

## ~DIVORCE (1281)

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• **Legal dissolution of the marital union.** Hence the severance of the marriage bond between a husband and a wife. Various original-language terms for divorce literally mean send away

• And they must fine him a hundred silver shekels and give them to the girl's father, because he brought forth a bad name upon a virgin of Israel, and she will continue to be his wife. He will not be allowed to **divorce** her all his days. (**Deuteronomy 22:19**)

**Footnote Int**

• **Release or loose off,**

• However, Joseph her husband, because he was righteous and did not want to make her a public spectacle, intended to **divorce** her secretly. (**Matthew 1:19**)

• And Pharisees came up to him, intent on tempting him and saying; Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife on every sort of ground? (**Matthew 19:3**)

• **Drive out, cast out.**

• But in case the daughter of a priest should become a widow or **divorced** when she has no offspring, and she must return to her father's house as in her youth, she may eat some of her father's bread, but no stranger at all may feed on it. (**Leviticus 22:13**)

• **Cut off,**

• In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he

- must also write out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (**Deuteronomy 24:1**)
- If the latter man has come to hate her and has written out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismissed her from his house, or in case the latter man who took her as his wife should die. (**Deuteronomy 24:3**)
  - Where the expression **a certificate of divorce** literally means **a book of cutting off**.
  - When Yehowah united Adam and Eve in wedlock, he made no provision for **divorce**. Jesus Christ made this clear when answering the Pharisees question.
  - And Pharisees came up to him, intent on tempting him and saying; Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife on every sort of ground? (**Matthew 19:3**)
  - In reply he said; Did you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female (**Matthew 19:4**)
  - And said; For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh? (**Matthew 19:5**)
  - So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart. (**Matthew 19:6**)
  - And Yehowah God proceeded to build the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman and to bring her to the man. (**Genesis 2:22**)
  - Then the man said; This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, because from man this one was taken. (**Genesis 2:23**)
  - That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he must stick to his wife and they must become one flesh. (**Genesis 2:24**)
  - The Pharisees next asked:
  - They said to him; Why, then, did Moses prescribe giving a

certificate of dismissal and **divorcing** her? (**Matthew 19:7**)

- He said to them; Moses, out of regard for your **hardheartedness**, made the **concession** to you of divorcing your wives, but such has not been the case from the beginning. (**Matthew 19:8**)
- Though **divorce** was allowed among the Israelites on various grounds as a **concession**, Yehowah God regulated it in his Law given to Israel through Moses.
- In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (**Deuteronomy 24:1**)
- Reads. In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a **certificate of divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house.
- Just what something indecent, literally, the nakedness of a thing, was is not specifically stated. That it was not adultery is indicated by the fact that God's Law given to Israel decreed that those guilty of adultery be put to death, not merely be **divorced**.
- In case a man is found lying down with a woman owned by an owner, **both of them must then die together**, the man lying down with the woman and the woman. So you must clear away what is bad out of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 22:22**)
- In case there happened to be a virgin girl engaged to a man, and a man actually found her in the city and lay down with her. (**Deuteronomy 22:2**)
- You must also bring them both out to the gate of that city and pelt them with stones, and they must die, the girl for the reason that she did not scream in the city, and the man for the reason that he humiliated the wife of his fellowman. So you must clear away what is evil from your midst. (**Deuteronomy 22:24**)
- Doubtless, originally the indecency that would have given a Hebrew husband some basis for divorcing his wife involved serious

**matters, perhaps the wives showing gross disrespect for the husband or bringing shame on the household.**

- **Since the Law specified that you must love your fellow as yourself, it is not reasonable to assume that petty faults could be used with impunity as excuses for divorcing a wife.**
- **You must not take vengeance nor have a grudge against the sons of your people, and you must love your fellow as yourself. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 19:18)**
- **In the days of Malachi many Jewish husbands were dealing treacherously with their wives, divorcing them on all kinds of grounds, ridding themselves of the wives of their youth, possibly in order to marry younger, pagan women. Instead of upholding God's law, the priests allowed this, and Yehowah was greatly displeased.**
- **Is it not one father that all of us have? Is it not one God that has created us? Why is it that we deal treacherously with one another, in profaning the covenant of our forefathers? (Malachi 2:10)**
- **Judah has dealt treacherously, and a detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has profaned the holiness of Yehowah, which He has loved, and he has taken possession of the daughter of a foreign god as a bride. (Malachi 2:11)**
- **Yehowah will cut off each one that does it, one who is awake and one who is answering, from the tents of Jacob, and one who is presenting a gift offering to Yehowah of armies. (Malachi 2:12)**
- **And this is the second thing that you people do, this resulting in covering with tears the altar of Yehowah, with weeping and sighing, so that there is no more a turning toward the gift offering or a taking of pleasure in anything from your hand. (Malachi 2:13)**
- **And you have said; On what account? On this account, that Yehowah himself has borne witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you yourself have dealt treacherously, although she is your partner and the wife of your covenant. (Malachi 2:14)**

