

# Divorce, Remarriage and The Ministry

By: David A. Sargent

## Did God SIN by divorcing Israel?

Isaiah 50:1, "Thus saith the LORD, Where is **the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away?** or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for **your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.**"

Jeremiah 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."

The woman caught in Adultery? Where does it say she was married?

John 8:3-11, "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him **a woman taken in adultery;** and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, **this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.** Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, **tempting him,** that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and **with his finger wrote on the ground,** as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.** And again he stooped down, and **wrote on the ground.** And they which heard it, **being convicted by their own conscience,** went out one by one, **beginning at the eldest,** even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee:** go, and sin no more."

He told her not to sin anymore because Adultery is a SIN. It is fornication with someone that is married to someone else. The Lord give a reason FOR divorce: Matthew 19:9, "And I say unto you, **Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.**" So if your wife steps out on you then you have scriptural grounds for divorce.

This runs into the theme of Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage issue with preachers. Can a Pastor, Preacher or Deacon, be divorced and or remarried?

1 Timothy 3:2-7, "**A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." and with Titus 1:6-9, "**If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."****

Now according to these verses if a man has been married and then divorced and remarried again can he be a Pastor (Bishop)? Is this actually about marriage, divorce and remarriage? Or is it about monogamy verses polygamy? If you want to take it the way of divorce and remarriage, then you have a problem if you are calling all divorce a sin, and every remarriage a sin. Because it also says "A bishop then must be blameless..." Well? You do know that we all have a past. I was told that I could not be a preacher or a pastor because I have been married, divorced, remarried, divorced and remarried again. I was told this by a Pastor. This was his proof texts. So let's count shall we.

I was single so I was 1, then I got married and I had 1 wife. She abandoned me and divorced me. So, I had no wife and I was single again. Then I got remarried and so I had 1 wife! Then she abandoned me and with the situation with children I had to divorce her after trying to reconcile. But it was irreconcilable. So I was divorced; and I had no wife. So I was single again albeit with three little children. I then got married again. And now I have 1 wife.

Question: How many wives do I have now? The Answer is: 1... End of story!

If you read your Old Testament; there seems to be an issue with polygamy. This is having more than ONE wife at the SAME TIME. The statement is "...the husband of ONE wife..." Ergo: TWO wives. I have never been married to two wives. I have never been married to more than one wife. The inference is multiple wives at the same time: Polygamy. If this were about being divorced and remarried why did it not SAY divorced and remarried?

It is amazing how some people do not care about details they want to jump in and judge this issue and say rude and ridiculous things like: "well, brother, you have three living wives!" Look bubba, you can't count can you. And you don't really know the whole story do you. Perhaps your self-righteous egotistical legalism got in the way. Why not judge yourself as a wicked sinner and unfit for the ministry when one of the requirements is to be HOLY! You did not figure that out did you?

The woman at the well:

John 4:6-26 "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh **a woman of Samaria** to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.** The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from **whence then hast thou that living water?** Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.** The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, **call thy husband**, and come hither. The woman answered and said, **I have no husband**. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband:** in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. **Ye worship ye know not what:** we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, **when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:** for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **God is a Spirit:** and **they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.** The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, **I that speak unto thee am he."**

Notice the passage: "...The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly." She said "...I have NO husband..." yet the Lord did not say you HAVE five living husbands; no she had NO husband and the Lord AGREED with her. The guy she was shacking up with was not her husband either. So fornication or adultery is not recognized as a marriage. This lady had been married five times; and was not married to any of them at this time but was shacking up. And she had NO HUSBAND? Neither was She born again or saved! She didn't know what she worshiped!

I was not born again before my first or second marriage. Why would that then matter? If you got saved, the Lord saved you out of a sinful wretched and wicked life; set you free from sin; but the past is not forgiving. You may still have to pay for some of those things and it could mean divorce if your wife doesn't want to follow the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:27-28, "**Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.**"

It is NOT a sin to be loosed from a wife or to be married after that. Anyone that says it is a sin just can't read the Bible.

