

# God's Law On Marriage

# Preliminary Observations

- Marriage is **ordained by God**
- He has the right to **regulate, sanction, and judge**
- God's laws are in **man's best interest**
- God's law on marriage is **understandable**

# God's Law On Marriage

## The Law



- Marriage is **permanent**

## Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall **leave** his father and mother and **be joined** to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**.

## Romans 7:2

For the woman who has a husband is **bound** by the law to *her* husband **as long as he lives**. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.

## **1 Corinthians 7:39**

**A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.**

# God's Law On Marriage

## The Law



- Marriage is **permanent**
- Divorce is **sinful**

## Malachi 2:13

And this is the second thing you do;  
You cover the altar of the Lord with  
tears, With weeping and crying; So He  
does not regard the offering anymore,  
Nor receive it with goodwill from  
your hands.

## Malachi 2:14

Yet you say, For what reason? Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have **dealt treacherously**; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

## Malachi 2:15

But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit , And **let none deal treacherously** with the wife of his youth.

## Malachi 2:16

For the Lord God of Israel says That **He hates divorce**, For it covers one's garment with violence, Says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you **do not deal treacherously**.

# Jesus Condemned Divorce

- The Pharisees' **question** (Mt. 19:3)
- Jesus' **answer** (Mt. 19:4-6)
- The Pharisees' **objection** (Mt. 19:7)
- Jesus' **reply** (Mt. 19:8)

# “From The Beginning....”

- **Marvin R. Vincent:** “The A.V. is commonly understood to mean, *it was not so in the beginning*. But that is not Christ’s meaning. The verb is in the perfect tense (denoting the continuance of past action or its results down to the present). He means: Notwithstanding Moses’ permission, **the case has not been so from the beginning until now**. The original ordinance has never been abrogated nor superseded, but continues in force.” (*Word Studies in the New Testament*, Vol. 1, p. 108)

# 1 Cor. 7:10-11

<sup>10</sup>Now to the married I command,  
*yet* not I but the Lord: A wife is not to  
**depart** [*chorizo*] from *her* husband.

<sup>11</sup>But even if she does depart, let her  
remain **unmarried** or be reconciled to  
*her* husband. And a husband is not to  
**divorce** [*aphiemi*] *his* wife.

# Does Paul Really Permit Divorce?

(1 Cor. 7:10-11)



If so, then he  
contradicts

- **Malachi** (Mal. 2:15-16)
- **Jesus** (Mt. 19:4-6)
- **Himself** (1 Cor. 7:10a, 11b)

# Contingency Legislation

## 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

<sup>10</sup> But unto the married I give charge, yea not I, but the Lord, That the wife **depart not** from her husband <sup>11</sup> (but **should she depart**, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband); and that the husband leave not his wife. (ASV)

## 1 John 2:1

<sup>1</sup> My little children, these things write I unto you that ye **may not sin**. And **if any man sin**, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: (ASV)

- Neither passage is **permissive**
- Both passages give **additional instructions** in the event of **disobedience**

# Divorce Is Sinful

- It ignores **marital responsibilities** (1 Cor. 7:3-5; Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)
- It makes one a **covenant-breaker** (Pr. 2:16-17; Mal. 2:14; Rom. 1:28-32)
- It casts a **stumbling block** (Mt. 5:31-32; Lk. 17:1-2; Rom. 14:13, 21; 1 Cor. 10:31-33)

# Covenant-Breakers

- **Rom. 1:31-32:** <sup>31</sup>without understanding, **covenant-breakers**, without natural affection, unmerciful: <sup>32</sup>who, knowing the ordinance of God, that **they that practise such things are worthy of death**, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practise them. (ASV)

# God's Law On Marriage

## The Law



- Marriage is **permanent**
- Divorce is **sinful**
- Remarriage is **adultery**

# Remarriage Is Adultery

- **Mt. 5:32:** <sup>32</sup> “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife...causes her to **commit adultery**; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced **commits adultery**.
- **Mt. 19:9:** <sup>9</sup> “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife...and marries another, **commits adultery**; and whoever marries her who is divorced **commits adultery.**”

