

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY?

I. Divine Origin and Purpose

- Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, "It is *not good that man should be alone*; I will make him *a helper comparable to him*."
- Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds *a good thing*, and obtains favor from the Lord.
- Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "*Be fruitful and multiply*; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- I Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

II. Who May Marry

- Romans 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.
- Matthew 19:5 Jesus said, "A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one."
- I Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- Matthew 22:30 Jesus said, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven." Jesus makes it clear that after death we will no longer be married. This means that if a man's wife dies, he is free to marry another. If a woman's husband dies, she is free to marry another.
- Romans 7:2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.
- I Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, *only in the Lord*.
- I Timothy 5:14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
- I Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, *forbidding to marry*, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

III. Who May NOT Marry

- Malachi 2:14-16 Yet you say, "For what reason?" because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the Lord God of Israel says that ***He hates divorce***, for it covers one's garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.
- Matthew 19:8 Jesus said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."
- Luke 16:18 Jesus said, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery."
- Romans 7:3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress.
- I Corinthians 7:10-13 A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, ***let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband***. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.
- I Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.
- Mark 6:17-19 For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John [the baptist], and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. For John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not.
- Romans 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.