

MARRIAGE - DIVORCE - SECOND MARRIAGE

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

THE WEDDING

Before we can give an answer to the current problems of multiple marriages, divorce and second marriages in our society, we must go to the roots, to the foundations, to the principle of the institution of marriage.

Therefore, we need to know some principles:

1 - The origin and author of marriage

Ge 2:18,22 "Then God the Lord said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper that is suitable for him.' And God the LORD formed a woman out of the rib which he had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

2 - Marriage is a pact, that is, the voluntary decision of a man and a woman to be united together for life.

Ge 2:23,25 "The man said, 'This is bone of my bones at last, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called a woman because she was taken from man.' The man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed of it.

3 - The irrevocable seal of the marriage covenant is established by God with the supernatural union in "one flesh" and is indissoluble and irreversible.

Ge 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

God divinely originated and established the institution of marriage and made Adam and Eve "one flesh" through a stated intention, a voluntary

decision (covenant) of Adam and Eve and God's sovereign act, confirmed by both Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul:

Ge 1:27-28 "God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; male and female he created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth, make it subdued, have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every animal that moves on the earth".

Mr 10:6-9 (Jesus) But in the beginning of creation God made them male and female. Therefore a man will leave his father and mother, and the two will be one flesh.

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Man, therefore, let him not separate that God has united.

Eph 5:31 (Paul) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

So we can say that marriage is a universal, established process by God and regulated by Him, by which a man and a woman, with mutual consent, are united by God, for the purpose of living together permanently in love, to form and maintain a family.

The marriage pact nowadays:

ML 2:14 ... your partner, the wife to whom you are bound by a pact.

Marriage is the voluntary decision (pact) with the exchange of promises (vows) that a man and a woman declare before God and witnesses, to be united for their entire lives.

Promises:

Bridegroom: I, ..., welcome you..., as my bride. With the grace of Christ I promise to be faithful to you always, in joy and sorrow, in health and in sickness, and to love and honor you all the days of my life, until death do us part.

Bride: I,, welcome you, as my husband. By the grace of Christ **I promise to be faithful to you always**, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, and to **love and honor you all the days of my life, until death do us part.**

Bridegroom:, receive this ring, a sign of my love and my fidelity. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Bride:, receive this ring, a sign of my love and my fidelity. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Nu 30:2 "This is the command given by the Lord, that when anyone has made a vow to the Lord, or has taken a solemn pledge by oath, he shall not be less to his word, but he will put into practice all that he has promised.

Ec 5:4-7 "When you have made a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it; for he is not pleased with fools; fulfill the vow you have made. It is better for you not to make vows than to make them and then not fulfill them. Do not allow your mouth to make you guilty; do not say before the messenger of God, "It was a mistake." Should God be angry at your words and destroy the work of your hands? For if there are vanities in many dreams, there are also vanities in many words; therefore fear God!

Love between spouses paragonated to the Love of Christ with the Church

Eph 5:22-33 "Wives, be subject to your husbands as to the Lord; for the husband is the head of his wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, he who is the Savior of the body." Now as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives must be in subjection to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her, to sanctify her after he had cleansed her by washing her with the water of the word, to make her appear before him, glorious, without spot, without wrinkle or other such defects, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives, as their own person. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own person, but rather nourishes and cares for it tenderly, as Christ also does

for the church, since we are members of his body. This mystery is great; I say this about Christ and the church. But on the other hand, even among you, **let each one individually love his wife, as he loves himself; and let the wife also respect her husband.**

POLYGAMY

The beginning of polygamy (having more than one wife) took place at the time of Lamech great-grandson of Cain, this practice was widespread in foreign peoples, but then it was also welcomed in the people of God with Abraham and then it was a privilege of kings like Solomon.

Ge 4:19 And Lamech took two wives: the name of the one was Ada, and the name of the other Zilla.

Ge 16:3 "So after ten years of Abraham's residence in the land of Canaan, Abraham's wife Sarah took her maidservant Hagar the Egyptian, and gave her to Abraham her husband as his wife.