- **And there was one who did not do it, as he had what was remaining of the spirit. And what was that one seeking? The seed of God. And you people must guard yourselves respecting your spirit, and with the wife of your youth may no one deal treacherously. (Malachi 2:15)**
- **For he has hated a divorcing, Yehowah the God of Israel has said, and the one who with violence has covered over his garment, Yehowah of armies has said. And you must guard yourselves respecting your spirit, and you must not deal treacherously. (Malachi 2:16)**
- **That Jewish men were using many grounds for **divorce** when Jesus Christ was on earth is indicated by the question the Pharisees put to Jesus; Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife on **every sort** of ground?**
- **And Pharisees came up to him, intent on tempting him and saying; Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife on every sort of ground? (Matthew 19:3)**
- **Among the Israelites a man customarily paid a dowry for the woman who became his wife, and she was considered his possession. While enjoying many blessings and privileges, hers was the subordinate role in the marital union. Her position is further shown by;**
- **In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (Deuteronomy 24:1)**
- **And she must go out of his house and go and become another man's. (Deuteronomy 24:2)**
- **If the latter man has come to hate her and has written out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismissed her from his house, or in case the latter man who took her as his wife should die. (Deuteronomy 24:3)**
- **The first owner of her who dismissed her will not be allowed to take her back again to become his wife after she has been defiled, for that is something detestable before Yehowah, and you must not lead the land that Yehowah your God is giving you**

as an inheritance into sin. (**Deuteronomy 24:4**)

- Which pointed out that the husband might **divorce** his wife but said nothing about the wife's **divorcing** her husband. Being considered his property, **she could not divorce him**.
- In secular history, the first recorded instance of a woman in Israel trying to **divorce** her husband was when King Herod's sister Salome sent her husband, the governor of Idumea, **a bill of divorce dissolving their marriage**. [*Jewish Antiquities, XV, 259, vii, 10*]
- That such **divorce** action by women had begun to crop up when Jesus was on earth or that he foresaw its development may be indicated by Christ's words;
- And if ever a woman, after **divorcing** her husband, marries another, she commits adultery. (**Mark 10:12**)

#### •• **Certificate Of Divorce**

- It should not be concluded from the later abuses that the original Mosaic **divorce** concession made it easy for an Israelite husband to **divorce** his wife. In order to do so, he had to take formal steps.
- It was necessary to write a document, to **write out a certificate of divorce for her**. The **divorcing** husband had to put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house.
- In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (**Deuteronomy 24:1**)
- While the Scriptures do not provide additional details on this procedure, this legal step apparently involved consultation with duly authorized men, who might first endeavor to effect a reconciliation. The time involved in preparing the certificate and legally implementing the **divorce** would afford the **divorcing** husband opportunity to reconsider his decision.
- There would have to be a basis for the **divorce**, and when the regulation was properly applied, this would logically serve as a deterrent to rash action in obtaining **divorces**. Then, too, the wife's

rights and interests were thus protected. The Scriptures do not disclose the contents of the certificate of divorce.

### •• Remarriage Of Divorced Mates

- In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (**Deuteronomy 24:1**)
- And she must go out of his house and go and become another man's. (**Deuteronomy 24:2**)
- If the latter man has come to hate her and has written out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismissed her from his house, or in case the latter man who took her as his wife should die. (**Deuteronomy 24:3**)
- The first owner of her who dismissed her will not be allowed to take her back again to become his wife after she has been defiled, for that is something detestable before Yehowah, and you must not lead the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance into sin. (**Deuteronomy 24:4**)
- Also stipulated that the **divorced** woman must go out of his house and go and become another man's, meaning that she was eligible for remarriage. It was also stated;
- If the latter man has come to hate her and has written out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismissed her from his house, or in case the latter man who took her as his wife should die. (**Deuteronomy 24:3**)
- The first owner of her who dismissed her will not be allowed to take her back again to become his wife after she has been defiled, for that is something detestable before Yehowah, and you must not lead the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance into sin. (**Deuteronomy 24:4**)
- The former husband was barred from taking the **divorced** wife back, perhaps in order to prevent the possibility of any scheming between him and this remarried wife to force her **divorce** from her

second husband or to cause his death, thereby allowing for remarriage with her previous husband.

- If her former marriage mate took her back, it would be an unclean thing in God's eyes, the first husband would make himself look foolish because he had dismissed her as a woman in whom he had found something indecent and then, after she had been lawfully joined to another man and used as his wife, he took her back once again.
- Doubtless the very fact that the original husband could not remarry his **divorced** wife after she became another man's, even if that man **divorced** her or died, made the husband contemplating **divorce** action think seriously before acting to end the marriage.
- There is a saying; If a man should send away his wife and she should actually go away from him and become another man's, should he return to her anymore? Has that land not positively been polluted? And you yourself have committed prostitution with many companions, and should there be a returning to me? Is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 3:1**)
- However, nothing was said that would prohibit him from remarrying his **divorced** wife **if she had not remarried** after the legal severance of their marriage tie.

