

**The  
MAKING  
and  
BREAKING  
of a marriage**

**What the Bible Says About the Purpose of Marriage  
and  
How it Can be Broken**

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## THE MAKING OF A MARRIAGE

Someone once said that marriage is very much like a violin; after the sweet music is over, the strings are still attached. That may be true, but it shouldn't be such a bad thing. Why is it that young people crave to be married, and dream about it, then after they are married they complain about it? Where have we failed?

Divorces are rampant in both the world and the Church today. Somewhere along the line we have missed out on God's plan for the beautiful relationship between a man and a woman. The difficulties of marriage have become the source of many jokes and comic strips. Why is that? How can we get marriage back to what it is supposed to be?

I think that what we have lost sight of is the purpose of marriage. I could spend time talking about how to get along with your spouse, how to work through problems, and how to understand your differences, but my purpose here is not to fix small problems but help you develop a mindset. What is the purpose of marriage? It seems we have gotten so far away from it, and it could only help to go all the way back to the beginning of time to see why it was instituted in the first place.

In order to understand the purpose of marriage, we need to start at the beginning – in fact, the second chapter of the Bible. In it we see the establishment of marriage, and we are given a great picture of what it is all about.

### **Man should not be alone**

Every time God made something during the week of creation, He looked at it and pronounced it "good". However, He took a look at the lone man He had created, and something was missing.

Genesis 2:18

*And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Man was alone. This was just not right. All the animals had a mate, but Adam, the masterpiece of God's creation, made in His own image, was alone.

Someone once said "a man is incomplete until he's married, then he's finished". Well, maybe there's some truth in that. His wife does help to complete him, but if both the man and his wife understand the purpose of marriage, he will be totally complete, and not finished.

I need to pause here and say that if you are unmarried, it doesn't mean that you are incomplete and "not good". In the New Testament Paul points out that an unmarried man does have an advantage in that he can dedicate himself more fully to serving God, as he doesn't have a family that needs care. I believe God does allow for this in some men. However, as a general rule, man needs a woman. He needs someone there to love and respect him, and to help him. Adam could not have a relationship with the animals. He needed someone like himself.

Solomon, though he may have taken the goodness of marriage a little too far, was right when he made this point:

Proverbs 18:22

*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

Now, some wives may take issue with being referred to as a “thing”, so I am happy to point out that the word “thing” was added for clarification – you will see it in italics in your King James Bible. You could say it this way – “Whoso findeth a wife findeth good”. I know this to be true in my life. When something exciting happens in my life, the first thing that comes into my mind is, “I have to tell Lori!” It is “good” to have someone with whom to share things in life.

### **Man needs a helper**

Some of you ladies may say, “Yeah – my man needs a lot of help!” You may be right, but not in the way you mean. Man does need help – even God said so.

In Genesis 2:18, the word “help” means “aid”. The phrase “meet for him” is translated from a Greek word which means “counterpart, before, opposite”. The picture is how the two main actors in a movie work opposite each other. They act differently, but work together, helping to develop the common plot. This word is also translated in the New Testament many times as “before” or “presence”. A husband and wife, though different, work before each other to fulfill common goals.

I have been told that I have a warped sense of humor, which may be true. I have always had a special place in my heart for Laurel and Hardy. I remember watching them in an old black and white movie as they were trying to move a large box. Each was on his own side of the box, pushing with all his might. They were doing the same action, but were getting nowhere. One may watch them and say that they were working together fine, because they were both using the same skill – pushing. However, to get the box to move, one had to push, and one had to pull. They had to use different talents to get the job done.

It is the same way with marriage. You and your spouse are different, but that is what makes you compatible. If you had all the same skills and desires, something would be left undone.

If you have been married for any length of time, you may have noticed that you and your spouse have many differences. You may even wonder at times how you ever got together, because you are so different. Well, consider magnets. The phrase “opposites attract” is very true. A magnet has two poles – a south pole and a north pole. Like poles repel each other, and opposite poles attract. Magnets would not stick together if they had like poles on each end.

