

Biblical Truths about Divorce
with a Q&A following

1. Divorce was not a new issue during the ministry of Jesus -Deut. 24:1, Lev. 21:1-14
2. Remarriage after divorce was not a new issue during Jesus' ministry. (Deut. 24:2)
3. Jesus was not asked if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife—he was asked if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause (for any reason)?
--- emphasis and explanation mine, from Matthew 19:3
4. Jesus answers essentially “No; it is not lawful to divorce or remarry, except it be for fornication”. The key issue was adultery in this verse, which was only possible if one married again. So, “the exception clause” must apply to remarriage as well. (Matthew 19:9)
5. The words translated “fornication” are found in multiple contexts and are not limited to premarital sex relating to engaged couples.
 - a. From Strong's Hebrew Dictionary
 - b. זָנָה zânâh, zaw-naw'
 - i. a primitive root [highly fed and therefore wanton]; to commit adultery (usually of the female, and less often of simple fornication, rarely of involuntary ravishment); figuratively, to commit idolatry (the Jewish people being regarded as the spouse of Jehovah):—(cause to) commit fornication, × continually, × great, (be an, play the) harlot, (cause to be, play the) whore, (commit, fall to) whoredom, (cause to) go a-whoring, whorish.
 - c. From Strong's Greek Dictionary
 - d. πορνεία porneía, por-ni'-ah
 - i. harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively, idolatry:—fornication.
 - e. πορνεύω porneúō, porn-yoo'-o
 - i. (literally) indulge in any unlawful lust (of either sex), or (figuratively) practice idolatry:—commit (fornication).

6. Jesus said there is a “cause” (reason) for divorce. (Matthew 5:31-32)
7. God would, and will, never appear to do evil or sin—in him is no darkness at all.
 - a. Jer 3:6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.
 - b. Jer 3:7 And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.
 - c. Jer 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.
 - d. Jer 3:9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.
8. Romans 7:1-4 is not primarily teaching about marriage, but if one says it is they must be consistent by including verse 4.
9. Notes on I Corinthians 7:10-17:

Q: So, can anyone get divorced?

Q: What if a person was divorced when they were lost—can they remarry because “old things are passed away and all things are become new?”

Q: Is it Scriptural for Christian couples to legally separate?

Q: Is the fornicator allowed to remarry?