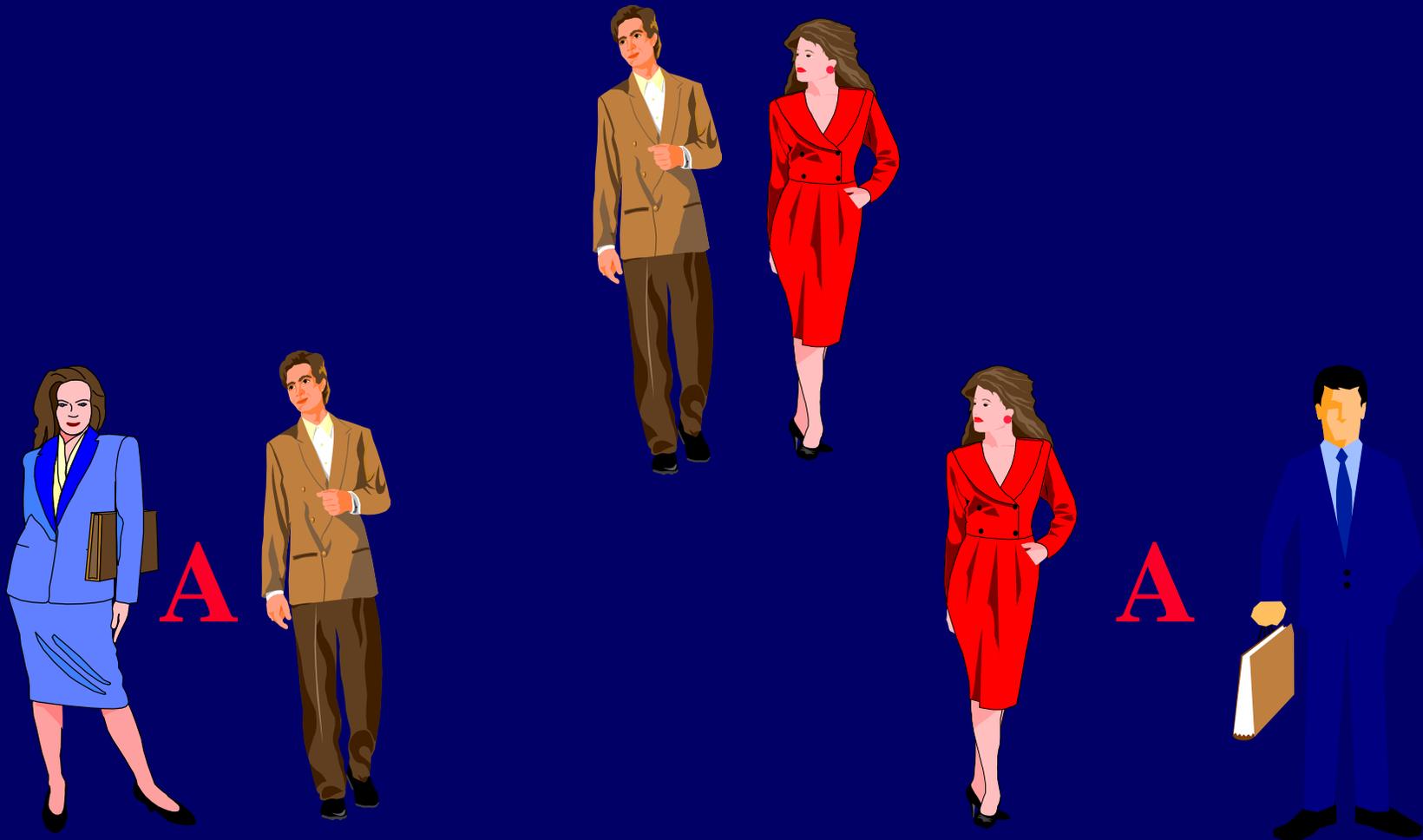
# Remarriage Is Adultery

- **Mk. 10:11-12:** <sup>11</sup> So He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another **commits adultery** against her. <sup>12</sup> “And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she **commits adultery.**”
- **Lk. 16:18:** <sup>18</sup> “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another **commits adultery**; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband **commits adultery.**

