

Marriage and Divorce

Marriage

- **Matthew 19:5-6** “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.**”
- **Gen 2:23-24** “And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
- **The expectation is that a marriage is between one man and one woman and it is a spiritual bond between themselves and God. This relationship is not just an example for intrapersonal relationships between man and woman, but also God’s Covenant relationship between his Son and the Church.**



Vows (Numbers 30 and Deut 23:21-23)

- Man and Woman make a vow for Covenant between themselves and God.

- **Verse 16** says it is between a man and his wife, being yet in her youth in her father's house. **Verse 2** says, "It is a binding of the soul with a bond".
- **Mat 5:33-37** "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But **let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.**"
- **If you make an oath, God will take it seriously and expect you to honor and keep it!**

Establishing the Covenant verbally by a vow.

- God will hold a man at his word when he makes a vow (verse 2).
- A woman's vow is not valid unless it is confirmed by her father or as confirmed by the Husband when they heard it and allowed it. (**verse 4,5,7,8**)
- As mentioned in **Genesis 2:23-24**, they shall leave their father and mother; so, if there is no mother or father then whoever remains will be giving them away out of their house and into the house of another. If the father be not available to hear the vow, then the authority of the husband shall stand, which can also be confirmed by witnesses (See also **Deut 19:15-21**, which can also be used in matters of controversy).
- **Verse 9** explains that the vow still stands for a woman to uphold the oath, whether she becomes a widow or divorced, if there is no father or husband to renounce the vow. This makes remarriage difficult in Old Testament times. This is why the breaking of the spiritual bond by divorce is not possible without a written bill of divorce by the husband.
- **Verse 12**, if a husband breaks his oath, God will hold him responsible and will forgive the woman.
- **Verse 13**, a husband or a father can disallow a woman's wishes and her vow and make it void.
- If a husband goes back on his word when the vow stands, then the woman will not be held responsible for the breaking of the vow and God will forgive her. The husband will bear the iniquity for breaking the vow.

- **Verse 14-15**, If a husband hears and knows about a vow and is silent not to object to it, the vow stands; and if he later breaks it, he will be held responsible.

Celebration of Marriage

- There are no specific guidance or rules in the Bible for a ceremony or celebration of the union between a man or a woman. We know there were banquets, such as the Wedding at Cana in John chapter 2. Also make note: the Wedding at Cana is symbolic of the prophecy of the future wedding of Christ and his Bride.
- In Tobit chapter 6 we see the son of Tobit (Tobias) speaking of his right to marry, and the Angel Raphael told him who he was to marry. The bride had a particular issue, whereas she was given into marriage 7 times and each time the husband died in the wedding chamber, because she was afflicted by a devil. Raphael also instructed Tobias to gather materials for the making of an incense to ward off the evil spirit; it is followed by instructions for making a prayer to God to save them. He also told Tobias that God assigned her to be his wife from the beginning:

(Tob 6:17) " And the devil shall smell it, and flee away, and never come again any more: but when thou shalt come to her, rise up both of you, and pray to God which is merciful, who will have pity on you, and save you: fear not, for she is appointed unto thee from the beginning; and thou shalt preserve her, and she shall go with thee. Moreover I suppose that she shall bear thee children. Now when Tobias had heard these things, he loved her, and his heart was effectually joined to her."

- In Tobias chapter 7 we see the prospective bride meeting the future in-laws and they make a marriage agreement in writing, including a dowry. They also prepared a bridal chamber; and in chapter 8 Tobias went in unto his bride to make her his wife (which means they had sex to consummate the marriage), but before doing that, he followed Raphael's instructions on using the smoke to drive away the devil.
- At the end of Chapter 8 there is mention of a wedding feast that lasted 14 days (Tobit 8:19).
- In Matthew 22 we see the parable of the wedding feast. There is mention of a call to chosen people to come to the wedding (which was about making vows before witnesses and a follow up celebration), but those not wearing the correct garments were bound and cast out. There was a bride and there were guests. This parable is of course talking about Christ and his church who are to enter into Covenant

with each other by righteousness. It nevertheless shows a mindset on what a wedding might look like.

What the Bible and related ancient texts do show about a wedding:

- A man and a woman agree to be married (in their youth).
- A Father or Husband gives permission for the marriage.
- The Father and mother gives child away for them to be joined together.
- The man and woman make a vow between themselves, in the sight of witnesses and God.
- There is a feast or similar celebration.
- There is an exchange of dowry
- There is a consummation of the marriage in the bridal chamber.

What the Bible does not show

- There is a contract between the couple and a state government giving them legal marriage status.
- There is an approval conducted by a state recognized Priest with a ceremony in a state recognized church. The Bible does not show that Government and a Temple have anything to do with a marriage between man and woman with God.
- There are No details of a bridal garment (except the precept of it being God's righteousness), nor is there an example of need for a bouquet of flowers or any similar such thing.
- Use of rings on fingers; except Genesis 24:22,47: Abraham's servant gives Jewelry for the wedding arrangement, but no ring on finger.

Principles for Marriage in General:

Read: Ephesians 5&6 – Walk in Love; wives be in submission to Husbands
1 Cor 6-7 – Flee Sexual Immorality, Principles for sanctified Marriage
Hebrews 13:4 – Marriage bed is to remain undefiled
Deut 7:3-4 – Do not marry a heathen, for they will turn hearts away
1 Tim 4: Forbidding to Marry is a doctrine of devils

Principles for a Woman of God in Marriage:

Read: Genesis 3:13-16

1 Peter 3:1-7
1 Tim 3:11-13
1 Tim 2:9-15
1 Cor 14:34-40
Proverbs 31

Consummation of the Marriage

- Genesis 29:21-23
- Genesis 28
- Ruth 4:12-13
- Genesis 38:8
- Genesis 24:67

Divorce in General

Jeremiah 3:8: And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

Leviticus 21:14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, *or* an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.

Leviticus 22:13 But if the priest's daughter be a widow, or divorced, and have no child, and is returned unto her father's house, as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's meat: but there shall no stranger eat thereof.

Numbers 30:9 But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her.

Matthew 5:31-32 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.

See Matthew 19:8-9

Laws Concerning Divorce

Deu 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give *it* in her hand, and send her out of his house.

Deu 24:2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's *wife*.

Deu 24:3 And *if* the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth *it* in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her *to be* his wife;

Deu 24:4 Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that *is* abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance.

Jer 3:1 They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

Jer 3:2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Jer 3:4 Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou *art* the guide of my youth?

Jer 3:5 Will he reserve *his anger* for ever? will he keep *it* to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldst.

Exodus 21

Proverbs 2

Proverbs 5

Proverbs 6

Proverbs 7

Mar 10:1 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

Mar 10:2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away *his* wife? tempting him.

Mar 10:3 And he answered and said unto them, *What did Moses command you?*

Mar 10:4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put *her* away.

Mar 10:5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, *For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.*

Mar 10:6 *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*

Mar 10:7 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;*

Mar 10:8 *And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.*

Mar 10:9 *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

Mar 10:10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same

Mar 10:11 And he saith unto them, *Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.*

Mar 10:12 *And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.*

Released from the Law

Rom 7:1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

Rom 7:2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband.

Rom 7:3 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.

Rom 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Rom 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

Rom 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeared? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Mal 3:3 And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Mal 3:4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

Mal 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Jas 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.