

Marriage

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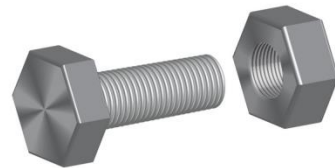
What is the Marriage Covenant? Is this covenant spiritual, physical or both? What constitutes a marriage? What happens when there is a falling out on one or both sides?

First and foremost we need to define what marriage is and will deal with each question above as we progress through this study.

Marriage:

The first marriage: Genesis 2:21-25, “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took **one of his ribs**, and closed up **the flesh** instead thereof; And **the rib**, which the LORD God had **taken from man**, **made he a woman**, and brought her unto the man. **And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.** Therefore shall a **man leave** his father and his mother, and shall **cleave unto his wife**: and **they shall be one flesh**. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Notice that this marriage was with Adam and Eve and not with Adam and Steve! An important observation as in every tool and die shop it is a nut and bolt that constitutes a marriage and not two nuts or two bolts. So what if God made man and made him a help that was wrong for him like another man. How in the world would they do what God said: be fruitful and multiply? That would be impossible and if no children, then they die... end of story! It's a good thing God is not a pervert.



The first marriage happened prior to Adam's fall into sin. Therefore this marriage is not the same as any other marriage.

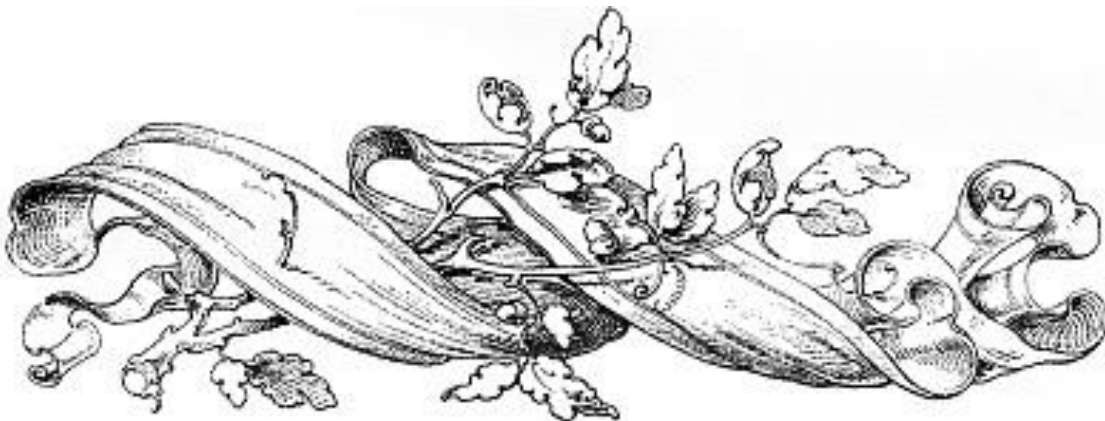


The first marriage happened by God pulling Eve out of Adam and that is why Adam said what he said: “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Not because they are one flesh in any form. But because of this Adam continues: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife:

and they shall be one flesh.” The cleaving unto his wife is what makes them one flesh. No one has his wife coming out of his flesh anymore, and “one flesh” never means “the same flesh.” I am physically in the flesh sitting here writing this; and my wife is out shopping. IF we were actually and tangibly ONE flesh in substance, I would be aware of where she is and what she is doing; and in like manor she would know what I am writing right now! But this is NOT the case at all. The kind of extremism some people extend things to becomes absurd and sometimes downright ridiculous or ludicrous.

The first marriage happened in the buff! Notice: “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” I bet you didn’t get married that way! No you didn’t; not unless you were a practicing Wiccan perhaps or some other form of paganism.

Before continuing with this study on marriage I will take a side note so as to clear up a particular teaching that is that Cain was the product of Eve and Satan’s copulation. This is resolved by what the Bible says: Genesis 4:1-2, “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” It says Adam knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain... When we compare this with 1 John 3:11-12, “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.” We see another side of the picture. Cain was of that wicked one. But this is not of procreation. To be of Satan is not to say you are physically born of him. The context of this is love or hate; Cain was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. The context of sin in the passage shows that he was of that wicked one spiritually, not physically. This goes in line with Judas Iscariot, and everyone that is lost in sin and on their way to hell. Judas’s father is listed many places where his name shows up as Simon not Satan.