# Remarriage Is Adultery

- **Rom. 7:2-3:** <sup>2</sup> For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. <sup>3</sup> So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be **called an adulteress**; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

# Remarriage Is Adultery



# Significance Of The Present Tense

- **William H. Davis:** “The main idea of tense is the *‘kind of action,’* the **state of action**. Even in the indicative time is a secondary idea. **Continued action**, or a **state of incomplection**, is denoted by the present tense, -- this kind of action is called *durative* or *linear*. The action of the verb is shown in progress, as *going on.*” (*Beginner’s Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, p. 25)

# Significance Of The Present Tense

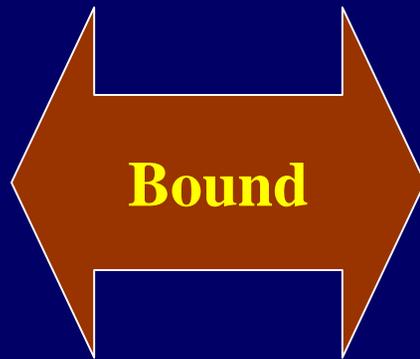
- **Ray Summers:** “The present tense indicates **progressive action** at the **present time.**” (*Essentials Of New Testament Greek*, p. 11)
- **Ernest D. Burton:** “The Present Indicative is used of **action in progress in present time**...The most constant characteristic of the Present Indicative is that it denotes **action in progress.**” (*Syntax Of The Moods And Tenses In New Testament Greek*, p. 7-8)

# Remarriage Is Adultery Even Though....

- They **love each other**
- There are **children** involved
- The relationship **accepted by society**
- They are **ignorant of God's law** on marriage

# Why Remarriage Is Adultery

(Rom. 7:2-3)



A



# God's Law On Marriage



## The Exception

- An **exception** is not the **rule**

# An Exception Is Not The Rule

- **Mt. 12:39:** But He answered and said to them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and **no sign will be given to it** except [*ei me*] the sign of the prophet Jonah.
- **Mt. 13:57:** So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, **A prophet is not without honor** except [*ei me*] in his own country and in his own house.

# An Exception Is Not The Rule

- **1 Cor. 7:5: Do not deprive one another** except [*ei me*] with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
- **1 Tim. 5:19: Do not receive an accusation against an elder** except [*ei me*] from two or three witnesses.

# God's Law On Marriage



## The Exception

- An **exception** is not the **rule**
- The exception is **divorce for fornication**

# The Exception Is Divorce For Fornication

- **Mt. 5:32:** “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason **except sexual immorality** causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.
- **Mt. 19:9:** “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

# Applying The Exception

- **Mt. 5:32:** “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for...**sexual immorality [does not cause]** her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”
- **Mt. 19:9:** <sup>9</sup>“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife...**for sexual immorality**, and marries another, **[does not commit]** adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