As a married couple, you don’t have to be the same! If you had all the same strengths, there would be some great weaknesses. You each have your own strengths and weaknesses. If you put them together, and you will have a strong unit.

Adam was put in the Garden of Eden, all alone. He needed someone who could come along and complement him – work opposite him, helping him. None of the animals could do it. They were different, but too different. So, God put him to sleep, took a rib from him, and made it into a woman.

Genesis 2:21-22

*(21) 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;*

*(22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

### **Man and wife are one flesh**

When a man and woman are brought together, they are seen by God as one flesh. This is very important to understand.

Genesis 2:22-24

*(22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

*(23) 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.*

*(24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

The fact that man and woman become one flesh when married has several ramifications.

#### 1. They would have a physical relationship

The bodies of a man and wife no longer belong to themselves, but to each other.

1 Corinthians 7:1-4

*(1) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

*(2) Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*

*(3) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.*

*(4) 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.*

When you give your body to someone to whom you are not married, you are giving something away that does not belong to you. How important it is for young people to understand this. When you show off your body by the way you dress, you are showing off something that belongs to your future spouse. When you touch others or allow your body to be touched, you are infringing on the property of your future spouse. When you kiss, dance, etc., there is a great possibility that you are doing it with someone else's spouse.

Now you may say, “But I’m not married yet – it’s still my body!” In a way that may be true, but would you like the chef in a restaurant to chew your food and spit it out onto your plate before you get it? Why not? It’s not yours yet! You don’t want chewed up food, so don’t give your husband or wife a body that has been chewed up and spit out.

The physical union between a man and woman would produce children. This was God’s plan.

Genesis 1:28

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

By the way, two people of the same gender can’t produce children – therefore, it is not a true marriage.

## 2. They were to be faithful to each other

Becoming one flesh necessitates that the man and woman be faithful to each other, both physically and emotionally. We have already seen that your physical body belongs to your spouse, so you must keep it faithfully for them.

Exodus 20:14

*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

I am afraid that many married people are unfaithful to their spouses, but don’t fully understand that they are. They may claim physical faithfulness, but emotionally they have given themselves to another person.

Matthew 5:28

*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

The story is told of a man who gave his secretary a fur coat to keep her warm, then he gave his wife one to keep her cool. There is, unfortunately, too much reality in that. Who is it that lights up your eyes? Who do you think about more often? If it’s not your husband or wife, you have some repenting to do.

We’re not just talking here about being attached to a specific person. As we just read in Matthew 5:28, lusting after a woman is, in God’s eyes, the same thing as committing the physical act of adultery. In other words, don’t think yourself faithful because you haven’t given yourself away physically, when you have allowed your eyes and thoughts to wander to other women – either in real life or in pictures.

### 3. They would share everything

Becoming one flesh means that you become one person. You no longer have “his” and “hers”. There is no reason to have a prenuptial agreement – you’re married for life and there is no other option. You are not two people co-habiting a house. You are now one flesh.

### 4. They were bound permanently

When you get married, you promise to stay together for “better or worse”. One lady made the comment that she agreed that she was married for better or for worse. “He couldn’t have done better and I couldn’t have done worse”.

When we make a marriage covenant with our spouse, God puts us together for life. God joins us, and no man can separate us.

Matthew 19:5-6

*(5) 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?*

*(6) Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

## THE BREAKING OF A MARRIAGE

A huge percentage of people in the world today have gone through divorce and remarriage situations. Unfortunately, it is obvious even within the Church. I am tempted to think that part of the reason divorce is so prevalent in the Church is that God's people have not been taught clearly what the Bible says about it. Preachers and counselors are adept at telling people what they want to hear, often so they can sell a book. I have listened to Christian radio programs that take a worldly view of marriage. In my study of the Bible, God's view of marriage, divorce, and remarriage have become very plain. I offer these views humbly, without animosity toward anyone. I believe this subject is important enough that it needs to be taught firmly, in love.

### A hot topic

Apparently, the question of divorce has always been a hot topic. In Matthew 19, Jesus Himself was faced with it.

