

**REARRIAGE:
WHAT DOES
THE BIBLE
SAY?**

Remarriage: What do the Scriptures Say?

What do the Scriptures say about remarriage after divorce? The succinct answer to this important question is, "Not a great deal." The Bible does have a lot to say about marriage, but very little about remarriage (See Deuteronomy 24:4). It is important to note that Jesus only briefly addresses the issue of divorce and remarriage (See Matthew 5:32, 19:9, Mark 10:11-12, and Luke 16:18). In light of this, three brief observations are important.

1. Faithful Christians and good Bible students do not uniformly agree on the issue of remarriage. Some say there is no grounds for divorce and remarriage. Marriage is permanent. Others say that divorce is allowable on Biblical grounds of sexual immorality and desertion, but there are no grounds for remarriage. Still others say that divorce and remarriage are allowable under those same grounds and remarriage is possible, because God's grace covers both divorce and remarriage.
2. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the ground upon which all forgiveness is based, even that of divorce and remarriage.
3. Fundamentally and most importantly, God is a forgiving God, but any remarriage should be entered into with prayer and godly counseling.

Here are some of the questions that are sometimes asked when it relates to remarriage. Each question requires prayerful reflection and focused study on the appropriate passages mentioned.

1. "Can I be remarried now that my spouse has died?" Reflect and pray over 1 Timothy 5:14, along with 1 Corinthians 7:9.
2. My spouse was unfaithful. Can I be remarried?" Consider prayerfully Matthew 5:32 and 19:9.
3. "I was divorced before becoming a Christian. Can I be remarried?" Carefully weigh the overarching significance of the cross of Christ in light of Romans 5:8, 8:1, and 1 John 1:8-9.
4. "My divorce took place years ago. We were both Christians. There is no hope of reconciliation. We have been through counseling. Can I now be remarried?" Consider who God is. How do you understand His nature? Spend some prayerful time reading Psalm 145:8-9, Isaiah 49:14-16, Daniel 6:26-27, Jonah 4:2, Micah 7:18-20, and Ephesians 1:3-14.
5. "My former spouse and I are both to blame for the divorce. We each played our part in the failure of our marriage. I long to be remarried. Can I do that with God's blessings?" Again, return to 1 John 1:8-9. Meditate upon Isaiah 53:6 and God's life-changing gift of Jesus on the cross. Seek Christian counseling.

EASTVIEW NEXT STEP

Sara Thompson – Eastview Marriage Ministry – sthompson@eastview.church

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

focusonthefamily.com - search "remarriage" for helpful tools