1 Kings 11:1,3-4 King Solomon, besides Pharaoh's daughter, loved many foreign women...And he had seven hundred princesses for wives, and three hundred concubines; and his wives perverted his heart. In the days of Solomon's old age, his wives set his heart on other gods; and his heart did not belong entirely to the LORD his God, as the heart of Solomon was to be the heart of the Lord.

David his father.

But in the New Testament we see that God abolishes this practice for his people, to prevent man from contaminating himself with women who do not serve him but demons.

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 1 "Now as to the things of which you have written to me, it is good for a man not to touch a woman; but to avoid fornication **let every man have his own wife and every woman her own husband.**

Lk 1:5-7 "In the days of Herod king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the turn of Abiah; his wife was a descendant of Aaron and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God and kept all the commandments and precepts of the Lord beyond reproach. They had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both of advanced age.

Ac 5:1 "But a man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a property...

1 Corinthians 9:5 (Paul) We have no right to take a wife, a sister in faith, with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brethren, and

Cephas?

Ac 18:2 2 "Here he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had come from recently from Italy together with his wife Priscilla...

1 Tim 3:2,12 "Therefore the bishop must be blameless, the husband of a woman his wife.... Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, and they are to govern their children and families well.

1:5-6 "For this reason I have left you in Crete, that you may put order in the things that remain to be done, and appoint elders in every city, according to my instructions, when there is found anyone who is blameless, the husband of one wife, who has faithful children, let them not be accused of debauchery or insubordinate.

1 Tim 5:9 "A widow is to be entered in the catalogue when she is not less than sixty years old, when she has been the wife of one husband.

MARRIAGE BETWEEN NON-BELIEVERS

Marriage is and will always be valid for both believers and non-believers, for example Cain who was wicked, took a wife and like him many others...

1 Jn 3:12 ... Cain, who was of the evil one, and killed his own brother. Why did he kill her? For his works were evil and his brother's were righteous.

Ge 4:16-17 "Cain departed from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Then Cain met his wife, who conceived and gave birth to Enoch.

1 Kings 16:30-32 Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all that had gone before him. As if it had been it was a small thing for him to abandon himself to the sins of Jeroboam, son of Nebat, and Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to worship Baal, to bow down before him, and set up an altar unto Baal, in the temple of Baal, which built in Samaria.

From 6:24 By the king's command, the men who had accused Daniel were taken and thrown into the lions' den with their children and their wives.

If God did not recognize marriage between unbelievers, why is it not written "their wives" instead of "their wives"?

Lk 17:27 "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they took wives, they were married, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

All those destroyed by the flood were just like every unbeliever today, people who rejected God's message, a message of repentance and forgiveness. When they married, God was aware of their marriages: "... he took a wife..." God also knew when they divorced: "... we were going to get married..." If they lied, deceived, stole, raped, killed and so on, this was recorded to be shown on the day when they would be judged "according to their works". It is said that they had wives, "convenient helpers"... and by what law? Who had established it? If God saw them as husband and wife in their unbelieving state, did He not see them as "one flesh?" If he saw them as "one flesh," who had made them so? Of course, not the government, not a sexual relationship, not the person who performed the ceremony, whoever he was in such an evil society. Only God could perform this act; He alone established the universal law of marriage, because only

He makes two spouses "one flesh". Whoever makes a vow to another person of the opposite sex, for the first time, before a public official or a minister of Christ or before a religious office, at that moment a supernatural event similar to the miracle of the new birth takes place. Just as God makes a sinner who repents a new creature "in Christ," He makes two persons "one flesh." If God did not recognize marriages between unbelievers, then it would be impossible for them to become adulterers. A simple definition of an adulterer is: "someone who has sexual relations outside of the marital relationship"; otherwise described as an extra-marital affair. If unbelievers cannot be adulterers, as some teach, then all the sacred scriptures relating to adultery,

should refer only to believers. If so, how can we explain the following verses:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 "Do not deceive yourselves; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you have been washed, you have been sanctified, you have been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Cl 3:5-6 "Therefore put to death what is earthly in you: fornication, uncleanness, passions, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry. For these things comes the wrath of God upon the rebellious children. And so you also once walked, when you lived in them.

When I see unbelievers exposed to the storms of married life, continuing to love one another, I take off my hat with respect; for "the Gentiles who have no law, fulfill by nature the things of the law, they... they are law unto themselves". (Rom 2:14) The lives of these unbelievers should shame those who know the Truth and do not follow it.