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?*

The Pharisees came and asked Jesus if it was ok to get divorced for just any reason. Now, they weren't really seeking to know the truth, they were trying to tempt Him. They were hoping to catch Him stammering out a controversial answer that would ruin His credibility with the people. They wanted Him to tell them divorce was wrong, then they would pounce on Him about Moses' procedure for divorce.

Keep in mind that there were two major schools of thought at this time, their names taken from the men who were the leaders of the view. The first was called Shammai. Those who held to Shammai's teachings took a strict view of Deuteronomy 24, and believed one could only be divorced for impurity. The second group followed Hillel, and took a more liberal view of marriage. They believed that divorce could be granted for any type of displeasure. Unfortunately, this was the most widely held view at the time.

The followers of Shammai and Hillel were very adamant about their beliefs, which posed a potential problem for Jesus. He was going to have to pick sides.

What the Pharisees didn't factor in was that the One they were trying to tempt had been there when Moses' Law was given. As a matter of fact, He had even been there when marriage was first instituted. On top of that, He was Jesus Christ, the omniscient Son of God. He understood their temptation and He knew the answer. He didn't have to take sides. He disregarded the modern controversy and went straight to the beginning of marriage.

### Jesus went back to the beginning

In answer to their question, Jesus brought them all the way back to the beginning of marriage.

Matthew 19:4-6

*(4) And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,*

*(5) 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?*

*(6) Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

This is what it was like in the beginning. Before divorce court. Before Christian counselors. Before psychologists. Before Moses' Law. God ordained marriage to be one man and one woman cleaving (the Greek word means "to glue") together. God puts them together, and man has no authority to pull them apart.

The phrase "let not man put asunder", when translated into English, seems permissive, like man really shouldn't put them asunder, but can if he really wants to. However, a little research into the Greek text shows that the words "let not" are translated from the Greek word *may*, which is a word of negation. In other words, this phrase could be translated as "What therefore God hath joined together, *not* man put asunder."

God is the one who joins man and woman at marriage. It's not a preacher, a judge, or a government. A marriage certificate doesn't make a couple married – God does it Himself. If God puts something together, who has a right to separate it? God is the only one who can separate a marriage, which He does at death.

### **Jesus' teaching on the Old Testament divorce law**

Now the Pharisees had Jesus exactly where they wanted Him, or so they thought. He had rejected both schools of thought, and they had their knockout punch ready. Jesus just basically said that divorce wasn't allowed, but they had been studying the Law – and found a provision for divorce.

Matthew 19:7

*They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?*

The Pharisees are referring to the passage we find in Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Here it is:

*(1) 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.*

*(2) And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.*

*(3) 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;*

*(4) 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.*

Moses obviously provided the opportunity for divorce. If a man takes a wife and finds some “uncleanness” in her, he can give her a bill of divorcement, then she can go to be another man’s wife. If the second husband gives her a bill of divorcement, she is not allowed to go back to her first husband.

First, we need to note that the purpose of this provision is to keep from making a mockery of marriage. Divorce was not granted for just any reason at all. There was a specific procedure to follow, and it was only under one circumstance – when a man found uncleanness in his wife. God was trying to keep the land pure from abominations. It was an abomination for a woman to bounce around between husbands.

Second, we need to understand the circumstance under which she could be sent away. The word “uncleanness” in this passage is used in the Old Testament 54 times. It is translated as “nakedness” all but two or three times, usually in a shameful way. Obviously he has found her to be guilty of sexual sins. This we will discuss more fully a little later.

The Pharisees had come to Jesus with the topic of divorce on their minds. However, Jesus was concerned with the institution of marriage. The Pharisees were looking for a loophole, but Jesus was interested in the permanency of marriage.

Jesus’ answer shows that Moses had not given a commandment, but rather a concession. The whole Deuteronomy passage came about because of the hardness of people’s hearts. It was given as a means of keeping things from getting out of hand and allowing men to treat women like trash – using her, passing her on to someone else, then using her again. As He had done in verse 4, He again goes past doctrinal statements, modern controversy, and popularly held beliefs – all the way back to the beginning, to explain what marriage was all about.

