornication been committed **during the engagement.**

And we see this with Joseph. He thought that Mary had been unfaithful (because she was pregnant) and was going to put her away. i.e. divorce her.

So hopefully you will now see that there are no contradictions in the Bible on this subject. That when you understand what the Bible teaches on this topic, it is not confusing. And you recognise why Jesus called divorce and remarriage adultery.

Sadly this knowledge will put some people in a very emotionally difficult situation.

And if someone has remarried and started a family, then they are going to have make a choice:

To either stay in adultery, or get right with the Lord.

Here are a few amazingly powerful testimonies and examples of what the Lord has called you to do.

https://youtu.be/5NNQ_wnBoYo

https://youtu.be/IKjfgMtJ_hk

<https://youtu.be/YwcsdcYGwZA>

This is a most serious matter, and the Word of God tells us that adulterers shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

So either you go through all the pain now. And it is temporary. Or you delay it. And the pain is eternal.

Because if you love someone, when all is said and done, you will all want to be together in Heaven, not in Hell.