

# WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DIVORCE

**Matthew 19:3-10**

# RELIGIOUS LAW IN JUDAISM

- A. Rabbi Hillel (POPULAR view) – divorce by husband allowed **FOR ANY REASON** (“any cause” divorce).
- Joseph/Mary divorce
  - Any random reason, ...
- B. Rabbi Shammai (CONSERVATIVE view) – divorce by husband **ONLY FOR SEXUAL IMMORALITY BY WIFE**;
- **Not mentioned: BY WIFE, FOR neglect, abuse, BY HUSBAND. Ex 21:10-11**

# WHAT IS THE PHARISEE'S ACTUAL QUESTION?

- A. “Is it permissible **for a man** to **DIVORCE HIS WIFE** ...?” 19:3; Luke 16:18, Mark 10:13
- B. “Is it permissible **for a man** to divorce his wife **FOR ANY cause**?” 19:3 (Hillel interpretation)
- “No fault” divorce in modern day.
    - Divorce without public blame by either party, parties mutually consent and the marriage is dissolved. Maryland family law, 10/15/15

# QUESTION TO JESUS: IS “DIVORCE FOR ANY CAUSE” PERMISSIBLE?

- Jesus’s answer:

1. No.

- “”any cause” divorce (“No fault”) divorce is not permissible.

# IS DIVORCE FOR ANY CAUSE, OTHER THAN IMMORAILITY, PERMISSIBLE?

1. Jesus **not asked** this question.
2. Preexisting Jewish law answered it:
  - A. “..., he shall not diminish **her food, her clothing, or her marital rights.**” (Exod. 21:10)
  - B. Biblical grounds for divorce:
    - **Absence of food and shelter, safety, and marital rights.**
3. Modern day – abandonment, abuse, adultery. (3 A's)

# MARRIAGE IS A VOW IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, AS WITNESS

- In a marriage, the one who **breaks the vow is the guilty party**. Not the one who initiates the divorce.
  - The sin is **not the divorce** itself, but what broke the marriage up.

# WHAT IF I AM DIVORCED? AM I AN ADULTERER IF I REMARRY?

1. **Yes, except where biblical cause** exists.
2. Will I always be an adulterer before God? **NO**
  - A. Am I forgiven of my sin? **Absolutely.**
    - Jesus death is **for all my sin** not all my sin except for divorce. Col 2:13-14.
  - B. **We are not under law**, but grace. Rom 6:14; Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:1-4
  - C. Believers are new creations. **The old is past.** 2 Cor 5:17

# WHAT IF I AM DIVORCED? DOES CHRIST JUDGE ME AN ADULTERER IF I REMARRY?

3. **Am I judged** for my sin of invalid divorce and remarriage?

- NO! John 5:24, 3:18

4. What if I **separate from God or the church** because of my guilt?

- YES, indirectly. 2 Cor 5:10



# WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THOSE GOING THROUGH DIVORCE?

1. To walk beside.
2. To recognize no one according to the flesh.  
2 Cor 5:16