MARRIAGE

Back to Marriage: After the fall marriage is not the same because no one is naked during marriage; the wife is not taken out of the side of her husband to be from the same flesh; and sin is in the world. These are very important differences.

The Lord Jesus Christ told us about marriage: Matthew 19:3-8, “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? And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.** They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 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.” (I will cover divorce later.)



However this is in response to the Pharisees questioning him to tempt him and therefore is an answer to that and that is why the Lord refers to the original marriage and puts aside the Law of Moses and the condition of the heart in the event of Divorcement. Because it wasn't so from the beginning; which begs the question could Adam and Eve have ever been divorced? There was no Law that said they could be or not. But think about it: Eve came OUT of Adam.

So how could they ever be divorced?

The same thing in Mark 10:1-12, “And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he

was wont, he taught them again. And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. **But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.** And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.” Notice again “...from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female...” and continues “...For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” So we see this parallel passage has many of the same things. And in all three occasions marriage is FLESH joining with FLESH. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that marriage is spirit joining spirit or soul joining soul or soul joining spirit. Marriage between a man and a woman is flesh joining flesh always and ends at physical death.

The ending of a marriage at death would be the natural end of a marriage. However God provided in the Bible a written letter of divorce to end a marriage because of certain reasons. From Old Testament to New Testament those certain reasons were better defined from an open letter for just about any cause; to just a few reasons for divorcement.

DIVORCE!

There are three reasons for a biblical dissolving of a marriage. Two of them are because of the hardness of men’s hearts (Matthew 19:8) Man was given this to divorce his wife; woman were NEVER given this to divorce their husband; NEVER! The divorce decree was given to men when their wives displeased them. However the complete revelation of the Old and New Testaments shows these three are the only reasons for dissolving a marriage:



1. Adultery: (fornication), Matthew 5:32; Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Matthew 5:28. (Forgiveness can fix this without divorcement)
2. Abandonment: 1 Corinthians 7:27-28 (context vs. 15, 27-40) (hard to fix in any case where the other partner has left.)
3. Death: 1 Corinthians 7:39; Romans 7:2-3. The most obvious implication and finality of the end of any marriage.

In all cases a departure has happened on at least ONE side. This constitutes a dissolving of the marriage. However today people are so enamored by selfish motives they get married for all the wrong reasons and the marriage is doomed to failure before it gets started.

First and foremost let's set the record straight: God instituted Divorce. It is not man's design; but it was not God's original design. The cause of God instituting Divorcement is because of SIN. A hard heart is caused by sin. But there are actual reasons for divorce that cannot be ignored.

God divorces Israel; but this is only because Israel has already departed from the Lord: Jeremiah 3:6-11, "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**. 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. 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**. And it came to pass

through the lightness of her **whoredom**, that she **defiled the land**, and **committed adultery with stones and with stocks**. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD. And the LORD said unto me, **The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah**."

The lord put away Israel: **if** there was no such thing as Divorce as instituted by God then why is God giving Israel a BILL OF DIVORCEMENT? Fact is that God did institute divorce so that God would be justified in divorcing Israel in the above passage.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4, "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**. And if the latter husband **hate her**, and **write her a bill of divorcement**, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, **may not take her again to be his wife**, after that **she is defiled**; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.” Marriage is NOT a light thing; but people seem to take it lightly. They say love is blind: but sometimes divorce is too. Love should not be so blind.