Matthew 19:8-9

*(8) 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.*

*(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.*

Moses had made an allowance because of their wicked hearts. But, here is a direct statement from Jesus. He says that if you put away your wife and marry another, you commit adultery (we’ll look at the “except it be for fornication” clause later). Also, if you marry someone who is put away, you commit adultery.

Why? Because when you marry, you become ONE FLESH. What God has joined together, “not” man put asunder. A man may give you a paper telling you that you are put asunder, but he

doesn't have that right. God joined you, and He is the only one who can "unjoin" you.

A look at verse 10 shows that the disciples that were listening in to this conversation understood what Jesus was saying a whole lot better than the Ph.D's of today. They realized that Jesus was saying that when you are married, you are stuck! To put away a wife and marry another is to be guilty of the sin of adultery. Basically they understood that if you can't get out of it, you're better off not to get in it. More young people should understand this – you don't want the wrong spouse!

### **The "exception clause"**

Now it's time to take a look at the phrase that you have been wondering about. What did Jesus mean when He said, "except for fornication" in verse 9?

I must point out that this clause is not included in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Jesus obviously said it, as it is recorded in Matthew, but Mark and Luke did not consider it necessary to record. Why might this be?

All through Matthew's Gospel, he constantly strives to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, and that He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. His work seems to be mainly directed at a Jewish readership, whereas Mark and Luke seem to be written more to a Gentile audience. Because Matthew expected his readership to be predominately Jewish, he inserted this phrase, knowing they would understand his reference to the Law. The other writers did not add it when recording Jesus' words.

Once again, to back to Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Remember that the word "uncleanness" here means "nakedness", and is usually used in a shameful way. As we now compare Deuteronomy with Matthew, an understanding of what Moses meant by "uncleanness" becomes clearer. Jesus calls it "fornication". Jesus, knowing all things, knew what Moses meant. Jesus agrees with Moses that fornication is the only possible loophole for divorce.

We still haven't cleared up the meaning of this clause, though. There is no question that divorce is never allowed except for fornication. If you aren't with me on this point, please stop now and go back and re-read carefully these Bible passages and the above paragraphs.

So, now, what does "except for fornication mean? There are basically two different ideas of what fornication means here:

1. A man finds out his new wife is not a virgin
2. Sexual infidelity in marriage

Let's look at this word "fornication". It is translated from the Greek word *porneia*, which, according to Strong's dictionary, means "harlotry", or "to indulge in unlawful lust". This seems to be a generic word for sexual sin. So, some would claim that adultery within marriage would be an acceptable reason for divorce. However, I notice that Jesus did not use the word "adultery", which

He could have. In fact, He did use it later in the verse – twice. In Galatians 5:19, “fornication” and “adultery” are used side by side.

Now would be a good time to take a quick look at some Jewish marriage customs, which sheds a lot of light on the subject at hand. It was the practice for a man to give a gift to the girl he would like to marry, which would betroth her to himself. Then he would go and make a marriage suite ready for her, and come get her when it was done. During this time, they were considered legally betrothed, even legally married, though they did not become officially married until it was consummated.

A betrothal was a serious matter and could not be broken on a whim. It was legal, and could only be broken by a divorce for a good reason. The reason is given in Deuteronomy 24 and Matthew 19. If the woman had sex with another man, her betrothed husband could give her a writing of divorcement, ending the betrothal.

A good example we find in Jesus’ own parents, Joseph and Mary. She was found with child “before they came together” and he was minded to privately “put her away” (Matthew 1:19). They were betrothed, and she was found to be pregnant. He didn’t want to make a laughingstock of her, so he was considering ending their betrothal in a private manner. He was a just man, and didn’t want to cause her embarrassment, even though it looked as though she had sinned.

If you were to go back and read this story, you would see that Joseph and Mary were called “husband” and “wife”. They had not yet consummated the marriage, but were betrothed. Their betrothal could only be ended legally for the reason of fornication.

