



Section: Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)
HANDOUT NOTES

Q29. What is marriage?

Marriage is a covenant relationship whereby God joins together one man and one woman into a one-flesh union designed to be faithful and last until the couple is separated by death.

➤ **Even in the Common Vow**

"I, husband, take you, wife, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, *until death do us part*."

Please know that your pastors and group leaders are here to walk with you, love you, and help you with current marriage struggles or past hurts stemming from divorce. We do this according to what God's expressed will is, as found in His word (Scripture).

➤ **The Core Pillars about Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage Found in Scripture**

- 1) The one-flesh union created in marriage is permanent until the death of one of the spouses.
- 2) Initiating or longing for a divorce is never lawful.
- 3) Remarrying after divorce is an act of adultery if a former spouse is living.

➤ **The Scripture**

▪ **Marriage is a Creation Ordinance**

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry *nor* are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

▪ **Human Marriage Is Designed by God to Display Gospel Realities, Including the Reality of the Unbreakable Union That Jesus Has with the Redeemed**

Romans 8:38-39 (NASB) For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord

John 6:37, 39 *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ... I should lose nothing of all that he has given me ...*

Ephesians 5:31-32 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and *I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

▪ **The Other Didactic Passages on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the New Testament**

Romans 7:1-3 ¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.

³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

1 Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

Luke 16:18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery."

▪ The Mark and Matthew Accounts

Mark 10:2-9 ² And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³ He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." ⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷ 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Mark 10:10-12 ¹⁰ And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Matthew 19:3-8 ³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" ⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." ⁷ They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" ⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."

Matthew 19:9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Matthew 5:31-32 ³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

KJV: "whosoever shall put away his wife" YLT: "whoever may put away his wife"

Deuteronomy 22:22 "If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel."

The Jews in the Old Covenant would hear Christ as saying, "whoever ends his marriage with his wife, except for in the case of sexual immorality *in which the wife would be put to death thereby ending the marriage per God's terms*, and marries another, commits adultery." Or in Chapter 5 "everyone who ends his marriage with his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality *in which the wife would be put to death thereby ending the marriage per God's terms*, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a woman *separated* from her husband commits adultery."

Matthew 19:10-12 ¹⁰ The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

¹¹ But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

➤ Applying God's Design in a Broken World

▪ When an Unbelieving Spouse Forces a Divorce on a Believer

1 Corinthians 7:10-13 ¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

1 Corinthians 7:15 "But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace."

Ephesians 5:31-32 ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

▪ Answering Other Questions

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."