Some may say, "It's too late, I don't feel anything for him (or her) anymore. Love is gone, emotion is dead!" I mean that contrary to popular

beliefs, modern teachings and the brainwashing of the mass media, love is not an emotion. It can manifest in emotional feelings, but love is a decision. Every time someone says, "I can't love him (or her) anymore," they're actually saying, "I don't want to love him (or her) anymore." When someone says such a thing, they are making a moral decision, contrary to the divine will. This is rebellion and, as such, will be judged by God.

MARRIAGE BETWEEN BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS

1 Corinthians 7:12-14 "But to others I say, not the Lord, if a brother has an unbelieving wife, and she consents to dwell with him, let him not send her away; and a woman who has an unbelieving husband, if he consents to dwell with her, let him not send her husband away; for the unbelieving husband is sanctified in his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the believing husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, while now they are holy; for you, wife, who know whether you will save your husband? And you, husband, what do you know if you will save your wife?

1 Peter 3:1-2,4-7 "You also, wives, be in subjection to your husbands, so that if there are any who do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they have considered your conduct chaste and respectful. ... the incorruptible purity of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which is of great value in God's eyes. For this is how holy women once adorned themselves, who hoped in God, remaining subject to their husbands, like Sarah who obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; whose daughters you became by doing good without being troubled by any fear. You husbands also live with your wives with the respect due to the woman, as to a more delicate vessel. Honour them, for they too are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

COHABITATION IS NOT MARRIAGE

Sexual relations do not establish the "one flesh" type of marriage relationship. Let's look at some examples:

Ge 38:13-19,24-26 Tamar was informed. They said to her, "Behold, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." Then she took off her widow's clothes, covered herself with a veil, wrapped herself all over it, and sat down at the gate of Enaim which is on the road to Timnah; in fact, he had seen that Sela had grown up, and yet she had not been given to him as a wife. When Judas saw her, he took her for a prostitute, because she had her face covered. Approaching her on the way, he said to her, "Let me come to you!" In fact, he did not know that this was his daughter-in-law. She answered, "What wilt thou give me to come to me?" He said to her, "I will send you a kid from my flock." And she said, "Will you give me a token until you send it to me?" And he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" The other answered, "Your seal, your cord, and the staff in your hand." He gave them to her, went to her, and she became pregnant with him. Then Tamar got up and went away; she took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes again. About three months later, they came and said to Judas, ' Tamar, your daughter-in-law, has prostituted herself, and besides, she is pregnant as a result of her prostitution.' Judas said, "Take her out and let her be burned." As they took her out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "I am pregnant with the man to whom these things belong." And he said, "Know, I pray you, whose seal and cords and staff they are. Judas recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I am, because I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he had no more relations with her.

2 Sa 11:3-4 "It is Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." David sent for her; she came to him, and he joined her, who had cleansed herself from its impurity; Then she went back to her house.

Jas 16:1 Samson went to Gaza, and saw a prostitute there, and came in to her.

We have considered that the relationship "**one flesh**" is not established:

- From a physical relationship (sexual intercourse)
- From a form of government
- By the person celebrating the wedding ceremony

But it is a supernatural act of God, by which He makes two individuals, one flesh.

DIVORCE

Divorce is a violation of God's law, in fact God himself rejects it, and Jesus confirms it.

Mal 2:14-16 "For the Lord is a witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you act treacherously, although she is your companion, the wife to whom you are bound by a covenant." But, you will say, isn't there one who did that? And yet, the Spirit remained in him. But why did that one do it? Because he was looking for the offspring promised to him by God. So watch your spirit, and let no one act treacherously toward the wife of his youth. "For I hate divorce," saith the LORD God of Israel; "He that repudiates shall cover his garment with violence," saith the Lord of hosts. So watch your spirit and do not be disloyal.

Mr 10:7-9 (Jesus) ... the two will be one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Man, therefore, must not separate what God has united.

