

## REMARRIAGE CONTINUED

- If a divorce was not permitted under either of the circumstances already stated, the innocent party may remarry if the former spouse has already remarried, thus removing any possibility of reconciliation (Deut. 24:1-4).
- If the one who initiated a divorce without Biblical grounds or the one who was the guilty party in a previous divorce desires to remarry, he or she may only do so once all means of restoration have been pursued and the former spouse has remarried.

Those considering marriage to a divorcee should only do so if the divorce was on Biblical grounds and all means of reconciliation have already been pursued. Otherwise, such a marriage is considered adultery (Mark 10:12).

We are eager to assist each person individually as he or she seeks to determine if remarriage is a Biblical option. Our desire for you is that you be in the center of God's will for your life.



Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31

## Final Thoughts:

While God hates all sin, He is gracious to forgive those who confess their sins to Him (1 Jn. 1:9). If you have a divorce in your background that was not permitted by God, confess that sin to Him and seek reconciliation with your former spouse, if possible. If you are remarried, God calls you to be faithful in your new marriage from this point forward. If your former spouse has remarried, do not seek to pull him or her from the current marriage.

Once you have confessed and repented of your sin, it is not profitable to continue dwelling upon it. We encourage you to do one thing: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14).

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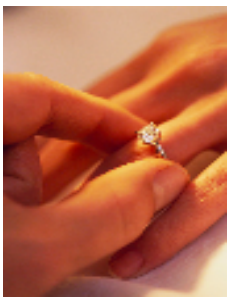
### MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE



MAKING DISCIPLES  
BUILDING COMMUNITY

## WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN SEPARATE. MATTHEW 19:6

We believe that God ordained marriage between one man and one woman. Marriage is a covenant made between husband and wife with God as the witness. The husband and wife vow to do two things: 1) to leave father and mother and hold fast to one another; and 2) to become one flesh, that is, consummate the marriage and remain faithful to each other from that time forth (Gen. 2:24). When this covenant is made before God, He joins the two together (Matt. 19:6). Together they bless one another (Gen. 2:18) and reflect in a mysterious way Christ's special relationship with his church (Eph. 5:32). As the wife submits to her husband, she portrays the role of the church in her submission to Christ



Let marriage be held in honor among all... Hebrews 13:4

(Eph. 5:24). As the husband loves his wife, he portrays the role of Christ, who sacrificed Himself for the church (Eph. 5:25).

### WHAT ABOUT DIVORCE?

We believe that God's original design for marriage never included divorce (Matt. 19:8). Furthermore, we believe that God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16) for several reasons: He has said, "What God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matt. 19:6); the root source of divorce is always sin (Matt. 19:8); and divorce does not reflect His grace, redemption or forgiveness (Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-35; Rom. 12:14-19).

While God did not create divorce, encourage divorce, or command divorce, it was *permitted* because of the hardness of people's hearts (Matt. 19:8). We believe that divorce is only permitted under the following circumstances:

- If a spouse has committed sexual immorality (Matt. 5:31-32; 19:9). We believe that sexual immorality refers to physical sexual acts including adultery, homosexuality, incest, and bestiality.
- If an unbelieving spouse determines to leave his or her believing spouse. The believing spouse must make every effort to live peaceably with his or her unbelieving spouse, but is not bound if the unbelieving spouse walks away (1 Cor. 7:12-16).



Love is strong as death

Song of Songs 8:6

Even in cases where divorce would be permitted, we will strongly encourage reconciliation if at all possible. God forgave us an immeasurable debt when He reconciled us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19), and He expects us to forgive just as we have been forgiven (Colossians 3:13; Matthew 18:21-35). We believe that reconciliation and the restoration of the marriage is the best biblical response when there is genuine repentance by the sinning spouse.

### WHAT ABOUT REMARRIAGE?

We believe remarriage is permitted in the following circumstances:

- If one spouse dies, the other spouse is free from the law of marriage and able to remarry (Rom. 7:2-3). Under such circumstances, remarriage is encouraged for the young widow (1 Tim. 5:14) or those who cannot exercise self-control (1 Cor. 7:8-9).
- If the divorce was permitted under either of the two circumstances already stated, the innocent party is permitted to remarry, although it is not always preferable. A genuine desire for reconciliation should result in a patient hope for God to work on behalf of the former spouse (1 Cor. 7:16). A quick remarriage removes the possibility of future reconciliation (Deut. 24:1-4).