If you have been married, divorced and remarried that is not grounds for not following the Lord when He calls you into the ministry. These self-righteous hypocritical stuffed shirts that tell you that you can't be in the ministry are liars like the scribes and Pharisees they are just casting stones and not looking in the mirror at their own wicked lives. "...he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone..."

About the LAW and Marriage:

Romans 7:1-6, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that **the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.** Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of

sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. **But now we are delivered from the law**, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should **serve in newness of spirit**, and **not in the oldness of the letter.**"

The first three verses is an allegory of verses 4 to 6. It is likening marriage between husbands and wives with the law the sinner and the saint. There are implications to marriage and the Christian and the Lord Jesus Christ. There are also implications to a birth as well. But these things are not the same. Here we are talking about marriage.

This implication here is to show how that there was a time when you had to die so that you could be married to another. To clear this up you must study the Body, Soul & Spirit or the Tripartite Nature of Man. Then the rest of this will make more sense.

Romans 7:7-11. "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.** But **sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence.** For **without the law sin was dead.** For **I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.** And the commandment, which was ordained to life, **I found to be unto death.** For **sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.**"

This is what happened to make a person a lost individual. Dead in trespasses and sin; where the law becomes our schoolmaster. The whole point of the passage is this part. It is not giving advice about marriage, divorce and remarriage. It is not telling you divorce is sin. If you make it that, then you must call God a sinner for divorcing Israel. There is no way around it. Just because you want to be self-righteous and you are "once married" does not condemn those that are not any more than the sin of lying or lusting after a woman in your heart.

The conclusion of this part: Romans 7:12-13, "Wherefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy**, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But **sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**" The point is: "...that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful."

The fact is if you are lost; you the soul inside have been divorced from your dead spirit because of your sins and moreover because your soul is a sinner. There is not one person that has not fallen at that age of accountability because you already were a sinner in your flesh but not accountable to it in your soul: Romans 4:15, "Because the law worketh wrath: for **where no law is, there is no transgression.**" And Romans 5:13, "For **until the law sin**

**was in the world:** but **sin is not imputed when there is no law.**” A child has not understanding of the law and until they do there is no law and thus no sin was imputed even though they sinned in the flesh. This is why noon escapes this death because all have sinned but not all sin is charged to the soul until that soul understands the law against that sin; thus they are innocent until the law is understood. The issue in the passage is NOT marriage, divorce and remarriage even though there is a shadow of this in the marriage of your soul and your spirit and the death of the spirit that allows your soul to be married to another, and when your dead spirit is born again it is now Christ in you by the Holy Spirit and it is married to your soul and that new man inside cuts your flesh from your soul so that it is no more responsible to that sinner in the flesh. It is only responsible FOR the flesh to keep it clean and sinless.

The issue with this is most people that chew on this have not been divorced or remarried. So, to make themselves look really righteous they have to run others in the ground on their hobbyhorses. This happens all the time.

The truth is the passage in Romans 7 and in the first three verses suggests that if you are the woman and you divorced your husband before he died then the law would step in and in the law the punishment for adultery is death. So you are to be killed! He told you this was for them that know the law. Well, you stepped out on God and sinned and the Bible says the wages of sin is death! Who then killed you? And what part of you died?

There is actually no law for a woman divorcing her husband in the Old Testament. So it seems a bit ridiculous to make the statement but nevertheless today it happens all the time women are divorcing their husbands for the most ridiculous things.

If divorce is wrong why is it in the Bible?

Matthew 19:8-9, "He saith unto them, Moses **because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives:** but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, **Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery:** and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth **commit adultery.**"

So in this the Lord made a provision FOR divorce and that is fornication. That means if your spouse admits to any form of sexual relation with someone else, you have scriptural grounds to divorce him or her. But you don't have to do that you can forgive and reconcile unless they are unwilling; and then your hand is forced to divorce.