Deut 24:1-4 "When a man marries a woman whom he no longer wants, because he has discovered something indecent (it may have been the barrenness of the woman, some disease that made her permanently unclean, or the apostasy of the woman) about her, let him write her a deed of repudiation, put it into her hand, and send her away. If she, having left the house of that man, becomes the wife of another and if this other husband hates her, writes a divorce deed for her, puts it in her hand and

sends her away from his house, or if this other husband, who had taken her as a wife, dies, the first husband, who sent her away, will not be able to take her back as a wife, after she has been defiled, for it would be an abominable thing in the sight of the Lord. Thou shalt not stain with sin the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Mr 10:4-7 ... Moses allowed a deed of repudiation to be written and sent away. Jesus said to them, it is because of the hardness of your hearts that Moses wrote that rule for you; but in the beginning of creation God made them male and female.

Therefore a man will leave his father and mother, and the two will be one flesh.

It is interesting to note that the act of divorce, in the time of Moses, was not granted in cases of adultery. In such a case, divorce was not necessary, because adulterers were punished by stoning.

Lv 20:10 "If anyone commits adultery with another's wife, if he commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and adulteress shall be put to death.

Deut 22:22 "When a man is found lying with a married woman, both will die, the man who slept with the woman and the woman. In this way you will remove evil from the midst of Israel.

Even if the adulterous woman became pregnant by another man:

Hidden or caught betrayal in the act and the spirit of jealousy of the husband

Nu 5:11-31 "And the LORD said to Moses, Speak unto the children of Israel and of them, If a woman turns away from her husband, and commits unfaithfulness against him; if one has carnal relations with her and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the husband; if she has defiled herself in secret without any witnesses against her or has been caught in the act, if the spirit of jealousy takes possession of the husband and he becomes jealous of the wife who has defiled herself, or the spirit of jealousy takes

possession of him and he becomes jealous of the wife who has not in fact defiled herself, that man will take his wife to the priest, and bring an offering for her: a tenth of an ephah of barley flour; He will not pour oil on it or put incense on it, for it is an oblation of jealousy, a memorial offering, meant to remember an iniquity. The priest will bring the woman closer, and make her stand before the Lord. Then the priest will take holy water in an earthen vessel; and he shall take some dust that is on the ground of the tabernacle, and put it in the water. The priest shall then make the woman stand before the Lord, and uncover her head, and put in her hand the memorial oblation, which is the oblation of jealousy; and the priest will have in his hand the bitter water that brings curse. **The priest will make that woman swear** and say to her, "If no man has joined you, and if you have not gone astray by defiling yourself with a man instead of your husband, this bitter water that brings a curse will do you no harm! But **if you have gone astray by receiving another instead of your husband, and have defiled yourself, if another who is not your husband has made you fruitful,**" then **the priest will make the woman swear an oath of curse** and will say to her, "May the Lord make you an object of curse and execration among your people, making your hips slim and your belly puff out; this water that brings a curse, you enter your bowels to make your belly swell and your hips thin!" And **the woman will say: "Amen! Amen!"** "Then the priest will write these curses in a scroll and dissolve them in bitter water. He will make the woman drink that bitter water that brings curse, and the water that brings curse will enter her to produce bitterness. And the priest shall take from the woman's hand the meat offering of jealousy, and wave the meat offering before the LORD, and offer it on the altar. The priest will take a handful of that memorial oblation and have it smoked on the altar; then he will make the woman drink water. When she has made her drink the water, **if she is defiled and has committed infidelity against her husband,** the water that bears a curse will enter her to produce bitterness; her belly will swell, her hips will grow thinner, and **that woman will become an object of curse among her people. But if the woman has not defiled**

herself and is pure, she will be found innocent, and she will have children. This is the law of jealousy, in case the wife of one goes astray by receiving another instead of her husband and defiles herself, in case the spirit of jealousy takes possession of the husband and he becomes jealous of his wife: he will bring his wife before the Lord, and the priest will apply this law in full. The husband will be free from guilt, but the woman will bear the penalty of her iniquity."

The death penalty also in the event that the fiancée (or betrothed) became pregnant by another man:

Deut 22:23-24 "When a virgin maiden is betrothed, and a man finding her in the city lies down with her, you shall bring them both to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death: the maiden, because she was in the city and did not cry out; and the man, because she dishonored the woman of his neighbor. Thus you will remove the evil from among you.

