

Practical Theology Class
Divorce & Remarriage

Read the following Scripture passages which mention divorce:

Leviticus 21:1-15; 22:13

Numbers 30:9

Deuteronomy 22:13-19; 28-29; 24:1-4

Malachi 2:13-16

Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-12

Mark 10:2-12

Luke 16:18

1 Corinthians 7:10-16 (note that the word translated divorce here (ἀφίημι / aphīami is not the same as in any of the gospel passages)

What restrictions were placed on a marriage in which a man could not divorce his wife?

What restrictions were placed on priests and Levites about marrying a divorced woman? Were such restrictions placed on anyone else?

Could a woman who was divorced, then married to a second husband, at a later time ever be married again to the first husband?

In regards to Malachi 2:13-16, why did God hate divorce?

According to Matthew 19:3-12, what is God's design for marriage? Does that include divorce?

According to Matthew 19:3-12 cf. Deuteronomy 24:1-4; why did Moses allow for divorce?

What were the three major views of Deut. 24 in regards to this reason allowing for divorce?

What is the "exception clause" in Matthew 5:32 & 19:9? What specifically is the basis of the exception? What does it allow? What are the consequences for those that divorce for reasons other than this exception?

What is the difference in the meaning of the various words translated as "divorce"? What is the technical / legal term for divorce?

Does 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 allow for separation? Why or why not? If so, what could be legitimate reasons to separate? What would be illegitimate reasons to separate?

Does 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 allow for divorce? Why or why not?

What is the difference between separation, legal separation and divorce?

What restrictions and / or cautions / would you place on a divorcee who would like to get remarried?

How important do you think pre-marital counseling would be to help prevent broken marriages?

What subjects do you think should be included in pre-marital counseling?

Should a church place restrictions on those who are divorced in serving the Lord, if so, what restrictions should there be and what would be the basis for them?

Is it possible for a man who has been divorced or married to a divorcee to become a deacon or elder? If not, why not? If so, under what conditions?

Case Scenarios

How would you handle each of the following situations:

A woman comes to you upset that her husband has just made another large purchase without telling her and then lied about it. They are already deep in debt and she is already working two jobs trying to help get them out of debt. She is contemplating leaving him.

A woman comes to you upset that she has caught her husband looking at pornography again. She has been studying the topic of divorce in the Bible and discovered that the exception clause in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 is based on πορνεία / porneia. She would like to know if that means she could divorce her husband.

A man comes to you after he has started to read a chapter of Proverbs each day for his devotions. He came to Proverbs 21:19 (*It is better to live in a desert land Than with a contentious and vexing woman*) and he would like to know if that meant he could move out to the desert without her?

A couple in your church have had marriage problems for many years. You find out that she has left him and has found another place to live. A) She has stated that she does not plan to file for divorce. B) She has also filed for divorce. He has not had any affairs.

A woman comes to you distraught that she has found out her husband is having another affair. She has worked this out with him in the past and she forgave him. This time he said that he wants to continue the affair but he does not want to get divorced.

A man comes to you distraught after being served an order of protection from his wife though there has not been any physical abuse or mental cruelty. She has not liked his decisions regarding the family and wants more control over the children.

A couple comes to you and asks if you would officiate their wedding. In your initial interview with them you find out that one of them was divorced.

Your uncle calls and asks if you would officiate his wedding. This would be his third wife.

Your relative calls and asks if you would officiate their wedding. They have been living together for over a year and have saved enough to finally get married.

A couple comes to you and asks if you would officiate their wedding. In your initial interview with them you find out that she is a professing believer and he is not. She is the daughter of one of the prominent families in the church.

A couple calls the church and would like to use the church for their wedding and have you officiate. When you meet them the first time you find out that it is two women.