### ·· **Sending Away Pagan Wives**

- Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they were told to **form no marriage alliances with its pagan inhabitants**.
- And **you must form no marriage alliance** with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (**Deuteronomy 7:3**)
- For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. (**Deuteronomy 7:4**)
- Nonetheless, in the days of Ezra, the Jews had taken foreign wives, and in prayer to God, Ezra acknowledged their guiltiness in this matter. In response to his urging and in acknowledgment of their error, the men of Israel who had taken foreign wives sent them away along with sons.



- **And now what shall we say; O our God, after this? For we have left your commandments. (Ezra 9:10)**
- **These all had accepted foreign wives, and they proceeded to send away wives along with sons. (Ezra 10:44)**
- **However, Christians, coming from all different nations,**
- **Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)**
- **Were not to divorce mates who were not worshipers of Yehowah, nor was it even desirable for them to separate from such marriage partners, as Paul's inspired counsel shows.**
- **To the married people I give instructions, yet not I but the Lord, that a wife should not depart from her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:10)**
- **But if she should actually depart, let her remain unmarried or else make up again with her husband, and a husband should not leave his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:11)**
- **But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord; If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her. (1 Corinthians 7:12)**
- **And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and yet he is agreeable to dwelling with her, let her not leave her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:13)**
- **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in relation to his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother, otherwise, your children would really be unclean, but now they are holy. (1 Corinthians 7:14)**
- **But if the unbelieving one proceeds to depart, let him depart, a brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called you to peace. (1 Corinthians 7:15)**
- **For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife?**

**(1 Corinthians 7:16)**

- **Only, as Yehowah has given each one a portion, let each one so walk as God has called him. And thus I ordain in all the congregations. (1 Corinthians 7:17)**
- **Was any man called circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Has any man been called in uncircumcision? Let him not get circumcised. (1 Corinthians 7:18)**
- **Circumcision does not mean a thing, and uncircumcision means not a thing, but observance of God's commandments does. (1 Corinthians 7:19)**
- **In whatever state each one was called, let him remain in it. (1 Corinthians 7:20)**
- **Were you called when a slave? Do not let it worry you, but if you can also become free, rather seize the opportunity. (1 Corinthians 7:21)**
- **For anyone in the Lord that was called when a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he that was called when a freeman is a slave of Christ. (1 Corinthians 7:22)**
- **You were bought with a price, stop becoming slaves of men. (1 Corinthians 7:23)**
- **In whatever condition each one was called, brothers, let him remain in it associated with God. (1 Corinthians 7:24)**
- **Now concerning virgins I have no command from the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who had mercy shown him by the Lord to be faithful. (1 Corinthians 7:25)**
- **Therefore I think this to be well in view of the necessity here with us, that it is well for a man to continue as he is. (1 Corinthians 7:26)**
- **Are you bound to a wife? Stop seeking a release. Are you loosed from a wife? Stop seeking a wife. (1 Corinthians 7:27)**
- **But even if you did marry, you would commit no sin. And if a virgin person married, such one would commit no sin. However,**

those who do will have tribulation in their flesh. But I am sparing you. (1 Corinthians 7:28)

- Yet, when it came to contracting a new marriage, Christians were counseled to marry only in the Lord.
- A wife is bound during all the time her husband is alive. But if her husband should fall asleep in death, she is free to be married to whom she wants, only in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:39)

### •• Joseph's Contemplated Divorce

- While Mary was promised in marriage to Joseph, but before they were united, she was found to be pregnant by Holy Spirit, and the account states;
- But the birth of Jesus Christ was in this way. During the time his mother Mary was promised in marriage to Joseph, she was found to be pregnant by Holy Spirit before they were united. (Matthew 1:18)
- However, Joseph her husband, because he was righteous and did not want to make her a public spectacle, intended to divorce her secretly. (Matthew 1:19)
- Since engagement was such a binding arrangement among the Jews at that time, the word divorce is properly used here.
- If an engaged girl submitted to having relations with another man, she was stoned to death the same as an adulteress.
- In case a man is found lying down with a woman owned by an owner, both of them must then die together, the man lying down with the woman and the woman. So you must clear away what is bad out of Israel. (Deuteronomy 22:22)
- In case there happened to be a virgin girl engaged to a man, and a man actually found her in the city and lay down with her. (Deuteronomy 22:2)
- You must also bring them both out to the gate of that city and pelt them with stones, and they must die, the girl for the reason that she did not scream in the city, and the man for the reason that he humiliated the wife of his fellowman. So you must clear

away what is evil from your midst. ([Deuteronomy 22:24](#))