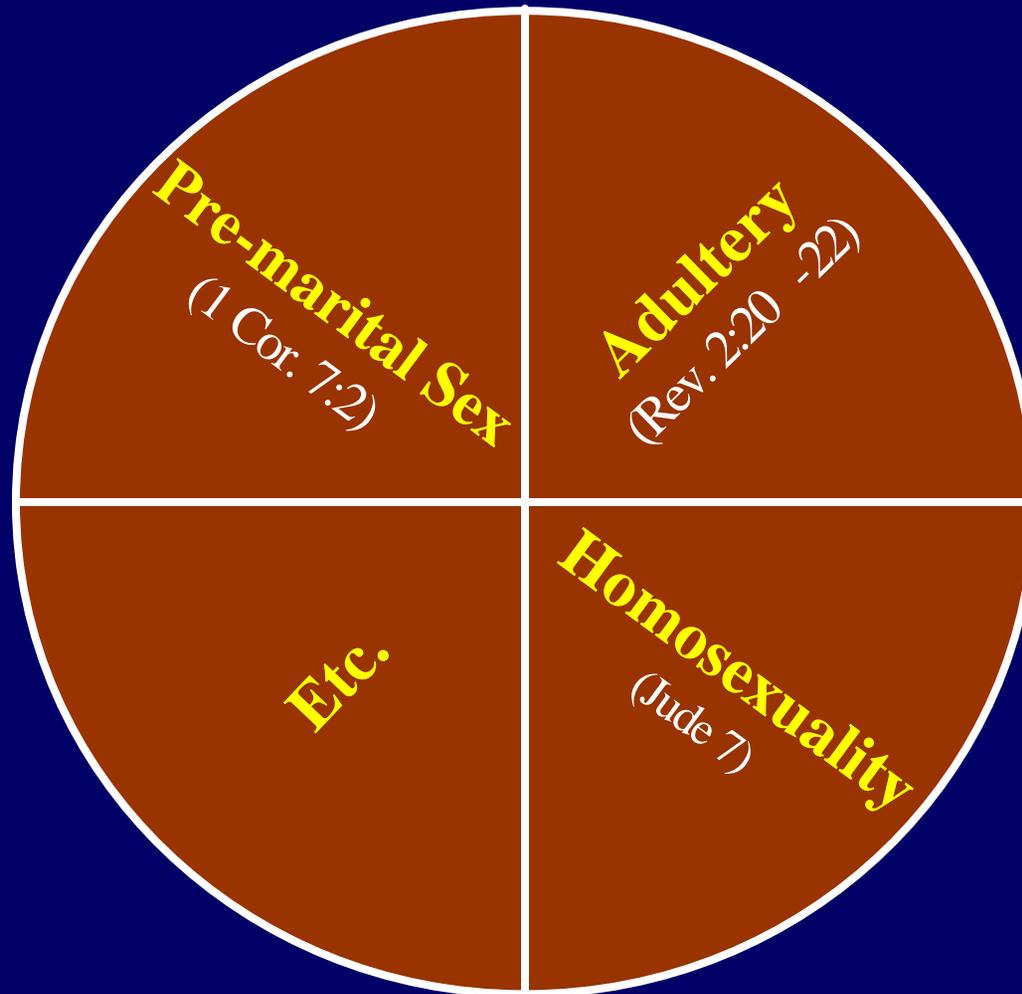
# “Fornication”

(*porneia*)

- **BAGD:** “*prostitution, unchastity, fornication*, of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse.” (p. 693)
- **Thayer:** “*fornication*...used a. prop. of illicit sexual intercourse in general....” (#4202, pp. 531-532)

# “Fornication”

*(porneia)*



# **“Fornication” Is Not...**

- **Abuse**
- **Alienation of affection**
- **Desertion**
- **Drunkenness**
- **Drug abuse**
- **Incompatibility**
- **Irritability**
- **Irreconcilable differences**
- **Irresponsibility**
- **Insanity**
- **Imprisonment**
- **Etc.**

# God's Law On Marriage



## The Exception

- An **exception** is not the **rule**
- The exception is **divorce for fornication**
- The exception is given to **the one who divorces his unfaithful mate**

## The Exception Is Given To The One Who Divorces An Unfaithful Mate

- Mt. 19:9: “And I say to you, **whoever divorces his wife**...for sexual immorality, and marries another, **[does not commit]** adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

# The Law Concerning Remarriage

**Divorcer**

**Adultery**

Except  
For  
Fornication

**Divorced**

**Adultery**

(Mt. 5:31-32)