Now let’s take a look in Deuteronomy 22:13-30, where more examples are given of betrothal.

Deuteronomy 22:13-21

*(13) If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her,*

*(14) And give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid:*

*(15) Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel's virginity unto the elders of the city in the gate:*

*(16) And the damsel's father shall say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her;*

*(17) And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech against her, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these are the tokens of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.*

*(18) And the elders of that city shall take that man and chastise him;*

*(19) And they shall amerce him in an hundred shekels of silver, and give them unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days.*

*(20) But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel:*

*(21) Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of*

*her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.*

In this example, a man goes to consummate his marriage after his betrothal period, and then claims his wife was not a virgin. The parents are instructed to bring the “tokens of virginity”, to prove that she was a virgin. The “tokens of virginity” are understood to be blood-stained cloths from the consummation, which would be given to them on the marriage night. These would prove that she was a virgin when they consummated. If they could not be produced, the girl would be stoned – she was deemed to have been guilty of fornication before or during her betrothal period.

Deuteronomy 22:23-27

*(23) If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her;*

*(24) Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.*

*(25) But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die:*

*(26) But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter:*

*(27) For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her.*

In this example, a man rapes a betrothed woman. If she doesn't cry out, they would both be stoned – she is guilty of consensual fornication. Notice that she is called “his neighbor's wife” – she is betrothed, and considered legally to be his wife. If, however, the woman does cry out while being raped in a field, but no one is there to help, only the rapist would die. She is not guilty.

Deuteronomy 22:28-30

*(28) If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found;*

*(29) Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.*

*(30) A man shall not take his father's wife, nor discover his father's skirt.*

The third example gives a man raping a woman who is not betrothed. He will have to take her as his wife and can never put her away. Notice how this is different from raping a betrothed woman. He has defiled another man's wife when she is betrothed, but if she is not betrothed she is not considered a wife and is to be taken as his.

### **What about infidelity after marriage?**

The obvious question, then, is that if the only provision for divorce is fornication before

consummation, then what about infidelity after marriage? I would love to be able to make a ruling here, but I cannot. There is nothing in the Law or the New Testament allowing divorce in this situation.

The subject is not ignored, however, but the punishment given in the Law is harsh, and I'm sure few today would be willing to subject their unfaithful spouse to it. Here is what God says about it:

Leviticus 20:10

*And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

Deuteronomy 22:22

*If a man be found lying with a woman married to a husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.*

The punishment for adultery under the Law was death. Hence, there was no need for divorce for an adulterer.

### **Divorce after marriage**

As I study what the Bible has to say about divorce, it is clear to me that divorce after marriage is strictly forbidden, and that both Jesus and Moses made provision only for ending the betrothal period. Unfortunately, however, we are stuck with a nagging question brought about by the prevalence of divorce in our society – what about those who have become divorced after consummating their marriage? What does the Bible have to say about that?

God makes His thoughts very clear to us through the inspired biblical writers. We'll start first in 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.*

Now we'll back up a few chapters and see what Jesus said while preaching on the Mount:

Matthew 5:31-32

*(31) It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:*

*(32) 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.*

Now back to the other Gospels...

Mark 10:11

*And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.*

Luke 16:18

*Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.*

Paul also had something to say about this topic.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

*(10) And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:*

*(11) But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.*

1 Corinthians 7:39

*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.*

In Romans 7:1-3, Paul is teaching about the Law, using marriage as an example. In his illustration, he shows the permanency of marriage.

*(1) 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?*

*(2) 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.*

*(3) 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.*

### **Conclusion**

After studying all these passages, I have come to the personal conclusion that divorce after marriage is wrong and not recognized by God. Therefore, when man divorces, and marries another wife, he now has two living spouses until one of them dies.

My purpose in sharing this study is not to bring feelings of guilt upon anyone for past actions, but to warn those looking at marriage that it is a very serious matter, and to encourage those who are married to keep their marriage strong. A man and woman are joined by God at marriage, and this marriage will continue until God separates them by death.