

## DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE SUMMARY

<b>Permanence View:</b> Marriage is an indissoluble union No remarriage while spouse is still alive		<b>Exception View:</b> Marriage is a dissoluble union No remarriage except for adultery/desertion	
<b>High view of marriage:</b> A covenantal union patterned upon Christ and the church involving life-long faithfulness			
<b>Divorce/Remarriage Stand</b> Initiate divorce = No Remarriage after divorce = No Remarriage after spouse died = No/Yes		<b>Divorce/Remarriage Stand</b> Initiate divorce = Yes in adultery/desertion Remarriage after divorce = Yes Remarriage after spouse died = Yes	
<b>Key proponents</b> John Piper <sup>i</sup> , Mark Thompson <sup>ii</sup> , J. Carl Laney, Daryl Wingard Roman Catholicism (no divorce, only annulment)		<b>Key proponents</b> Don Carson <sup>iii</sup> , Andrew Naselli <sup>iv</sup> , Kostenberger <sup>v</sup> Newheisser, WCF (24.5-24.6)	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>View 1 (Piper)</b>	<b>View 2 (Grudem)</b>	<b>View 3 (Carson)</b>
	Never Initiate Divorce Never Remarry	Sometimes Divorce Never Remarry	Sometimes Divorce Sometimes Remarry
<b>Divorce</b>	Never legitimate to initiate divorce	Sometimes legitimate i) Except for sexual immorality or physical desertion ii) Also actions that break marriage covenant e.g. phy abuse	
<b>Remarriage After divorce</b>	Never legitimate to remarry as long as spouse is still alive	Never legitimate to remarry as long as spouse is still alive	Legitimate when the divorce is legitimate

### 1) What the Bible says about MARRIAGE<sup>vi</sup>

<b>Gen.1:26-31</b> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him male and female he created them.	God's design; 1 man, 1 woman. God's purpose; procreation & spreading God's rule.
<b>Gen.2:18-25</b> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.	God's design; wholistic, life-long, sexual union.
<b>Eph.5:22-33</b> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <b>Rev.19:7</b> Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come.	God's purpose; reflect Christ & church (sacrificial love, submission, faithfulness)
<b>Rom.5:8</b> God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.	God is sacrificial, other-centered in His marriage
<b>Col.3:18-19</b> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. cf <b>Eph.5:22-33</b> <b>1Pet.3:1-7</b> Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct... <sup>7</sup> Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life.	God's design; love & submission
<b>Exo.34:6</b> The Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love & faithfulness. <b>Mal.2:13-16</b> "For I hate divorce" says the LORD, the God of Israel. <b>Hos.1:2</b> When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife inclined to infidelity, and children of infidelity; for the land commits flagrant infidelity, abandoning the Lord."	Marriage is about promise-keeping for the covenant reflects God's own faithfulness.
<b>1Cor.7:8-38</b> To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. <sup>9</sup> But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. <sup>10</sup> To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband <sup>11</sup> (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.	Marriage can make us anxious. We're free to marry or not.
<b>SUMMARY:</b> Marriage is created by God: i) to be a good, loving, sexual, life-long covenanted union between a man & a woman for God's purpose of spreading His rule in His world through procreation, ii) to reflect Christ & the church, where husbands love sacrificially and wives submit willingly.	

### 2) What the Bible says about Marital Conflicts & Differences

<b>Js.4:1-6</b> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? <b>Mt.7.3-5</b> Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and ignore the plank in your own eye? <b>Rom.8:29</b> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.	Conflicts are caused by sin but can be used by God for our sanctification.
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### 3) What the Bible says about DIVORCE

<b>Mark 10:2-12</b> Whoever divorces his wife and remarries another commits adultery and if she divorce her husband and marries another, she commits adultery. <b>Luke 16:18</b> Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.	Gospels context: Jesus addressing the perversion of divorcing <u>in order to</u> remarry - that is adulterous and to be opposed.
<b>Matthew 5:31-32</b> But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, <u>except</u> on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <b>Matthew 19:3-12</b> Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, <u>except</u> for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.	
<b>1Corinthians7:10-12</b> wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband) and the husband should not divorce his wife. 12 if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with her, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her.	Not to divorce an unbeliever.
<b>1Corinthians7:15</b> But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved.	Abandoned by unbelieving spouse no longer bound
<b>1Corinthians7:39</b> A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. <b>Romans7:2-3</b> 3 If the husband dies, she is free from the law and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress	Death brings end to marriage covenant
<b>SUMMARY:</b> Divorce is reluctantly acknowledged in Scripture as a consequence of sin (Mt 19:6, Dt.24:1-14). Having an extremely high view of marriage (Gen.1-2, Eph.5:22-33, Rev.19:7), Scripture speaks of divorce only as a <u>concession</u> and a <u>last resort</u> , <u>never a command</u> or <u>necessity</u> i.e. 'no longer bound' (Mt. 5:32, 19:9, c.f. Dt.24:1-2, 1Cor.7:12-16). <u>Every effort</u> should be made to keep the marriage covenant, and exception not to be used lightly. Honest, genuine attempts to reconcile must be made before exception is exercised. But, when the spouse is unrepentant or reconciliation is impossible, then spouse is free to exercise the exceptions (adultery, abandonment by unbeliever) and seek remarriage.	

#### 4) What people say they want to divorce

"My spouse isn't a Christian." or "I wasn't a Christian when I married my spouse"	1Cor.7:12-13 Unbelieving spouse not to be divorced 1Pet.3:1-2 Unbelieving spouse to be won by conduct
"My spouse is a huge disappointment" or "I deserve better"	Rom.5:8 Christ loved the ungodly Eph.5:22-33 Marriage isn't about you
"We are no longer in love. There is nothing left in our marriage. No point trying." We're	Eph.5:2 Love is an intentional choice Mal.2:13-16 Choose faithfulness
"I married the wrong person. We were too young. He/she isn't the soul mate God intended"	Eph.5:22-33 God calls us to be faithful we've made promise to. God is sovereign over all for our good.
"I owe it to myself to be happy. God wouldn't want me to be unhappy"	The chief end of man is not self-happiness but to glorify God.
"All my friends say I ought to leave him/her"	Pro.1:7 Fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom 2Tim.3.16, 2Pet.1:3 God's word has final authority, full wisdom for life
"God will forgive me. I know that it is wrong for me to divorce my spouse and that I don't have any biblical grounds, but I know that Jesus' blood will cover my sin, and life will go on"	Rom.6:1-2 Do not go on sinning, enslaved to sin. Jn.14:15 Those who love Christ, choose to obey him.
"I'm being physically/sexually abused"	Eph.5:22-33 Sacrificial love, willing submission (no room for abuse). 1Cor7:15 In 'such cases', not enslaved.

#### Recommended Readings

- CHRISTOPHER ASH, Married for God: Making your marriage the best it can be.
- KOSTENBERGER, God, Marriage & Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation, p275-288.
- JIM NEWHEISER, Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage: Critical Questions and Answers, 165-172.

<sup>i</sup> JOHN PIPER, Divorce & Remarriage: A Position Paper.

<sup>ii</sup> MARK THOMPSON, Divorce & Remarriage.

<sup>iii</sup> DONALD A. CARSON, Divorce: A Concise Biblical Analysis.

<sup>iv</sup> ANDREW D. NASELLI, What The New Testament Teaches About Divorce & Remarriage.

<sup>v</sup> KOSTENBERGER, God, Marriage & Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation.

<sup>vi</sup> CHRISTOPHER ASH, Married for God: Making your marriage the best it can be.