**Third Party**

**Adultery**

(Lk. 16:18b;  
Mt. 5:32b;  
19:9b)

# If The “Guilty Party” Divorces The “Innocent Party”...

- The divorce is not **“for fornication”**
- The “innocent party” becomes a “put-away-person” and a “put-away-person” is not given **the right to remarry**

# God's Law On Marriage



**One Man**  
for  
**One Woman**  
for  
**One Lifetime**  
with  
**One Exception**

# Extra Slides

# Marriage Is Permanent

- God's original **purpose** for establishing the marriage relationship indicates its permanency (Gen. 2:18-25)
- The **process** involved in establishing the marital relationship indicates its permanency (Gen. 2:24)
- Paul's **pronouncements** prove that marriage is a permanent relationship (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39)

# What Does Paul Say?

**Rom. 7:2:** “For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband....”

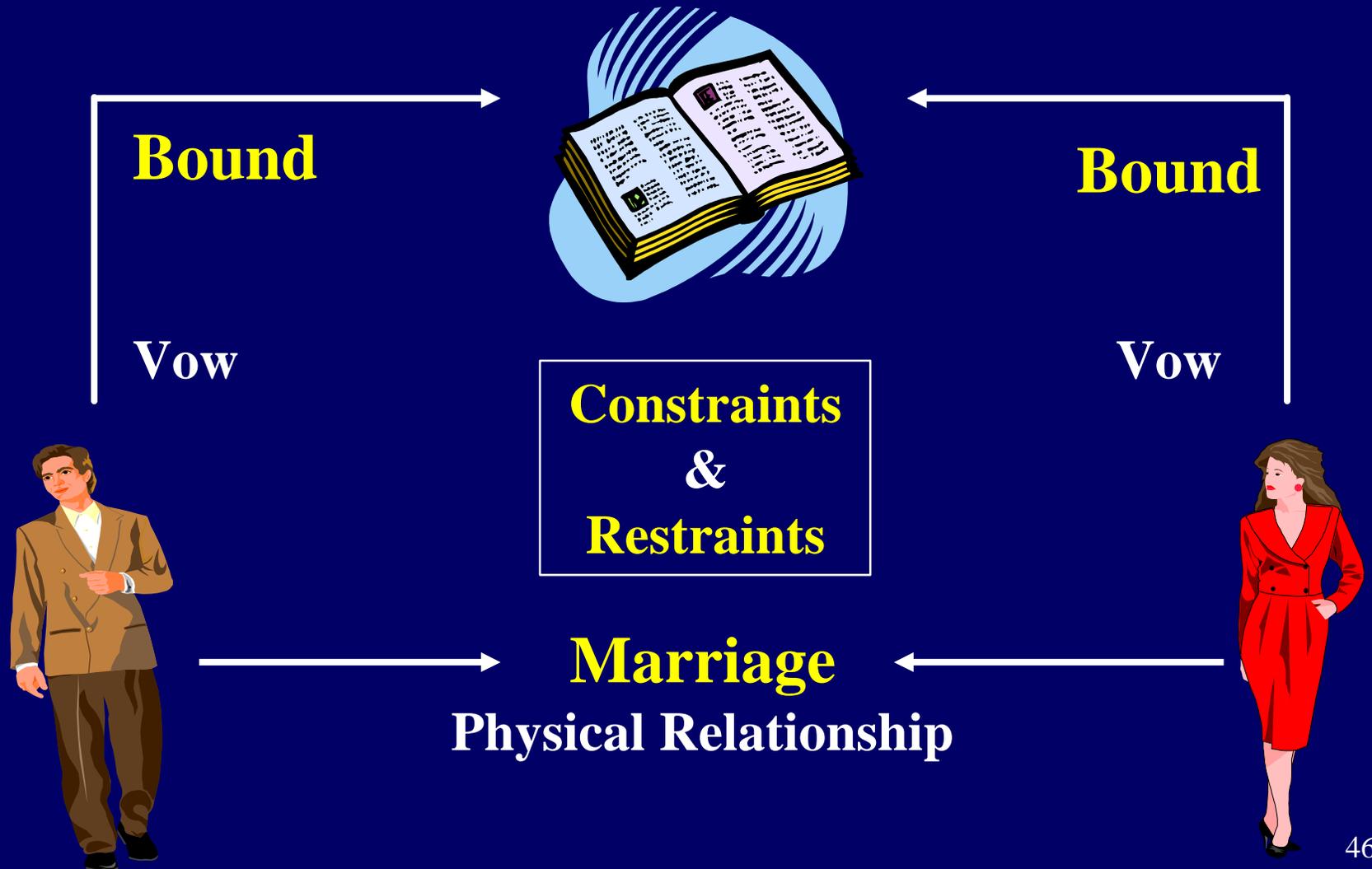
- ❑ As long as they continue to **love** each other
- ❑ As long as there are no **irreconcilable differences**
- ❑ As long as they **remain married** to each other
- ❑ Until he **marries somebody else**