- If, however, it is in the field that the man found the girl who was engaged, and the man grabbed hold of her and lay down with her, the man who lay down with her must also die by himself. ([Deuteronomy 22:25](#))
- And to the girl you must do nothing. The girl has no sin deserving of death, because just as when a man rises up against his fellowman and indeed murders him, even a soul, so it is with this case. ([Deuteronomy 22:26](#))
- For it was in the field that he found her. The girl who was engaged screamed, but there was no one to rescue her. ([Deuteronomy 22:27](#))
- In case a man finds a girl, a virgin who has not been engaged, and he actually seizes her and lies down with her, and they have been found out. ([Deuteronomy 22:28](#))
- The man who lay down with her must also give the girl's father fifty silver shekels, and she will become his wife due to the fact that he humiliated her. He will not be allowed to **divorce** her all his days. ([Deuteronomy 22:29](#))
- In cases that might result in stoning an individual to death, two witnesses were required in order to establish the persons guilt.
- At the mouth of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one dying should be put to death. He will not be put to death at the mouth of one witness. ([Deuteronomy 17:6](#))
- The hand of the witnesses first of all should come upon him to put him to death, and the hand of all the people afterward, and you must clear out what is bad from your midst. ([Deuteronomy 17:7](#))
- Obviously, Joseph had no witnesses against Mary. Mary was pregnant, but Joseph did not understand the matter thoroughly until Yehowah's angel gave him the explanation.
- But after he had thought these things over, look! Yehowah's angel appeared to him in a dream, saying; Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for that which has

been begotten in her is by Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 1:20**)

- She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. (**Matthew 1:21**)
- Whether the **secret divorce** he contemplated would have included the giving of a **certificate of divorce** or not is not stated, but it is likely that Joseph was going to act in accord with the principles set out at
  - In case a man takes a woman and does make her his possession as a wife, it must also occur that if she should find no favor in his eyes because he has found something indecent on her part, he must also write out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismiss her from his house. (**Deuteronomy 24:1**)
  - And she must go out of his house and go and become another man's. (**Deuteronomy 24:2**)
  - If the latter man has come to hate her and has written out a certificate of **divorce** for her and put it in her hand and dismissed her from his house, or in case the latter man who took her as his wife should die. (**Deuteronomy 24:3**)
  - The first owner of her who dismissed her will not be allowed to take her back again to become his wife after she has been defiled, for that is something detestable before Yehowah, and you must not lead the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance into sin. (**Deuteronomy 24:4**)
  - Possibly giving her the **divorce** in front of just two witnesses so the matter would be settled legally without bringing undue shame on her. While Matthew does not give every detail regarding the procedure Joseph intended to follow, he does indicate that Joseph wanted to deal mercifully with Mary.
  - Joseph is not considered an unrighteous man for this, but rather, it was because he was **righteous** and did not want to make her a public spectacle that he intended to **divorce her secretly**.
  - However, Joseph her husband, because he was righteous and did not want to make her a public spectacle, intended to **divorce her secretly**. (**Matthew 1:19**)

## **•• Circumstances Barring Divorce In Israel**

- **According to God's Law given to Israel, there were conditions in which **divorce** was impossible. It might occur that a man took a wife, had relations with her, and then came to hate her.**
- **He might falsely state that she was not a virgin when he married her, thus improperly charging her with notorious deeds and bringing a bad name upon her. When the girl's parents produced evidence that their daughter had been a virgin at the time of her marriage, the men of the city would have to discipline the false accuser.**
- **They would fine him a hundred silver shekels or about \$220, giving these to the girl's father, and she would continue to be the man's wife, it being stated; He will not be allowed to divorce her all his days.**
- **In case a man takes a wife and actually has relations with her and has come to hate her. ([Deuteronomy 22:13](#))**
- **And he has charged her with notorious deeds and brought forth a bad name upon her and has said; This is the woman I have taken, and I proceeded to go near her, and I did not find evidence of virginity in her. ([Deuteronomy 22:14](#))**
- **The father of the girl and her mother must also take and bring forth the evidence of the girls virginity to the older men of the city at the gate of it. ([Deuteronomy 22:15](#))**
- **And the girl's father must say to the older men, I gave my daughter to this man as a wife, and he went hating her. ([Deuteronomy 22:16](#))**
- **And here he is charging her with notorious deeds, saying; I have found your daughter does not have evidence of virginity. Now this is the evidence of my daughters virginity. And they must spread out the mantle before the older men of the city. ([Deuteronomy 22:17](#))**
- **And the older men of that city must take the man and discipline him. ([Deuteronomy 22:18](#))**
- **And they must fine him a hundred silver shekels and give them to the girl's father, because he brought forth a bad name upon a**

virgin of Israel, and she will continue to be his wife. He will not be allowed to **divorce** her all his days. (**Deuteronomy 22:19**)