Joseph in fact left Mary in secret precisely because he knew the law well, but not God's purpose.

Mt 1:18-21, 18 "The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. Mary, his mother, had been betrothed to Joseph, and before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, who was a just man and did not want to expose her to infamy, proposed to leave her secretly. But while he was having these things in his mind, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife to you; because what is generated in her comes from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call his name Jesus, for it is he who will save his people from their sins."

The divorce letter was provided for other reasons, never in the case of adultery, remembering that the law of Moses allowed only the man to leave the woman and give her the divorce letter, but the woman was not allowed to do the same. Adultery has never been a reason for divorce in the Bible, a reason for capital punishment yes, but never a reason for divorce. When

a man and a woman are united in marriage, they lose the freedom to give their bodies to others, because they have become "**one flesh**" with their spouse, for life. The two, in God's eyes, are like one person "**unto death**."

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 "Let the husband render to his wife her due; let the wife do the same to her husband. The wife has no power over her own body, but the husband; and in the same way the husband has no power over his own body, but the wife. Do not deprive one another, except by mutual agreement, for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer; and then return together, so that Satan will not tempt you because of your incontinence.

God's Word says that when you make your initial marriage vow, you sign the deed of ownership of your body to your first spouse for life. The same thing happens for spiritual birth in Christ:

1 Cor 6:15,19-20 "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you and whom you have received from God? So you don't belong to yourself. Because you have been bought at a high price.

God would have to renounce His holiness and righteousness in order to recognize second vows. For this reason, Jesus confirmed several times that living spouses commit adultery.

Mt 5:32 "But I say to you, whoever sends away his wife, except for the sake of fornication (therefore she was stoned) makes her an adulteress, and whoever marries her who is sent away commits adultery.

Mt 19:9 "But I say to you, whoever sends away his wife, except for fornication (hence she was stoned) and marries another, commits adultery.

Conversely, if the wife was already an adulteress or committed fornication, she was stoned and with her death the bond of the marriage law was also dissolved and therefore the widowed husband could remarry.

Mr 10:11-12 And he said unto them, Whosoever sends away his wife, and marries her, another, commits adultery against her; and if the wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.

Lk 16:18 Whosoever sends away his wife and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries a woman who has been sent away by her husband commits adultery.

Rom 7:2-3 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives; but if her husband dies, she is loosed from the law which binds her to her husband. Therefore, if she becomes another man's wife while her husband lives, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law; so she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's wife.

Mr 6:17-18 For Herod had John arrested and chained in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Philip his brother, whom he, Herod, had married. For John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to keep your brother's wife!"

Heb 13:4 "Let marriage be honored by all, and the marriage bed not be tainted with unfaithfulness; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers."

Warnings Against Adultery and Fornication

Definition of adultery:

1. The voluntary violation of the marriage agreement by one of the spouses, due to a relationship carried out (or desired) with a third person.
2. Extramarital sexual relations (Deut 22:22; Pr 6:32-33; Mt 15:18-19).

Ex 20:14 You shall not commit adultery (seventh of the 10 commandments)

Mt 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you, whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

How would those who teach that adultery is grounds for divorce in our day apply this truth? Would you ask for a divorce every time a "strange" light flashes in your husband's eyes while he looks at another woman? Jesus never taught that adultery or immorality is grounds for divorce but rather an opportunity to manifest Christ's forgiveness.

Definition of fornication:

1. Sexual relations between unmarried people, or a single person and a married woman and vice versa.

2. Premarital sexual relations (Ex 22:16; Deut 22:28-29; Mt 5:32).

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is even heard that **there is fornication among you**, and such immorality, that it is not found even among the Gentiles, that **one of you is he keeps his father's wife!**

1 Corinthians 6:18-19 "**Flee from fornication**. Every other sin that man commits is outside the body, but **the fornicator sins against his own body**.

Do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you and whom you have received from God? So you don't belong to yourself**.

Gal 5:19,21 "**Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are: fornication, ...**

other similar things; of which, as I have already told you, I warn you: he who does such will not inherit the kingdom of God.