# What Does Paul Say?

**Rom. 7:2:** “For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband....”

- Until she is **baptized**
- Until she **repents** of the first act of adultery
- Until she is **deserted** by an unbelieving mate
- As long as **he lives**

# THE MARRIAGE & THE BOND



# The Constraints Of The Bond

## Husbands

- **Love wife**  
(Eph. 5:25-33)
- **Know and honor**  
(1 Pet. 3:7)
- **Provide for**  
(1 Tim. 5:8)
- **Satisfy sexual needs**  
(1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- **Etc.**

## Wives

- **Love husband**  
(Tit. 2:4)
- **Submit to**  
(Eph. 5:22-24)
- **Rule household**  
(1 Tim. 5:14)
- **Satisfy sexual needs**  
(1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- **Etc.**

# The Restraints Of The Bond

1 Cor. 7:39: “A wife is **bound** by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is **at liberty** to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

- **Major Premise:** While the husband is alive, a wife is **bound**
- **Minor Premise:** When the husband dies, the wife is **at liberty** to be married to whom she will, only in the Lord
- **Conclusion:** Therefore, as long as a wife is **bound**, she is not **at liberty** to be married to whom she will. In other words, she is **restrained**

# Divorce Is Sinful

- **God said nothing about divorce in the very beginning** (Gen. 2:18-25; cf. Mt. 19:4-6)
- **God hates divorce** (Mal. 2:13-16)
- **Jesus condemned divorce** (Mt. 19:3-8; Mk. 10:2-9)
- **Paul commanded husbands and wives not to divorce** (1 Cor. 7:10-11)

## Deuteronomy 24:1-4

**KJV:** <sup>1</sup>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.** <sup>2</sup>And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's *wife*. <sup>3</sup>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; <sup>4</sup>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....

# Deuteronomy 24:1-4

**NIV:** <sup>1</sup> **If** a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, <sup>2</sup> and **if** after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, <sup>3</sup> and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, <sup>4</sup> **then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled.** That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD....

## Deuteronomy 24:1-4

**NKJV:** <sup>1</sup>“When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, <sup>2</sup>“when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s *wife*, <sup>3</sup>“if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, <sup>4</sup>“then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the Lord....

## The Point Of Dt. 24:1-4

- **Not This:** If you want to divorce your wife, that's all right just as long as you give her a certificate of divorce
- **But This:** If you divorce your wife and she remarries, you may not, under any circumstances, marry her again

# An Exception Is Not The Rule

- **Mt. 18:3:** and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless [*ean me*] you are converted and become as little children, **you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**
- **Jn. 3:5:** Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless [*ean me*] one is born of water and the Spirit, **he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**

# An Exception Is Not The Rule

- Acts 26:29: And Paul said, "**I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except [*parektos*] for these chains.**"
- Rom. 13:8: **Owe no one anything except [*ei me*] to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**

