

2012 Series “Advice On Marriage” (#07)
“Divorce and Remarriage”

During the month of March, all my lessons will be taken from 1 Corinthians Ch.7.

Paul designed the special phrase, **Now Concerning**, to divide chs.7-16 into four sections (1 Cor.7:1; 8:1; 12:1; and 16:1). This special phrase was used to address specific problems about which the church leaders had written – “Now concerning the things about which you wrote.” (1 Cor.7:1)

Paul addressed at least the following ten problems regarding marriage in ch.7.

(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Introduction	(1 Cor.7:12-16)	Unequally Yoked and Divorce
(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Pre-marital Sex	(Matt.19:1-9)	Divorce and Remarriage
(1 Cor.7:7-9)	SEX: Widowed and Divorced	(1 Cor.7:17-24)	Status Quo
(1 Cor.7:3-6)	Marital Sex	(1 Cor.7:25-28)	Christian Virginity
(1 Cor.7:10-11)	Separation and Reconciliation		

- In (1 Cor.7:10-11), Paul addressed marital conflict between two believers (lesson #5).
- In (1 Cor.7:12-16), Paul addressed marital conflict between a believer and an unbeliever (lesson #6).

Paul made an interesting comment while introducing these two studies.

- In (1 Cor.7:10), Paul said, “I give instructions, not I, but the Lord.”
- In (1 Cor.7:12), he said, “But to the rest I say, not the Lord.”

Paul made these important points.

- **FLASH!** “Jesus left recorded teachings on marriage and divorce and remarriage between two believers whether Gentile or Jew (1 Cor.7:10-11) (Matt. Chs.5 & 19).”
- **FLASH!** “Jesus didn’t leave any recorded teachings on this subject regarding marriage between Gentile believers and unbelievers (1 Cor.7:12-16).”
- **FLASH!** “This is important to our study because Paul referred CABs to the recorded teachings of Jesus regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage between believers (1 Cor.7:10).”

This lesson will study three doctrinal principles regarding Divorce and Remarriage of believers.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following six homiletical points.

- **Conflict** (Matt.19:1-3) “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all (legal accusation)?” Legalistic interpretation of the erwah dabar exception clause of (Deut.24:1) [indecent thing].
- **Creator** (Matt.19:4-6a) “Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning.” (Gen.2:18-25) (Matt.19:8).
- **Cleaving** (Matt.19:6b) “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate (me chorizo).”
- (1 Cor.7:10, 15) [leave] (**cleave** / dabaq) [to keep close; to stick to; devotion].
- **Certificate of divorce** (Matt.19:7-8) Hardness of hearts - “But from the beginning it has not been this way.”

- **Committing adultery** (Matt.19:9a) “But I tell you” - Divorce without biblical grounds and remarriage.
- **Clause of exception** (Matt.19:9b) “Except for porneia” – Jesus’ interpretation of erwah dabar of (Deut.24:1-4).

FLASH: “While divorce has doubled since 1970, it has increased by 290% among baby boomers.”

2. If a believer divorces without biblical grounds and marries a second time without his grounds status changing, the Bible declares his second marriage adulterous regarding the first marriage.

- (Matt.19:9) “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for immorality (porneia)**, and marries another woman **commits adultery.**”
- (Matt.5:32) “But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except for the cause of unchastity (porneia)**, makes her **commit adultery**; and whoever marries a divorced woman **commits adultery.**”
- **“EXCEPT FOR PORNEIA”** is a reference to hedonistic sexual perversion that violates marital cleaving [one flesh] (Gen.2:24) (Matt.19:4-6) [pornography; pre-marital heterosexual; adultery; prostitution; homosexual; lesbianism; pederasty; incest; pedophilia; and bestiality].
- Second marriage adultery is classified as “adultery against the first marriage”. It results in God withholding **institutional grace** (not individual grace) from the second marriage until the status is changed (Matt.19:1-9; Gen.2:18-25).
- **FLASH:** “This factor, plus the “hardness of hearts” results in these statistics for 2nd (60%) and 3rd (73%) marriage divorces (USA census).”

3. There are five biblical grounds for divorce with rights for remarriage Read (Matt.19:4-6)

- Death of mate or ex-mate (Rom.7:2-3) (1 Cor.7:39).
- Ex-mate remarriage (Deut.24:1-4) (Jer.3:1).
- Desertion of unbeliever (1 Cor.7:12-16).
- Mate guilty of **porneia** (Matt.5:32; 19:9).

Personal Comment: There is one I have had to deal with since the late 20th century that isn’t mentioned by Jesus or Paul – **no-fault divorce** is often used ‘because of irreconcilable differences’. Signed into law in California in 1969 by then Gov. Ronald Reagan it is now the law in all 50 states. It eliminates mutual consent and attacks marriage as a divine institution. (Matt.19:6b) “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” As a 21st century pastor, I approach **no-fault** divorce as an apostate national divorce gimmick and apply the desertion of believer from marriage with rights for remarriage to the innocent party (1 Cor.7:10-16) (**Mal.2:13-16**) (Matt.19:4-6).

- **FLASH!** The “USA Census gives a different picture of divorce in America: **Median average is 58% divorce.**”
- First marriage 41%
- Second marriage 60%
- Third marriage 73%

(Matt.19:10) “The disciples said to Him, ‘If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.’ (1 Cor.7:7)