**Know the Law:**

Deuteronomy 24:1-2, "**When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.**"

So after a woman has been divorced and departs out of his house she can go and be another man's wife! She is free to remarry! According to the LAW!

Remember from Adam to Noah and from Noah to Abraham and from Abraham to Moses until the Law was given there was no Divorcement. But God used this law to deal with Israel:

Jeremiah 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."

So God divorced Israel and put her away for the sin of adultery and God was NOT at fault for doing so. These stuffed shirts that pervert judgment and cause young preachers to fall and not become the preachers that God called them to be will stand to lose their inheritance at the Judgment Seat of Christ. There is going to be some surprises at that judgment.

## **These are reasons for divorce:**

1. Fornication: Matthew 5:31-32, "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, **saving for the cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

2. Separation: 1 Corinthians 7:12-13, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. **But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases**: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"

3. Death: Romans 7:1-3, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but **if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband**. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but **if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.**"

So if your partner went out and was involved in a gangbang willingly and spitefully; and was doing drugs and whoring around... what is that? How can divorce be adultery? We live in a sin cursed world. If you do make it through life, with very little of it affecting you; that is just God's grace on you and NOT your own doing. What did you do? Your opinion really makes no difference in light of all the scriptures given. There are three reasons for divorce and I gave them with the scriptures. Your fight is with God and the Bible, not with me.

I was not trying to be crude about all that above, this actually happened to me. But let me know when you are more righteous what you would do with someone like that? Divorce? And then if you had three small children to care for with no wife.

Abandonment:

1 Corinthians 7:10-16, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, **Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife**. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: **If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him**. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. **But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases**: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"

Fornication :

Matthew 19:9, "And I say unto you, **Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery**: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."



Then the obvious reason of Death as we have seen above from Romans 7:1-3.

The Bible has reasons for divorce and remarriage and it is not a sin according to Paul: 1 Corinthians 7:27-28, “**Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned;** and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.”

If this is adultery; then just thank God for the Blood of Christ that washes away all our sins. And thank God we are no longer UNDER the law but under grace.

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

If remarriage is a sin you need to divorce this person and be free from sin, right? See how ridiculous that is? The stuffed shirts are putting people back under the law for this issue; but not for their own stinking sins.

Romans 6:13-18, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, **as those that are alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: **for ye are not under the law, but under grace**. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

Galatians 3:22-25, “But **the scripture hath concluded all under sin**, that **the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe**. But before faith came, we were **kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed**. Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith**. But **after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster**.”

So then the issue comes up if you were married before you were born again is the marriage before the Lord or is it a wrong marriage? If not, then and if it is a right marriage; why? If you got married by the Justice of the Peace and not in a church and nothing was said about God. Is that a real marriage? If you are saved and have had to get divorced because your spouse was involved with another person is it wrong to stay married to her if she is unwilling to reconcile? If a marriage was before being born again and a divorce from that

marriage was also prior to being born again. Does that marriage and divorce actually count for anything? How much of the LAW does a Christ need to account for?

There are no blanket statements on these things and if you don't know the details about something perhaps you should study to be quiet until God gives you some wisdom especially in another man's matters. And be not ready to judge according to the appearance you might not know everything about the issue and prejudice a matter unrighteously: John 7:24, "**Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**"

If the Lord God Almighty imputed righteousness when you got saved and imputed your sins to Calvary when you received the Lord Jesus Christ would this not include all sin? Does this not include adultery and fornication and lust? Then why would it NOT include divorce if divorce was a sin. Perhaps a person did get divorced for no good reason. Does the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ NOT cover this?

It seems like this is a ruse to keep some people OUT of the ministry by a straw many doctrine that is put in place by self-righteous busybodies that are jealous and envious of someone else's ministry where they cannot find anything wrong aside from the fact that they were divorce and remarried. So they ACT like the ministerial qualifications include not ever being divorced let alone remarried all the while they themselves lust after that minister's flock!

