

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—
Ephesians 5:28-29 (NIV)

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” **Matthew 19:3 (NIV)**

- **Jewish law recognized two legitimate reasons for divorce**

- 1) _____ – _____ or _____

If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights. If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money.
Exodus 21:10-11 (NIV)

- 2) _____ – _____

If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her...he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house... **Deuteronomy 24:1 (NIV)**

Jesus thoughts on marriage and divorce

1. Marriage was _____

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female...’” **Matthew 19:4 (NIV)**

2. Marriage is _____

...and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” **Matthew 19:5-6 (NIV)**

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. **Genesis 2:24 (NLT)**

3. Divorce was God’s _____ to the _____ of man

“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.” **Matthew 19:7-8 (NIV)**

When she leaves his house, she is free to marry another man.
Deuteronomy 24:2 (NLT)

4. Divorce should only take place if _____

“I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”
Matthew 19:9 (NIV)

- **What if my divorce was not Biblical...what should I do?**

- _____ of your part
- If possible be _____
- If reconciliation is impossible, _____

Ephesians 5:28 - 29 (NIV) ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—

Matthew 19:3 (NIV) ³Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

- **Jewish law recognized two legitimate reasons for divorce**

- 1) Neglect – Materially or physically

Exodus 21:10 - 11 (NIV) ¹⁰If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights. ¹¹If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money.

- 2) Unfaithfulness – Adultery

Deuteronomy 24:1 (NIV) ¹If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her...he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house...

Jesus thoughts on marriage and divorce

1. Marriage was God's idea

Matthew 19:4 (NIV) ⁴"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'

2. Marriage is a lifetime contract

Matthew 19:5-6 (NIV) ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' ⁶? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Genesis 2:24 (NLT) ²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

3. Divorce was God's concession to the sinfulness of man

Matthew 19:7-8 (NIV) ⁷"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" ⁸Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

Deuteronomy 24:2 (NLT) ²When she leaves his house, she is free to marry another man.

4. Divorce should only take place if vows have been broken

Matthew 19:9 (NIV) ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

- **What if my divorce was not Biblical...what should I do?**

- Repent of your part
- If possible be reconciled to your partner
- If reconciliation is impossible, you are free