- **Also, if it was discovered that a man seized a virgin who was not engaged and had relations with her, it was stipulated.**
- **In case a man finds a girl, a virgin who has not been engaged, and he actually seizes her and lies down with her, and they have been found out. (**Deuteronomy 22:28**)**
- **The man who lay down with her must also give the girl's father fifty silver shekels, and she will become his wife due to the fact that he humiliated her. He will not be allowed to **divorce** her all his days. (**Deuteronomy 22:29**)**

### **·· What Is The Only Scriptural For Divorce Among Christians**

- **Jesus Christ, in his Sermon on the Mount, stated. Moreover it was said; Whoever **divorces** his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce. However, I say to you that everyone **divorcing** his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for adultery, and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery.**
- **Moreover it was said; Whoever **divorces** his wife, let him give her a certificate of **divorce**. (**Matthew 5:31**)**
- **However, I say to you that everyone divorcing his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for adultery, and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery. (**Matthew 5:32**)**
- **Also, after telling the Pharisees that the Mosaic concession of divorcing their wives was not the arrangement that had prevailed from the beginning; Jesus said; I say to you that whoever **divorces** his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery.**
- **He said to them; Moses, out of regard for your hardheartedness, made the concession to you of **divorcing** your wives, but such has not been the case from the beginning. (**Matthew 19:8**)**
- **I say to you that whoever **divorces** his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery. (**Matthew 19:9**)**

- Today, generally, distinction is made between fornicators and adulterers. According to modern usage, those guilty of fornication are unmarried persons who willingly have sexual relations with someone of the opposite sex.
- Adulterers are married persons who willingly have sexual relations with a member of the opposite sex who is not their legal marriage mate. As shown in the article, however, the term fornication is a rendering of the Greek word *por-nei'a* and includes all forms of illicit sexual relations outside of Scriptural marriage. Hence, Jesus words at;
- However, I say to you that everyone divorcing his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for adultery, and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery. (**Matthew 5:32**)
- I say to you that whoever **divorces** his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery. (**Matthew 19:9**)
- Mean that the only **divorce** ground that actually severs the marriage bond is *por-nei'a* on the part of one's marriage mate. The follower of Christ may avail himself of that **divorce** provision if that is his desire, and such a **divorce** would free him to marry an eligible Christian.
- A wife is bound during all the time her husband is alive. But if her husband should fall asleep in death, she is free to be married to whom she wants, only in the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 7:39**)

### **See Also FORNICATION**

- Sexually immoral acts committed by a married person with someone of the same sex, homosexuality, are filthy and disgusting. Unrepentant persons of this type will not inherit God's Kingdom. And, of course, bestiality is Scripturally condemned.
- And you must not lie down with a male the same as you lie down with a woman. It is a detestable thing. (**Leviticus 18:22**)
- And you must not give your emission to any beast to become unclean by it, and a woman should not stand before a beast to



have connection with it. It is a violation of what is natural.  
([Leviticus 18:23](#))

- Therefore God, in keeping with the desires of their hearts, gave them up to uncleanness, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. ([Romans 1:24](#))
- Even those who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and venerated and rendered sacred service to the creation rather than the One who created, who is blessed forever. Amen. ([Romans 1:25](#))
- That is why God gave them up to disgraceful sexual appetites, for both their females changed the natural use of themselves into one contrary to nature. ([Romans 1:26](#))
- And likewise even the males left the natural use of the female and became violently inflamed in their lust toward one another, males with males, working what is obscene and receiving in themselves the full recompense, which was due for their error. ([Romans 1:27](#))
- What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men. ([1 Corinthians 6:9](#))
- Nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. ([1 Corinthians 6:10](#))
- These grossly filthy acts come under the broad designation *pornei'a*. It is also noteworthy that, under the Mosaic Law, homosexuality and bestiality carried the death penalty, freeing the innocent mate for remarriage.
- And when a man lies down with a male the same as one lies down with a woman, both of them have done a detestable thing. They should be put to death without fail. Their own blood is upon them. ([Leviticus 20:13](#))
- And where a man gives his seminal emission to a beast, he should be put to death without fail, and you should kill the beast. ([Leviticus 20:15](#))

- **And where a woman approaches any beast to have a connection with it, you must kill the woman and the beast. They should be put to death without fail. Their own blood is upon them. (Leviticus 20:16)**
- **Jesus Christ pointed out that everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**
- **But I say to you that everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)**
- **But Jesus did not say that what was in the heart, but not carried into action, furnished a basis for **divorce**. Christ's words show that the heart should be kept clean and one should not entertain improper thoughts and desires.**
- **Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste, whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well spoken of, whatever virtue there is and whatever praiseworthy thing there is, continue considering these things. (Philippians 4:8)**
- **But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. (James 1:14)**
- **Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin, in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death. (James 1:15)**
- **The Jews rabbinic Law laid emphasis on the married persons duty to perform the marital act and allowed a husband to **divorce** his wife if she was unable to produce children.**
- **However, the Scriptures do not give Christians the right to divorce their mates for such a reason. Barrenness for many years did not cause Abraham to **divorce** Sarah, Isaac to **divorce** Rebekah, Jacob to **divorce** Rachel, or the priest Zechariah to **divorce** Elizabeth.**
- **But Sarai continued to be barren. She had no child. (Genesis 11:30)**

