

Guidelines for Answering Questions on Marriage & Divorce

Handout for Lesson 2 of *Thought Provoking Questions*

BASIC SCRIPTURES DEALING WITH MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

Matthew 5:27-32; Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:7-13

APPLICABLE PRINCIPLES LEARNED FROM THESE VERSES

1. God ordained and established marriage in the beginning. (Matt. 19:8; Mark 10:6-8)
 2. Man is not to change God's rules. (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9)
 3. Moses' interim permission was set aside by Christ to return to "as it was from the beginning." (Matthew 19: 7-8; Mark 10:5-6)
 4. Death terminates the marriage bond. (Romans 7:2)
 5. God recognizes (permits) divorce for reasons other than fornication. (Matthew 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; 1 Corinthians 7:11)
-

QUESTIONS RESOLVED BY CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES

1. If a husband and a wife obtain a legal divorce in the absence of fornication, are they still married in the eyes of God; in other words, does God recognize divorce in the absence of fornication?
 2. My spouse committed adultery in his heart by making a pass at another woman; am I free to remarry?
 3. May one in an adulterous relationship prior to conversion remain in that relationship after conversion?
 4. But David did not have to give up Bathsheba. Does that not demonstrate that God does not require the new convert to give up an adulterous relationship?
-

JUSTIFICATION QUESTIONS

1. If there is a divorce for a reason other than fornication and one of the spouses remarries, thus committing adultery, is the other spouse free to remarry?
2. What is the status of an adulterer in an unscriptural marriage after the first spouse dies? What about when both of the spouses marry unscripturally and one of them dies? Can the surviving spouse repent or would the marriage remain unscriptural?
- 3A. A wife commits adultery. The husband did not divorce her, but later follows her in the act of adultery. Later they divorce. He then claims that his marriage was terminated when the wife committed adultery and that his sin was not adultery, but fornication. Therefore, he argues, since his marriage had ended before his fornication, he is free to remarry. True or false?
- 3B. Both parties to a marriage commit adultery. They then reconcile. One commits adultery after the reconciliation, followed by divorce. Can the spouse who did not commit adultery the second time remarry?