



Section: Doctrine of Man
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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.

➤ **Introduction**

The Bible teaches that:

- 1) Because Marriage is a Creation Ordinance, God's design and terms for marriage are to remain unchanged as God designed it until the end of this creation.
- 2) The one-flesh union created in marriage is permanent until the death of one of the spouses.
- 3) Initiating or longing for a divorce is never lawful.
- 4) Remarrying after divorce is an act of adultery if a former spouse is living.

➤ **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.

- An ordinance that is creational is perpetual.
- Creation ordinances are commanded to be rightly *honored* by all men and women.

1 Timothy 2:13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve

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

➤ **God's Law Is That Marriage Is Only Ended by Death**

Romans 7:1 Or 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?

Romans 7:2-3 For 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. Accordingly, 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.

If your spouse has not died, which in God's law and economy is the only thing that ends the one-flesh union that He binds together, then you are to honor the covenant—even if the other person sinfully refuses to!

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.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers ...

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.”

Mark 10:2-4 And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.”

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.”

The Mosaic Law neither commanded divorce nor established divorce as a right.

Mark 10:5-9 And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

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

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 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 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.”

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.”

Matthew 5:27-28 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

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

1 Corinthians 7:12-13 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. 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 “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.

We must not ever lose sight of the fact that marriage is ultimately not about me, not about my temporary desires or fleshly needs, but about Jesus and His gospel.

Marriage cannot be our hope or treasure—Christ must be.

➤ **Answering Other Questions**

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

➤ **The Marriage Covenant**

“I take you ...”

“... to be my wedded wife/husband ...”

“... 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 ...”

“... till 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).