- **At this Abraham fell upon his face and began to laugh and to say in his heart; Will a man a hundred years old have a child born, and will Sarah, yes, will a woman ninety years old give birth? (Genesis 17:17)**
- **And this is the history of Isaac the son of Abraham. Abraham became father to Isaac. (Genesis 25:19)**
- **And Isaac happened to be forty years old at his taking Rebekah the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Paddanaram, the sister of Laban the Syrian, as his wife. (Genesis 25:20)**
- **And Isaac kept on entreating Yehowah especially for his wife, because she was barren, so Yehowah let himself be entreated for him, and Rebekah his wife became pregnant. (Genesis 25:21)**
- **And the sons within her began to struggle with each other, so that she said; If this is the way it is, just why am I alive? With that she went to inquire of Yehowah. (Genesis 25:22)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to say to her; Two nations are in your belly, and two national groups will be separated from your inward parts, and the one national group will be stronger than the other national group, and the older will serve the younger. (Genesis 25:23)**
- **Gradually her days came to the full for giving birth, and, look! Twins were in her belly. (Genesis 25:24)**
- **Then the first came out red all over like an official garment of hair. So they called his name Esau. (Genesis 25:25)**
- **And after that his brother came out and his hand was holding onto the heel of Esau, so he called his name Jacob. And Isaac was sixty years old at her giving them birth. (Genesis 25:26)**
- **When Yehowah came to see that Leah was hated, he then opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. (Genesis 29:31)**
- **When Rachel came to see that she had borne nothing to Jacob, Rachel got jealous of her sister and began to say to Jacob: Give me children or otherwise I shall be a dead woman. (Genesis 30:1)**

- At this Jacob's anger burned against Rachel and he said; Am I in the place of God, who has held back the fruit of the belly from you? (**Genesis 30:2**)
- Finally God remembered Rachel, and God heard and answered her in that he opened her womb. (**Genesis 30:22**)
- And she became pregnant and brought a son to birth. Then she said, God has taken away my reproach! (**Genesis 30:23**)
- So she called his name Joseph, saying; Yehowah is adding another son to me. (**Genesis 30:24**)
- And it followed that when Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob immediately said to Laban; Send me away that I may go to my place and to my country. (**Genesis 30:25**)
- In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain priest named Zechariah of the division of Abijah, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (**Luke 1:5**)
- They both were righteous before God because of walking blamelessly in accord with all the commandments and legal requirements of Yehowah. (**Luke 1:6**)
- But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were well along in years. (**Luke 1:7**)
- And Zechariah said to the angel; How am I to be sure of this? For I am aged and my wife is well along in years. (**Luke 1:18**)
- But after these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself secluded for five months, saying; (**Luke 1:24**)
- The time now became due for Elizabeth to give birth, and she became mother to a son. (**Luke 1:57**)
- Nothing is said in the Scriptures that would permit a Christian to **divorce** a marriage partner because that one was physically unable to perform the marital act, or had gone insane or contracted an incurable or loathsome disease. The love that Christians are to show would call, not for **divorce**, but for merciful treatment of such a mate.

- **In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (Ephesians 5:28)**
- **For no man ever hated his own flesh, but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation. (Ephesians 5:29)**
- **Because we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:30)**
- **For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. (Ephesians 5:31)**
- **Nor does the Bible grant Christians the right to **divorce** their marriage mates because of difference in religion, it shows instead that by remaining with an unbelieving mate the Christian may win that individual over to the true faith.**
- **But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord; If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her. (1 Corinthians 7:12)**
- **And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and yet he is agreeable to dwelling with her, let her not leave her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:13)**
- **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in relation to his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother, otherwise, your children would really be unclean, but now they are holy. (1 Corinthians 7:14)**
- **But if the unbelieving one proceeds to depart, let him depart, a brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called you to peace. (1 Corinthians 7:15)**
- **For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife? (1 Corinthians 7:16)**
- **In like manner, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, in order, that, if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of their wives. (1 Peter 3:1)**
- **Because of having been eyewitnesses of your chaste conduct**

together with deep respect. (1 Peter 3:2)

- And do not let your adornment be that of the external braiding of the hair and of the putting on of gold ornaments or the wearing of outer garments. (1 Peter 3:3)
- But let it be the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God. (1 Peter 3:4)
- For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands. (1 Peter 3:5)
- As Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him lord. And you have become her children, provided you keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror. (1 Peter 3:6)
- You husbands, continue dwelling in like manner with them according to knowledge, assigning them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since you are also heirs with them of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)
- In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that everyone **divorcing** his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for adultery, and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery.
- However, I say to you that everyone **divorcing** his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for adultery, and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5:32)
- By this, Christ showed that if a husband **divorces** his wife for reasons other than her fornication *Greek por-nei'a*, he exposes her to adultery in the future. That is so because the unadulterous wife is not properly disunited from her husband by such a **divorce** and is not free to marry another man and have sexual relations with another husband.
- When Christ said that whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery, he was referring to a woman **divorced** on grounds other than on account of fornication *por-nei'a*. Such a woman, though **divorced** legally, would not be **divorced** Scripturally.