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- **1 Cor. 7:5:** **Do not deprive one another** except [*ei me*] with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
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- **Mt. 5:32:** "But I say to you that **whoever divorces his wife for any reason** except [*parektos*] sexual immorality **causes her to commit adultery**; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.
- **Mt. 19:9:** "And I say to you, **whoever divorces his wife**, except [*ei me*] for sexual immorality, **and marries another, commits adultery**; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

# What Does It Mean?

This	Now This
“...for no one can do these signs that thou doest....” (Jn. 3:2)	“...for no one can do these signs that thou doest, <b>except God be with him.</b> ” (Jn. 3:2)
“...I say unto thee...he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:3)	“...I say unto thee, <b>Except one be born anew,</b> he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:3)

# What Does It Mean?

This	Now This
“...I say unto thee...he cannot enter into the kingdom of God!” (Jn. 3:5)	“...I say unto thee, <b>Except one be born of water and the Spirit</b> , he cannot enter into the kingdom of God!” (Jn. 3:5)
“...that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened....” (1 Cor. 15:36)	“...that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened <b>except it die:</b> ” (1 Cor. 15:36)

# What Does It Mean?

This	Now This
<p>“...Whosoever shall put away his wife...and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery.” (Mt. 19:9)</p>	<p>“...Whosoever shall put away his wife, <b>except for fornication</b>, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery.” (Mt. 19:9)</p>

# Those Eligible For Marriage

- **One who has never been married** (1 Cor. 7:8-9, 27-28)
- **One whose first mate has died** (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:8-9, 39)
- **One who has put away his mate for fornication** (Mt. 19:9)

# Those Eligible For Marriage

- **One who reconciles with a lawful mate**  
(1 Cor. 7:10-11)
- **One who was formerly in an unscriptural marriage but is not bound by God's law to anyone** (cf. Mt. 19:6; Rom. 7:2-3)

# Married But Not Bound???



?



# Marriage Is Permanent

- Gen. 2:24: Therefore a man shall **leave** his father and mother and **be joined** to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**.
- Rom. 7:2: “For the woman who has a husband is **bound by the law** to *her* husband **as long as he lives**. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.

# Marriage Is Permanent

- 1 Cor. 7:39: “A wife is **bound by law as long as her husband lives**; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

