

God's Universal Law  
*[concerning]* Marriage



...Divorce & Remarriage

# God's Universal Law



☞ One Man

☞ One Woman

☞ One Lifetime (For Life)

☞ **Every Person On The Planet Is Subject To The Law.**

# The Law



☞ Therefore a **man** shall leave his **father** and his **mother** and hold fast to his **wife**, and they shall become **one flesh**. (Genesis 2:24)

☞ **man** = male

☞ **father** = male

☞ **mother** = female

☞ **wife** = female



# Non-separation Clause



✧ Matthew 19:6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."**

# Lifetime Clause



- ☞ Romans 7:2 For a married woman is **bound by law to her husband while he lives**, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.
- ☞ Romans 7:3 Accordingly, **she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive**. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

# Exception Clause



- ✧ **Matthew 19:9** And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality [fornication]**, 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 [fornication]**, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

# Exception Clause



- ☞ Only One Exception to the Rule
- ☞ Except for fornication
- ☞ **Fornication** = illicit sexual intercourse  
[adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism,  
bestiality, pedophilia, necrophilia,  
prostitution]



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# Let's Apply the Law



- ❧ Lack of communication?
- ❧ Fallen out of Love?
- ❧ Arguing too much?
- ❧ Incompatibility?
- ❧ Lack of finances?
- ❧ She does not cook?
- ❧ He is controlling?
- ❧ He works too much?

# Let's Apply the Law



- ❧ Physical Abuse?
- ❧ Verbal Abuse?
- ❧ Just don't want to be married anymore?
- ❧ We were too young?
- ❧ Alcohol and drug addiction?
- ❧ No emotional support?
- ❧ Religious differences?
- ❧ Lack of intimacy?

# Let's Apply the Law



- ❧ We are too different?
- ❧ I just want to be alone?
- ❧ I'd be happier with someone else?
- ❧ Our parenting styles are different?
- ❧ I cannot forgive him?
- ❧ She will not change?
- ❧ Health problems?
- ❧ Adultery?

# Pharisees' Question to Jesus

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☞ **Matthew 19:3** And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “**Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?**”



# Jesus' Response



- ✧ **Matthew 19:4** He answered, “Have you not read that **he who created them from the beginning** made them male and female,
- ✧ **Matthew 19:5** 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’?

# Jesus' Response



✧ **Matthew 19:6** So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

# Pharisees' Follow-up Question

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❧ **Matthew 19:7** They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

# Jesus' Final Reply



✧ **Matthew 19:8** 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.**

✧ **Matthew 19:9** And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality [fornication]**, and marries another, commits adultery.”



# Jewish Interpretations



- ❧ Two leading Jewish (Pharisaic) schools of thought.
- ❧ **Matthew 19:3** The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, **Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause or [for any reason]?**

# Jewish Schools of Thought



❧ Mishna in Gittin 9:10

❧ The **House of Shammai** say, “A man should divorce his wife only because he has found grounds for it in unchastity, “since it is said, Because he has found in her **indecenty** in anything (Dt. 24:1)

❧ And the **House of Hillel** say, “Even if she spoiled his dish, “since it is said, Because he has found in her **indecenty** in anything.”

❧ **R. Aqiba** says, “Even if he found someone else prettier than she, “since it is said, And it shall be if she find no favor in his eyes (Dt. 24:1).”

# School of Shammai



- ❧ The **House of Shammai** say, “A man should divorce his wife only because he has found grounds for it in unchastity, “since it is said, Because he has found in her **indecentcy** in anything (Dt. 24:1)
- ❧ **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 indecentcy 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,

# School of Hillel



- ∞ And the **House of Hillel** say, “Even if she spoiled his dish, “since it is said, Because he has found in her **indecenty** in anything.”
- ∞ **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 indecenty 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,



# Interpretation of “Indecency”

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- ❧ The debate was concerning what “indecency” meant.
- ❧ **School of Shammai (ca. 50 BC – 20 AD):** unchastity
- ❧ **School of Hillel (ca. 110 BC – 10 AD):** basically any reason (e.g., even if she ruined his food)
- ❧ **Rabbi Aqiba (ca. 50 AD – ca. 135 AD)** (of the school of Hillel): even if he found someone else more attractive

# Jesus' Reply



❧ **Pharisees asked:** “Can a man divorce their spouse for any reason?”

❧ **Jesus' Replied:** “From the beginning of creation – God made them male and female. Marriage is for a lifetime—do not separate what God has joined.

# Remain Unmarried or Be Reconciled

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- ☞ 1 Corinthians 7:10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): **the wife should not separate from her husband**
- ☞ 1 Corinthians 7:11 (**but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband**), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

# Pauline Privilege?



✧ 1 Corinthians 7:12 To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that **if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever**, and she consents to live with him, **let him not send her away**.

✧ 1 Corinthians 7:13 If any woman has a **husband who is an unbeliever**, and he consents to live with her, **let her not send him away**.



# Pauline Privilege?



✧ **1 Corinthians 7:14** For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

# Pauline Privilege?



☞ **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 7:16** For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

# Singleness (Remaining Unmarried)

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- ✧ **Matthew 19:10** The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”
- ✧ **Matthew 19:11** But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.”

# Singleness (Remaining Unmarried)

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☞ Matthew 19:12 For there are **eunuchs who have been so from birth**, and there are **eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men**, and there are **eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven**. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”



# God's Law of Marriage



- ❧ One Man (Male)
- ❧ One Woman (Female)
- ❧ One Lifetime (For Life)

<b>Matthew 5:32</b> But I say to you that	<b>Matthew 19:9</b> And I say unto you	<b>Mark 10:11, 12</b> And he said to them,
1) everyone who divorces his wife	1) whoever divorces his wife	1) Whoever divorces his wife
2) except on the ground of sexual immorality,	2) except for sexual immorality,	2)
3) makes her commit adultery	3)	3)
4)	4) and marries another, commits adultery.”	4) and marries another commits adultery against her,
5) and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.	5) <i>and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery</i>	5)
6)	6)	6) and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.