

DIVORCE

Marriage is a sacred vow, a covenant. Very briefly, before we can properly discuss what divorce is, we must first establish what a vow is compared to a promise.

Yah is the Great creator, but in a sense He has given us the ability to “change His creation”, by making a vow. The vow actually takes His created word and adjusts it so to speak for our spoken word. He in fact gives us authority to put into action or make things happen that normally wouldn't happen. Because of this divine right He bestows upon us, the responsibilities are supernatural also. By His spoken word all things were created and by our spoken word (in a sense) we create slight changes to His Word.

A promise is something spoken between two or more people. The reason a vow is far more powerful than a promise, is because when we make a vow we are asking Yahveh to be our witness. As a result, He is going to hold us accountable for it if we break the vow. A vow is the strongest form of speech there is. Vows and promises are reserved for very specific things. With that said, the wedding vow is to be taken very seriously. We can be blessed or cursed according to our keeping or breaking that vow. So whether one understands it or not, when we divorce we are officially breaking that vow and we are cursed for doing so.

We must keep in mind that the proper definition of a biblical marriage is explained as what Elohim (God), put together, not what mankind, the government, or society put together. True Godly marriage is one where both partners commit to their marriage with the torah/instructions as their basic wedding contract (ketubah). In a proper Biblical marriage both the man and wife will be covenant keeping "fearers" of Yah. People who go out and get married without following torah are simply not married. For thousands of years people have been getting married for the wrong reasons. If one doesn't pursue torah he cannot be married in the eyes of Elohim. They may have a contract, but it is not a "marriage contract" in His eyes.

The following verses clearly reveal one of the reasons for a biblical marriage.

Matt. 19:3-6 *"Some P'rushim came and tried to trap him by asking, "Is it permitted for a man to divorce his wife on any ground whatever?" 4 He replied, "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator **made them male and female,** 5 and that he said, '**For this reason a man should leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two are to become one flesh**'? 6 Thus they are no longer two, but one. So then, no one should split apart what God has joined together."* (CJB) Here we see marriage explained as what God (Elohim) put together, not what mankind, the government, or society put together.



In a true marriage the two will become one spiritually speaking. That is why we are told not to be unequally yoked together. **2Cor. 6:14-17** ***Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Messiah with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of Yah with idols? For we are the temple of the living Yah; just as Yah said, "I Will Dwell In Them And Walk Among Them; And I Will Be Their Yahveh, And They Shall Be My People. 17 "Therefore, Come Out From Their Midst And Be Separate," says Yahveh. "And Do Not Touch What Is Unclean; And I will welcome you."*** Many people don't realize that in these verses, Paul is instructing people who are going to get married. He is

not addressing people who are already unequally yoked. In other-wards, a Believer in Yah should never actively pursue someone who is not, someone who is lawless.

What the world in general considers to be marriage, is not biblical marriage. **What is commonly called marriage in the world, is nothing more than a contract they associate with marriage as they know it, and they don't know it.** This secular marriage is a contract between a man and a woman and the legal system (government). Nowadays it can, in many perverted nations, be considered marriage even though the couples are of the same sex. These same sex marriages are considered an abomination in the eyes of Yah.

With the difference between worldly marriage and biblical marriage established, let us move on to what divorce is considered to consist of in a true biblical marriage. What the legal systems of the world consider for divorce has no consideration because Yah's people are NOT of the world. We are in it, but not of it.

Death in a marriage

If the death of either partner in a genuine marriage takes place, no divorce is necessary because a person is dead. If one of the two partners is dead, there is no need for a divorce. The person who was left behind, is automatically decreed as free to re-marry. The marriage contract becomes immediately null and void. This is where we get the commonly used "till death do us part" idiom from (Rom. 7:2, 1Cor. 7:39).

Hardness of the heart

The primary issue for divorce is "hardness of the heart", not sexual adultery. That hardness of the heart can come about through sexual infidelity but it can also come about by means of physical and emotional abuse, abandonment, etc. Hardness of the heart breaks ones spirit, the opposite of love. If someone isn't keeping torah it is because their hearts are hardened.

Matt. 19:7-9 *They said to him, "Then why did Moshe give the commandment that a man should **hand his wife a get** and divorce her?"* **8** *He answered, "Moshe allowed you to divorce your wives because **your hearts are so hardened**. But this is not how it was at the beginning.* **9** *Now what I say to you is that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery" (CJB).* There is no mention of a certificate in those verses. "Your hearts are so hardened" is the reason we break all the commandments. Hardness of heart establishes unbelief and disobedience. Hardness of heart is not unique to a marriage issue.

Ezek. 36:24-28 *"For I will take you from among the nations, gather you from all the countries, and return you to your own soil.*

25 *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols.*

26 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you; **I will take the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.***

27 *I will put my Spirit inside you and cause you to live by my laws, respect my rulings and obey them.*

28 *You will live in the land I gave to your ancestors. You will be my people, and I will be your Elohim".*

Ezek. 11:19 *and I will give them unity of heart. "I will put a new spirit among you." **I will remove from their bodies the hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh;**"*

If someone isn't keeping torah it is because their heart is hardened. When almost all people that get married don't pursue torah, their hearts are hardened, and they are not actually getting married in the first place. The torah is what reveals to us what love is. It teaches us how to treat each other. When we pursue His instructions He puts His spirit in us, otherwise we are simply dead worldly people. Without these instructions, one is not literally getting married, because they are simply worldly people. When one is worldly they are walking in unbelief, they are walking in the flesh, because they do not have Yah's Ruach guiding them on paper, or from their inner being.