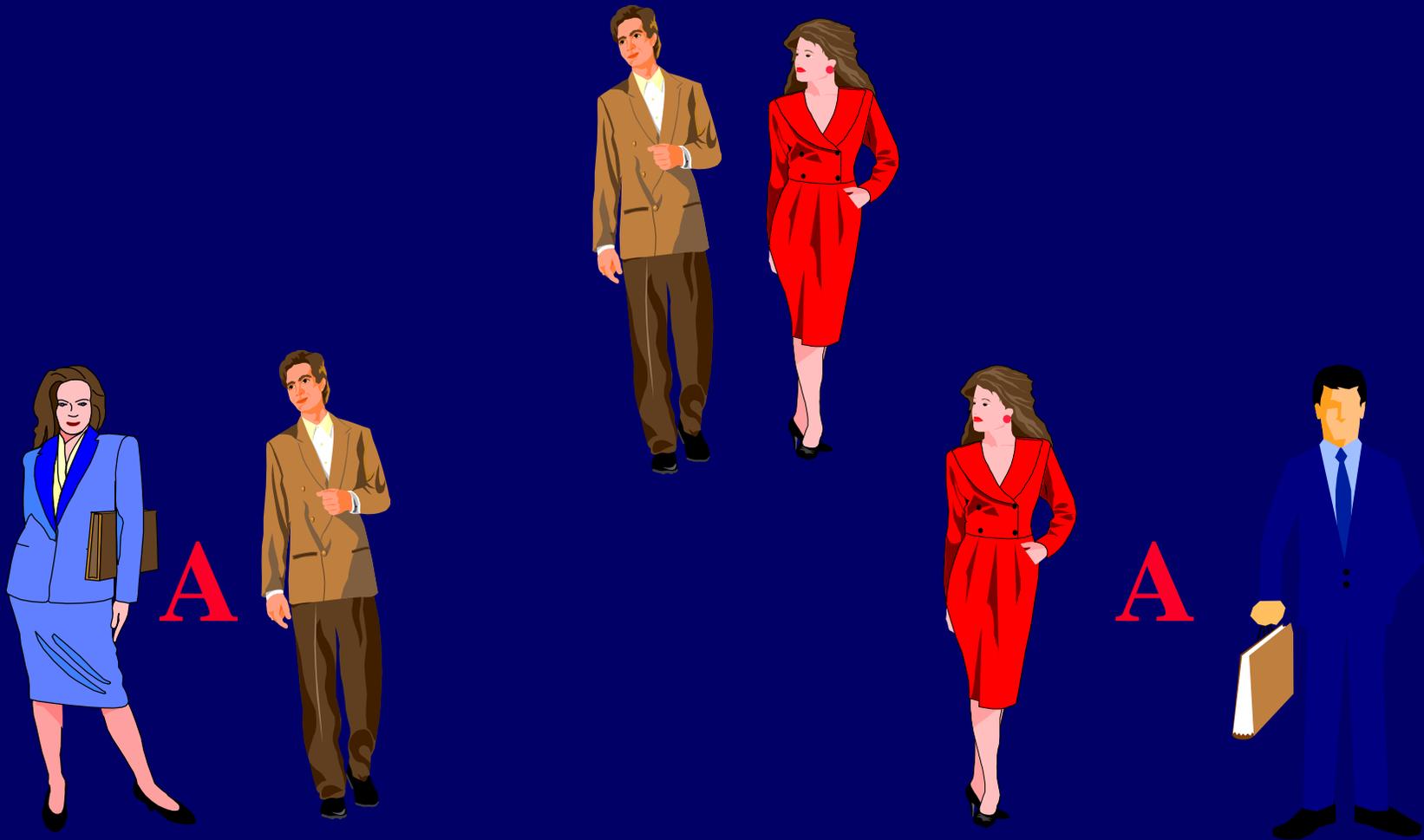
# Divorce Is Sinful

- **Mal. 2:13-16:** <sup>14</sup>...Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. <sup>15</sup>... Therefore take heed to your spirit, And **let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.** <sup>16</sup> “For the Lord God of Israel says That **He hates divorce**, For **it covers one’s garment with violence,**” Says the Lord of hosts. “Therefore **take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.**”

# Divorce Is Sinful

- **Mt. 19:3-6:** <sup>3</sup>The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, **“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just any reason?*”**  
<sup>4</sup>And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup>“and said, ‘For this reason a man shall **leave** his father and mother and **be joined** to his wife, and the two shall become **one flesh**’? <sup>6</sup>“So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together, let not man separate.**”

# DIVORCE NOT FOR FORNICATION



# DIVORCE FOR FORNICATION



# Contingency Legislation

<b>Gal. 5:14-15</b>	May I <b>“bite and devour”</b> Christians so long as I’m careful not to be consumed?
<b>Jas. 3:13-14</b>	May I have <b>“bitter envy and strife”</b> so long as I don’t glory in it or lie against the truth?
<b>Rom. 11:18</b>	May I <b>“boast against the branches”</b> as long as I remember that “the root supports” me?
<b>1 Jn. 2:1</b>	May I <b>“sin”</b> since I have an advocate with the Father
<b>1 Cor. 7:10-11</b>	May I <b>“depart”</b> from my spouse as long as I “remain unmarried” or am later “reconciled”?

# The Woman Is Passive

- The verb is passive
- The primary sense of the passive involves the subject being acted upon
- Exceptions to the primary sense of the passive require clear indication from the context
- The idea of actively departing is forbidden by the context
- The idea of Christians being passively left is the subject of the following verses