- **Mark, like Matthew;**
- **And Pharisees came up to him, intent on tempting him and saying; Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife on every sort of ground? (Matthew 19:3)**
- **In reply he said; Did you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female (Matthew 19:4)**
- **And said; For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh? (Matthew 19:5)**
- **So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart. (Matthew 19:6)**
- **They said to him; Why, then, did Moses prescribe giving a certificate of dismissal and **divorcing** her? (Matthew 19:7)**
- **He said to them; Moses, out of regard for your hardheartedness, made the concession to you of **divorcing** your wives, but such has not been the case from the beginning. (Matthew 19:8)**
- **I say to you that whoever **divorces** his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery. (Matthew 19:9)**
- **Recorded Jesus statements to the Pharisees regarding **divorce** and quoted Christ as saying,**
- **And he said to them; Whoever **divorces** his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. (Mark 10:11)**
- **And if ever a woman, after divorcing her husband, marries another, she commits adultery. (Mark 10:12)**
- **A similar statement is made at;**
- **Everyone that **divorces** his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he that marries a woman **divorced** from a husband commits adultery. (Luke 16:18)**
- **Taken alone, these verses seem to forbid all divorce by Christ's followers, or at least to indicate that a **divorced** individual would not be**

entitled to remarry except after the death of the **divorced** marriage partner.

- However, Jesus' words as recorded by Mark and Luke must be understood in the light of the more complete statement recorded by Matthew. He includes the phrase except on the ground of fornication
- I say to you that whoever **divorces** his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery. (**Matthew 19:9**)
- However, I say to you that everyone divorcing his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for adultery, and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery. (**Matthew 5:32**)
- Showing that what Mark and Luke wrote in quoting Jesus on **divorce** applies if the ground for procuring the **divorce** is anything other than fornication **Greek *por-nei'a*** committed by the unfaithful marriage partner.
- A person is not Scripturally obligated to **divorce** an adulterous though repentant marriage partner, however. The Christian husband or wife may extend mercy in such a case, even as Hosea seems to have taken back his adulterous wife Gomer and as Yehowah extended mercy to repentant Israel that had been guilty of spiritual adultery. (**Hosea Chapter 3**)

#### ·· **God's Original Standard Restored**

- It is clear that Jesus Christ's statement pointed to a return to the high standard for marriage originally set by Yehowah God, and it showed that those who would become Jesus disciples would have to adhere to that high standard.
- Though the concessions provided by the Mosaic Law were still in effect, those who would be true disciples of Jesus, doing the will of his Father and doing or putting into effect the sayings of Jesus.
- Not everyone saying to me; Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. (**Matthew 7:21**)
- Many will say to me in that day; Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy



in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name? ([Matthew 7:22](#))

- **And yet then I will confess to them; I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness. ([Matthew 7:23](#))**
- **Therefore everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does them will be likened to a discreet man, who built his house upon the rock-mass. ([Matthew 7:24](#))**
- **And the rain poured down and the floods came and the winds blew and lashed against that house, but it did not cave in, for it had been founded upon the rock-mass. ([Matthew 7:25](#))**
- **Furthermore, everyone hearing these sayings of mine and not doing them will be likened to a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. ([Matthew 7:26](#))**
- **And the rain poured down and the floods came and the winds blew and struck against that house and it caved in, and its collapse was great. ([Matthew 7:27](#))**
- **Now when Jesus finished these sayings, the effect was that the crowds were astounded at his way of teaching. ([Matthew 7:28](#))**
- **For he was teaching them as a person having authority, and not as their scribes. ([Matthew 7:29](#))**
- **Would no longer avail themselves of such concessions to exercise hardheartedness toward their marriage mates.**
- **He said to them; Moses, out of regard for your hardheartedness, made the concession to you of divorcing your wives, but such has not been the case from the beginning. ([Matthew 19:8](#))**
- **As genuine disciples, they would not violate the original divine principles governing marriage by **divorcing** their mates on any grounds other than the one Jesus specified, namely fornication *por-nei'a*.**
- **A single person who commits fornication with a prostitute makes himself one body with that person. Similarly, the adulterer makes himself one body, not with his legal wife, but with the immoral person with whom he has sexual relations.**

