

Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

Matthew 19:1-9

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God's Basic Rule

ONE MAN FOR ONE WOMAN FOR LIFE
(Only one exception to this rule)

- From the beginning. Genesis 2:18-25
- Repeated in Matthew 19:1-9 & Ephesians 5:31

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God's Basic Rule

Matthew 19:1-9 Jesus explains this basic rule.

1. Jesus reaffirmed Genesis 2:24 and explained its implications.
 - a. **REQUIRES** one man for one woman "*a man,*" "*his wife.*"
 - b. **EXCLUDES** all immorality – "*a man,*" "*his wife,*" "*one flesh*" = no fornication, adultery, polygamy, concubines, homosexuals, bestiality.

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God's Basic Rule

Matthew 19:1-9 Jesus explains this basic rule.

IMPLIES immorality desecrates the union – ground for the innocent to put away the guilty – "*a man,*" "*his wife,*" "*cleave,*" "*one flesh.*"

IMPLIES – bond is only in this life - "*one flesh*" = life and relations in the fleshly body

EXCLUDES – The put away fornicator from marrying another.

- "From the beginning it hath not been so." *Matthew 19:8b.*

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Departures From God's Basic Rule

1. Genesis 4:19 first case of bigamy.
2. Genesis 12:10-20 man offered his wife to another.
3. Genesis 16:1-3 Man had a child by a household maid.
4. Genesis 25:1-6 Man taking concubines.
5. Genesis 26:1-11 Wife offered to another.
6. Genesis 30:4, 9 Man takes household maid.
7. The Gentiles cast off God and so God rejected them as well. Romans 1:18-32

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

The Question: *“is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause.” Matthew 19:3*

The Motive behind the question – *“tempting him.”*

Two Schools of thought:

Shammai – Deuteronomy 24:1 was interpreted to mean a man could not release his wife unless he found some indecency in her.

Hillel – very lax, anything that caused displeasure to the man was sufficient cause for divorce!

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

Jesus Reply: *“Have ye not read?”*

1. He referred them to *“the beginning.”*
Genesis 2:18, 21-24.
2. Divine commentary. *“What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”*
Matthew 19:6

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

The Pharisees’ Reply to Jesus’ Answer: *“Why did Moses then command you to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?”*

cf. Deuteronomy 24:1-4

- Not discussing the right to divorce, but what to do in the event of divorce! Illus. 1 John 2:1.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

Jesus’ Explanation of the Mosaic decree. verse 8;
cf. Mark 10:2ff

1. Moses ... *“suffered”* ... because of the hardness of your hearts.
 2. God did not *“command”* them to divorce their wives *for every cause*; rather divorce was a temporary concession to their hardness of heart; he regulated their stubbornness!
- Jesus states, *“from the beginning ...”*

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NOTE: Divorced People Remain Under The Constraint Of Divine Law!

- a. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 Divorce wife BUT can't have her back after her 2nd marriage.
- b. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 Divorcee marry another BUT then can't ever return to 1st mate.
- c. Leviticus 21:7, 13-14 Divorce free from marriage BUT can't marry a priest.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

“And I say unto you ...” verse 9!

- a. Jesus asserted His supremacy over Moses, and re-enacted the original law of Marriage.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

“Whosoever ...” Universal in application.
cf. Romans 4:15; 5:12; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- a. If not no need to repent.
- b. No need to be baptized for the remission of sins.
- c. No sin to wash away.

NOTE: **“Whosoever ...”** Includes ALL cases of **divorce and remarriage** ... results in adultery ... (only one exception).

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

“Except.” The general rule when one divorces and remarries: Note verse 9 without the exception clause; also Mark 10:11,12; Luke 16:18.

- This cause, only this cause, no other cause.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

“Committeth adultery” is linear action.
cf. Romans 7:1-4 **“She shall be called an adulteress ...”**

- How long would she be called **“an adulteress”**?

“Adultery” defined by context: unlawful sexual intercourse involving someone under the constraint of God's marriage law.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

Defined by context.

- a. Married man with another man's wife (John 8:4)
- b. Man puts away his wife without cause and marries another. (Matthew 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18)
- c. Woman who is put away without cause and marries another (Matthew 5:32; 19:9)
- d. Put-away fornicator marries another (Matthew 5:32 & Matthew 19:9) read with the exception in place.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

The Reply of the disciples: Verse 10 **“His disciples say unto him, if the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.”**

1. They knew Jesus went further than Moses ... **“beginning.”**
2. What Jesus taught concerning Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage constitutes **“a hard saying.”**
 - a. There were some who walked no more with Jesus because of His teaching which they perceived to be a **“hard saying.”** *John 6:60,66*
 - b. But we should have the attitude of Peter – you have the **“words of eternal life”** *John 6:67-68.*

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

Jesus' Reply to the Disciples: Verses 11-12

Three Classes of Eunuchs:

- a. Those who were eunuchs **“from their mother's womb.”** cf. Acts 8:26-27.
- b. Those which were **“made eunuchs of men.”** cf. **2 Kings 20:17,18; Daniel 1:3,4,6.**
- c. Eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

The Sinfulness Of Divorce:

- It is a putting asunder of what God has joined together. Matthew 19:6.
- It is something God hates. Malachi 2:14-16
- There is only one Scriptural cause – fornication. Matthew 19:9
- It often leads to adulterous second marriages. Matthew 19:9; 5:32.

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

Scriptural Re-Marriage.

- People whose mates are deceased. Romans 7:2-3
- Individuals who put their mates away for the cause of fornication. Matthew 19:9.

NOTE: This is permission granted to the “innocent party.” God does not authorize a license to sin! cf. Proverbs 13:15

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Examination Of The Text – Matthew 19:3-12

Three parties to a lawful marriage.

1. One man
 2. One woman
 3. God!
- God does the joining together only when a marriage is approved by his law.
 - ONE exception ... for divorce.
 - God set the conditions for joining and God set the conditions for dissolving.

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