God created marriage and intended for the covenant between man and woman to be a lifetime commitment. Jesus affirmed that the marriage commitment was for life (Matt 19:6) and spoke to forbid divorce (Luke 16:18). God set an expectation that there should be no adultery by a marriage partner with another (Exod 20:14). These actions show us that God wants a complete commitment from each spouse in marriage.

Moses allowed divorce to be utilized because of the people’s sinful nature (Deut 24:1-4). This permission was not put in place to make divorce an acceptable action but to allow people to have an opportunity to deal with the realities of marriage abandonment and infidelity. Jesus explained Moses’ motivation and encouraged us to be committed to our marriages (Matt 19:8) Marriage requires each spouse to learn how to love and develop the qualities explained in 1 Cor 13:4-8.

If a person experiences a divorce and wishes to remarry, they should review their understanding of what has occurred. There are specific scriptures that acknowledge that divorce is permissible under certain conditions: if their spouse abandoned them (1 Cor 7:15) or was unfaithful (Matt 19:9). A believer should attempt to reconcile with their spouse if it is at all possible and to grant forgiveness to the other person. If a spouse has already remarried, then reconciliation will not lead to re-establishing the marriage. The believer should confess any sin to God that impacted their marriage and turn away from such sin as they continue in life. God is faithful to forgive our sins and allows to start anew each day justified by Jesus’ payment on our behalf (1 John 1:9).

As the divorced believer looks to remarry, they should engage in a process that would reflect the same expectations of marriage that God originally established. They should fully commit to their new spouse for life. They should serve their spouse selflessly and be completely faithful to them.

Word Count: 323