- **The adulterer thus sins not only against his own personal flesh but also against his legal wife who until then has been one flesh with him.**
- **What! Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body? For, the two, says he; Will be one flesh. (1 Corinthians 6:16)**
- **But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17)**
- **Flee from fornication. Every other sin that a man may commit is outside his body, but he that practices fornication is sinning against his own body. (1 Corinthians 6:18)**
- **For that reason adultery provides a true basis for breaking the marital bond in accord with divine principles, and where such ground exists, a **divorce** obtained brings about the formal and final dissolution of the legal marriage union, freeing the innocent partner to remarry with honor.**
- **Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. (Hebrews 13:4)**

### •• **Figurative Divorce**

- **The marriage relationship is used symbolically in the Scriptures.**
- **Cry out joyfully, you barren woman that did not give birth! Become cheerful with a joyful outcry and cry shrilly, you that had no childbirth pains, for the sons of the desolated one are more numerous than the sons of the woman with a husbandly owner, Yehowah has said. (Isaiah 54:1)**
- **For your Grand Maker is your husbandly owner, Yehowah of armies being his name, and the Holy One of Israel is your Repurchaser. The God of the whole earth he will be called. (Isaiah 54:5)**
- **For Yehowah called you as if you were a wife left entirely and hurt in spirit, and as a wife of the time of youth who was then rejected, your God has said. (Isaiah 54:6)**
- **For the sake of Zion I shall not keep still, and for the sake of**

- Jerusalem I shall not stay quiet until her righteousness goes forth just like the brightness, and her salvation like a torch that burns. (**Isaiah 62:1**)
- And the nations will certainly see your righteousness, O woman, and all kings your glory. And you will actually be called by a new name, which the very mouth of Yehowah will designate. (**Isaiah 62:2**)
  - And you must become a crown of beauty in the hand of Yehowah, and a kingly turban in the palm of your God. (**Isaiah 62:3**)
  - No more will you be said to be a woman left entirely, and your own land will no more be said to be desolate, but you yourself will be called **My Delight Is in Her**, and your land **Owned as a Wife**. For Yehowah will have taken delight in you, and your own land will be owned as a wife. (**Isaiah 62:4**)
  - For just as a young man takes ownership of a virgin as his wife, your sons will take ownership of you as a wife. And with the exultation of a bridegroom over a bride, your God will exult even over you. (**Isaiah 62:5**)
  - Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have commissioned watchmen. All day long and all night long, constantly, let them not keep still. You who are making mention of Yehowah, let there be no silence on your part. (**Isaiah 62:6**)
  - Reference is also made to symbolic **divorcing**, or the sending away of a wife.
  - When I got to see that, for the very reason that unfaithful Israel had committed adultery, I sent her away and proceeded to give the certificate of her full **divorce** to her, yet treacherously dealing Judah her sister did not become afraid, but she herself also began to go and commit prostitution. (**Jeremiah 3:8**)
  - The kingdom of Judah was overthrown and Jerusalem was destroyed in **607 B.C.E**, the inhabitants of the land being taken into Babylonian exile. Years earlier Yehowah had said prophetically to Jews who would then be in exile. Where, then, is the **divorce** certificate of the mother of you people, whom I sent away?
  - This is what Yehowah has said; Where, then, is the **divorce**

certificate of the mother of you people, whom I sent away? Or which one of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you people? Look! Because of your own errors you have been sold, and because of your own transgressions your mother has been sent away. (**Isaiah 50:1**)

- Their mother, or national organization, had been put away with just cause, not because Yehowah broke his covenant and started **divorce** proceedings, but because of her wrongdoing against the Law covenant.
- But a remnant of Israelites repented and prayed for a renewal of Yehowah's husbandly relationship with them in their homeland. Yehowah, for his own names sake, restored his people to their homeland as promised, in **537 B.C.E**, at the end of the 70-year desolation.
- By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down. We also wept when we remembered Zion. (**Psalms 137:1**)
- Upon the poplar trees in the midst of her we hung our harps. (**Psalms 137:2**)
- For there those holding us captive asked us for the words of a song, and those mocking us, for rejoicing; Sing for us one of the songs of Zion. (**Psalms 137:3**)
- How can we sing the song of Yehowah upon foreign ground? (**Psalms 137:4**)
- If I should forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand be forgetful. (**Psalms 137:5**)
- Let my tongue stick to my palate, if I were not to remember you, if I were not to make Jerusalem ascend above my chief cause for rejoicing. (**Psalms 137:6**)
- Remember, O Yehowah, regarding the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who were saying; Lay it bare! Lay it bare to the foundation within it! (**Psalms 137:7**)
- O daughter of Babylon, who are to be despoiled, happy will he be that rewards you with your own treatment with which you treated us. (**Psalms 137:8**)

- **Happy will he be that grabs ahold and does dash to pieces your children against the crag. ([Psalms 137:9](#))**

**See Also MARRIAGE**