

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

Marriage between 2 believers

Principle #1 – v.10 – A wife is not to depart from her husband & vice versa.

1 Corinthians 7:10 – This is the Lord’s general principle as He intended marriage to be for life.

Also see Matthew 19:4-6 & 7-9 and Jesus’ already given exception of sexual immorality.

Principle #2 – v.11a – The Lord opened the door for a spouse to depart/leave.

1 Corinthians 7:11 – “But even if she does depart...”

But the Lord did NOT give any examples of what qualifies for a reason for a spouse to depart.

Principle #3 – v.11b – The “innocent” party is not necessarily free to remarry.

1 Corinthians 7:11 – “...let her remain unmarried...” implying the one leaving divorces their spouse.

The Lord likes to keep remarriage to another as closed as possible.

And I used the word “necessarily” do to the scenario when a self-proclaimed believer won’t submit to authority being treated as an unbeliever [see potential in slide #4]?

Principle #4 – v.11c – The “innocent” party should still aim for restoration if they want to be married.

1 Corinthians 7:11 – “...let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband.”

The Lord likes to keep reconciliation alive in a marriage as open as possible.

1 Corinthians 7:12-16

Marriage between a believer & an unbeliever [unequally yoked]

Principle #1 – vv.12-14 – A believing spouse doesn't have the freedom to leave their unbelieving spouse just because they don't know the Lord.

#1.1 – vv.12-13 – If the unbelieving spouse wants to remain married, the marriage is to continue.

#1.2 – v.14 – The Lord wants the sanctifying influence of the believer in the unbelievers' life.

Principle #2 – vv.12-14 – This does NOT mean the believing spouse can give all their attention to the Lord and, in effect, “abandon” their spouse.

This is just common sense and would violate Principle #1 as well, if the believer tried to push them out.

Principle #3 – v.15a – We are to let the unbelieving spouse depart, if they don't want to be married to a believer.

1 Corinthians 7:15a – “But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart...”

The believer should not DEPART, as a type of Jesus who said He would never leave nor forsake us [Heb 13:5], if possible.

Principle #4 – v.15b – The believing spouse who is now single, is not under bondage in such cases, freeing them to divorce and remarry [with a caution to be very slow].

1 Corinthians 7:15b – “...a brother or sister are not under bondage in such cases [plural]...”

And the words “under bondage” most likely means they are NOT under bondage to that marriage any more.

Biblical Reasons to End a Marriage/Divorce

Reason #1 – The death of a spouse.

Romans 7:2 – “2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.”

Also see **1 Corinthians 7:39**.

Reason #2 – Sexual immorality.

Matthew 19:9 – “9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

Also see **Matthew 5:31-32**.

Reason #3 – An unbelieving spouse leaves the marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:12-16 – “12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?”

Biblical Reasons for Re-Marriage

Reason #1 – The death of a spouse (openly stated).

1 Corinthians 7:39 – “39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

Also see Romans 7:2.

Reason #2 – Sexual immorality (openly stated).

Matthew 19:9 – “9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery”

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 – To 2 believers – “10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.”

God openly stated NO in a Christian marriage if there was no sexual immorality.

Reason #3 – An unbelieving spouse leaves the marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:12-16 – See slide #2.

Reason #4 – A claimed believer will not heed any church discipline.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 might become a 1 Corinthians 7:15 situation.

Prayer is needed in Reasons #3 & #4: The unbeliever may come to the Lord & the marriage can be restored. The Lord didn't openly state a ruling on this one.