Matthew 19:3-12, “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?** And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them **at the beginning** made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, **Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?** 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**. His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, **it is not good to marry**. But he said unto them, **All men cannot receive this saying**, save they to whom it is given. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. **He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.**”



The parallel passage to this is in Mark: Mark 10:2-12, “And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, **Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement**, and to put her away. And

Jesus answered and said unto them, **For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept**. But **from the beginning of the creation** God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder**. And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. And he saith unto them, **Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.**”

Remember Jesus Christ was speaking during his life prior to the cross during the Old Testament setup under the Law of Moses as the New Testament has not been instituted yet. That does not happen until after His death, burial and resurrection. What Is incredible is that the Pharisees did not recount Jeremiah 3:6-11 or Isaiah 50:1.

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.**”

In the New Testament what happens when a man is called into the ministry and he has been previously married. They say he can't be a pastor because he has two living wives. This is perpetrated by misunderstanding the passages:

1 Timothy 3:1-7, “This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 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.”

1. The issue here is if you have been divorced then you are not the husband of one wife and therefore cannot be a bishop, overseer or pastor of a local church. However, they do not deal with any of the other issues: Blameless? Patient? Not a novice? We are talking about Saved Sinners here! No one fits the bill, because all have sinned.
2. The husband of one wife, means not married to more than ONE WOMAN at a time. This is in direct opposition to what was going on during the time that it was written: polygamy. That is having more than one wife. It is not about divorce at all. The husband of ONE wife would be monogamous.
3. These people that disallow others from entering into the ministry because of divorce are novices full of pride and have fallen into the condemnation of the devil. Be careful lest you fall into this condemnation that YOU have judged. 1 Timothy 3:6-7, “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.”

Remarriage:

Avoiding Divorce if at all Possible:

Now on the last we will deal with Proverbs 18:22, “**Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.**” And Hebrews 13:4a, “**Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled...**”

1 Corinthians 7:1-5, “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.** Nevertheless, **to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.** Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. **The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.** **Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.**”

Do not defraud each other EVER. If you have to abstain: be in prayer together and if things are very difficult with fasting and prayer. Satan will stop at nothing to mess up your marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:25-26, “Now **concerning virgins** I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. I suppose therefore that **this is good for the present distress**, I say, that **it is good for a man so to be.**”

Paul was never married; however he does not put this on anyone that cannot remain such. He continues:

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 you are married you are bound to your wife and likewise also the wife to the husband. Neither of you should seek to be loosed. However if you find that you are loosed from your wife; seek not a wife. Why? Because you will have trouble in the flesh; nevertheless, if you do marry, you have NOT SINNED. So here Paul is saying to be loosed from a wife, and remarrying is NOT a sin. It can cause much pain and agony in the flesh for one or both.

Paul Continues:



1 Corinthians 7:29-35, “But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that **both they that have wives be as though they had none**; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: **for the fashion of this world passeth away**. But I would have you without carefulness. **He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord**; But he that is married **careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife**. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The **unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord**, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but **she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband**. And this I speak **for your own profit**; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and **that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction**.”



Being married causes more care for things of the world, and of the flesh; and therefore less care for the things of the Lord. It is therefore very important that if you do marry that you marry **IN THE LORD**. So that you two might server the Lord having that mutual understanding of these

things. The idea here is to attend upon the Lord without distraction. Marriage can be a great distraction to spiritual things.

Paul continues:

1 Corinthians 7:36-38, “But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: **let them marry**. Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and **hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well**. So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.”

Celibacy is not for everyone, and there is no law that anyone should be celibate; and there is no law that requires everyone to be married.



Paul continues:

1 Corinthians 7:39-40, “**The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord**. But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.” To abide, after my judgment as Paul is saying, to abide as he is

celibate. Now this passage has a more significant meaning because there is a parallel passage with this which I cover in great detail in another study on Romans 7.

Romans 7:1-4, “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.”

Here is a bridge that brings together the marriage between husband and wife with the marriage between Christ and the Church.

Ephesians 5:21-33, “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.** For **the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:** and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore **as** the church is subject unto Christ, so let **the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives,** even **as** Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. **For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery:** but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless **let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;** and **the wife see that she reverence her husband.**”

So that even though these passages are speaking concerning Christ and the church; a married couple can find great and precious promises in these by obeying the Lord and taking Him at his words.

The End