



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Divorce and Remarriage

Matthew 5:31–32



Matthew 5:31–32

³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² 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.”



Mark 10:11–12

¹¹ “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”



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.”



Matthew 19:3–6

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”



Matthew 19:7–9

⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”



Deuteronomy 24:1

“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...”



1. Are you focused on grounds for divorce, or God's design for marriage? (19:3–6)

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female [Gen 1:27], ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? [Gen 2:24] ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”



2. Are you viewing divorce as a must, or a tragic exception? (19:7–8)

⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.



3. Are you multiplying your own reasons, or respecting God's limits? (19:9; 5:32)

- **Matthew 19:9** — “And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”
- **Matthew 5:32** — “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.”



Matthew 5:32

“But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit [the equivalent of] adultery [when she inevitably remarries], and whoever marries [this kind of wrongly] divorced woman [also] commits [the equivalent of] adultery [because she really should still be married to the first man who wrongly divorced her]. [You think you’re protecting yourselves from the guilt of adultery when you divorce your wives for petty reasons so that you can legally marry someone else, but you’re actually multiplying the equivalent of adultery throughout society!]”



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.



1 Corinthians 7:10–11

¹⁰ ... the wife should not separate from her husband
¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or
else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband
should not divorce his wife.



4. Is your heart growing hard and brittle, or soft and strong?



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