

Second Baptist Church

1709 Barrow Rd | Little Rock, AR
Dr. Maurice Watson, Senior Pastor
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Divorce and Remarriage

Matthew 5: 31-32

There are many confusing and conflicting ideas in our day about the biblical teaching on divorce and remarriage. This was also true in Jesus' day.

A. Five Interpretations of the Bible Concerning Divorce and Remarriage

1. Divorce is not permissible under any circumstance or for any reason
2. Both divorce and remarriage are permissible under any circumstance or for any reason or none
3. Divorce is permitted under C _____ circumstances, but remarriage is never permitted
4. Divorce and remarriage are permitted under certain circumstances
5. Divorce is expected on the grounds of I _____ Matt 1:18–19; Deut 22:20–22.

The bible, of course, actually teaches only one of those five possibilities, and that view is taught by Jesus here in Matthew 5: 31-32.

The Teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees (v 31)

In Jesus' day the dominant rabbinic position on divorce and remarriage was the most liberal of the five views mentioned above: P _____ on any grounds.

Their position on divorce was based on an erroneous interpretation of Deuteronomy 24: 1-4

B. The Teaching of Jesus (v 32)

Jesus affirms exactly what Moses taught in Deuteronomy 24: 1-4—that U _____ divorce leads to adultery.

The Pharisees interpreted Moses' instructions to mean, "If you find something D about your wife, divorce her." Jesus corrects this false teaching.

Jesus indicated that divorce was never God's original intention (Matthew 19:3-9; Malachi 2:16).

Three Biblical Instances Where Remarriage Is Permitted

1. The D of a spouse (Rom.7: 2)
2. Infidelity (Matt.19: 9)
3. D (1 Cor.7: 15)

C. Divorce Brings Sorrow

1. Everyone loses when it comes to divorce, especially the children
2. There is sorrow because of E pain that is associated with divorce
3. There is sorrow because of F hardships that result from divorce
4. There is sorrow that arises from such things as custody battles, child-support, etc.

D. Some Truths for Those Who Have Divorced

1. Wrongful divorce does not constitute and U sin—(Matt.12: 31; 1 John 1: 9)
2. Divorcees are not second-class C nor are they second-class C members