One of the biggest problems to deal with in a divorce situation is the lack of forgiveness. When a person says, "I can't forgive," they're really saying, "I don't want to forgive." Forgiveness is not an emotion, but an act of will. Therefore, if anyone does not forgive totally, he is right to read **Matthew 6:15; but if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses**. When we do not forgive, we bind ourselves and the person who wronged us, without realizing that we are living in the sin of resentment, unforgiveness, hatred, and bitterness. If we want to be completely free, we must forgive from the heart as an act of will, and not because the person who has hurt us deserves it, but only because it is God who asks for it, indeed commands it, and we must obey His Word.

END OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT "till death do us part!"

God's Word is fully consistent with lifelong relationships of "**one flesh**."

1 Co 7:27-28 Are you tied to a wife? Don't try to loosen yourself from it.

Not tied to a wife? (Single or widower) Do not seek a wife. But if you take a wife, you don't sin.

1 Corinthians 7:39 "A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is free to marry whomever she will, provided she does it in the Lord.

Rom 7:2-6 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband, while he lives; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to her husband. ... If her husband dies, she is free from that law; so she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's wife. So, my brethren, you also were put to death as far as the law is concerned by the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, that is, to him who rose from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God. For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, awakened by the law, were acting in our members for the purpose of bearing fruit unto death; but now we have been loosed from the bonds of the law, having died to that which held us in subjection, to serve in the new regime of the Spirit, and not in the old one of the letter.

To confirm that it is only death that annuls marriage and nothing else, the apostle Paul in these verses recalls the example of Christ, who because of His sacrifice we are released from the law because we died (old man) with Him.

Even the believing spouse is not free to remarry even if his or her unbelieving spouse leaves him, no longer being content to live with him.

1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbeliever separates, let him depart; in such cases, the brother or sister is not obliged to continue together.

This verse does not have the meaning given to it by some believers who claim that this is the other case in which one of the two spouses has the right to remarry while the other is still alive. Now, according to some, the words "in such cases the brother or sister is not bound" mean that they are free to marry whoever they want; Therefore, if the unbelieving spouse leaves the believing spouse, the believer can marry certain that he or she will not commit adultery. But this is not the case, because these words

have another meaning, otherwise the apostle Paul would have contradicted himself and annulled the words of Christ. The Apostle Paul, on the other hand, wanted to say that the believing woman who has an unbelieving husband, if he consents to live with her, is obliged not to leave him; However, if the unbelieving husband decides to separate and leave her because he is no longer willing to stay with her, then she, in this case, is not bound, that is, she is no longer obliged to continue living with him. The same goes for a believing husband who has an unbelieving wife. The believing spouse is not obligated to fight to preserve the family unit. The peace to which God has called us that Paul speaks of in that context is conjugal harmony. If the unbelieving spouse insists on leaving, then the believer is not obliged to live in perpetual conflict with the unbelieving spouse but is free to let him or her go. This voluntary separation on the one hand and involuntary on the other does not authorize the second marriage. So the only thing that dissolves the marriage bond "**one flesh**" established by God is only the death of one of the spouses. Also remembering the promises made by their respective spouses "**until death do us part**", which unfortunately the spouses forget, but God does not forget.

ML 2:14 ... the Lord is a witness between you and your wife...

SECOND MARRIAGES

A separation or divorce is never a sufficient reason to marry someone else, for whatever reason.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 "And I command the spouses, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not separate from her husband, and if she is separated, she should remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband, and that the husband should not send away his wife."

There is no instance in the Scriptures of second marriages validated by God except in the case of widowers.

1 Tim 5:14 "Therefore I want young widows to marry, and have children, and govern the house..."

Lk 20:28-32 "Teacher, Moses commanded us, 'If a man's brother dies having a wife but no children, let his brother take his wife and give descendants to his brother.' So there were seven brothers. The former took a wife, and died childless. The second also married her; then the third; and so, until the seventh, they died without leaving children. Finally the woman also died.

As we have seen previously, in order not to be adulterers, one of the spouses must not be alive, which is why the only exception to remarry is as a widower or widow.

Summary:

God instituted marriage; The marriage law has universal validity, binds for life and is activated by a mutual promise. Marriage is valid for life; Marrying another person after divorce constitutes adultery. Anyone who marries after a divorce while the first spouse is still alive is an adulterer (or adulteress). Adulterers who do not repent will all be judged by God.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.