Being put to death was the result of adultery

It is commonly thought by many that adultery is the only acceptable reason for divorce. The reality is, if adultery takes place in a biblical marriage, death for those participating in the adultery is the result, not a divorce. In the torah we have a clear verse that explains what is to take place if a husband and wife of two different God fearing couples commits adultery. They are both to be put to death.

Lev. 20:10 *"**If a man commits adultery with another man's wife, that is, with the wife of a fellow countryman, both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death**".* **Deut. 22:22** *"**If a man is found sleeping with a woman who has a husband, both of them must die — the man who went to bed with the woman and the woman too. In this way you will expel such wickedness from Isra'el.**"* So let's establish that Lev. 20:10 & Deut. 22:22 are NOT about divorce, they are about the death penalty for those who do so. So adultery between God fearing people is not grounds for divorce, it is grounds for death.

Inappropriate behavior

In a biblical marriage "inappropriate behavior" is the reason for a divorce. Inappropriate behavior was usually the result of inappropriate sexual behaviour. In Hebrew the word commonly used to describe "inappropriate behavior" is "ervah". In Greek the word used for "inappropriate sexual behavior, or perverse sexual behavior, is "porneia". Porneia is the origin of what is commonly called pornography in the world today.

Pornography is the picture or film version of sexual perverse acts. It can even be in the words used in novels and love stories.

If one was found involved in perverse sexual acts (porneia or ervah) they were justified to get a divorce. They did not have to get a divorce because of this, but would have been justified and able to get a divorce certificate because of their actions.

The certificate of divorce (get)

Biblically speaking, in Hebrew, divorce papers are called a "get". A "get" is "sefer k'ritut" in Hebrew. A get will say that the man is releasing the woman from the marriage contract so she can do as she pleases from that moment on.

Deut. 24:1-4 *"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 indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, 2 and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife, 3 and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, 4 then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the Adonai, and you shall not bring sin on the land which Yahveh your Elohim gives you as an inheritance."* (NAS)

As per our bible, a woman is allowed to get married again and again as long as she has a certificate of divorce from each husband. But she cannot return to one of those men after she receives her divorce. That would be an abomination. **As per Deuteronomy, people can be divorced, they can be put out, dismissed, as long as they have a certificate of divorce.**

One shouldn't be getting divorced if they are thinking of ever getting back together. If there is the slightest possibility of them getting back together, they should not be getting a divorce in the first place. Divorce should always be the last possible resort.

A common misunderstanding

Many use the verses of Matthew to say that a man who marries a divorced woman is committing adultery. When you first look at this scripture it appears to say that, but when you consider what was taking place when Yeshua spoke these words, it is better understood. **Matt. 5:32** *but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.* Yeshua was taking issue with a particular thing going on at that time that was very common. When you get married your wife bears children. Later on the mid life crisis occurs and men act and talk strange. They desire strange things, and sometimes they desire a newer younger woman. It was quite common at that time for men to give their wife a "get" after their children were all grown up, and get married again. In his heart the man was already committing adultery by pursuing the thought. This new marriage was not considered a marriage by Yah. Yeshua was saying *"you enter into a marriage like that it is still adultery,"* it is not a covering for sexual desires, it does not change the fact that it is adultery. Marriage like this is not acceptable, it is not a way to make what is adultery, acceptable in the name of marriage. People were abusing the covenant of marriage. Marriage doesn't mean anything to people who do this, they are not married in the first place in the eyes of Adonai.

Paul's opinion

2Cor. 6:14 *Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Messiah with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of Yah with idols? For we are the temple of the living Elohim; just as Yah said, "I Will Dwell In Them And Walk Among Them; And I Will Be Their Elohim, And They Shall Be My People. 17 "Therefore, Come Out From Their Midst And Be Separate," says Elohim. "And Do Not Touch What Is Unclean; And I will welcome you."* Paul is instructing people who are going to get married. He is not addressing people who are already unequally yoked. In other words don't actively pursue someone who is lawless, unequally yoked.

1Cor. 7:10-17 *But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband 11 (but if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not send his wife away. 12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away. 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. 15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife? 17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And thus I direct in call the churches."*

Here we see Paul addressing an issue that was never directly addressed in torah, because he feels he has to. He states specifically that it is his opinion. He is mentioning this because sometimes even though one is a Believer and the other isn't, the un-believer may at some point change and become a Believer. So he is saying don't part from each other even if you don't agree with each others beliefs. Some day that other person may just change. If you love them enough you may want to believe in them and give them another chance.

Yahveh hates divorce?

Many people use the following verse in Malachi to show that Yah hates divorce, but they fail to understand why He is saying this. **Mal. 2:16** ***“For I hate divorce,” says Yahveh, the Holy One of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says Yahveh of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”*** This verse should not be used as a weapon for anyone who talks about getting a divorce. He is saying this because divorce is a terrible problem that creates problems for everyone around the couple getting the divorce. He made provisions for divorce in Deuteronomy so obviously He accepts the fact that some will have to get a divorce.

Dad hates liars, adulterers, idol worshipers, thieves, etc. just as He hates divorce, but His word makes provisions for what is to be done in each situation (Exod. 21). Sometimes divorce is the best option of two terrible options. He is saying this because divorce should never happen in the first place. He hates all inappropriate behaviors. If you didn't get married right in the first place, divorce may be unavoidable later on. He hates when we disobey because He knows it will end up hurting us in the long run.

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