

Correct Divorce

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Ezekiel 34:10, 23
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**Revised
January 2026**

In modern times, it is very rare that a divorce is done correctly. The best example of a justifiable divorce comes from God Himself in [Jer. 3:8](#), where God said to the nation of Israel: “... whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce;.....”. (Religious “adultery” is the worship of false god’s.) God’s primary purpose of divorce is to chastise the wife in hopes that she will repent of her disobedient conduct and return to her one and only true husband. Notice that if a husband were to receive his wife back after such infidelity, it would be an act of *mercy*, whereas throwing her out permanently would be an act of *justice*. Nevertheless, *mercy* is better than *justice*. [Luke 6:31](#) “And as ye(y’all)would(wish)that men should do to you, do ye(y’all)also to them likewise.”

However, if a wife does not repent and her husband marries another woman, God considers him to be married to more than one wife at the same time. A divorce is nothing more than a declaration of separation. The U.S. government **incorrectly** considers the first marriage to be completely dissolved, whereas God does not. (Notably, just a century ago, even the US government did not consider a divorce to fully end a marriage. See article listed below on: *Marriage Misunderstandings Explained*.)

A few decades ago, when divorces were very rare, it was commonly taught in some churches that a divorced man is disqualified from church leadership, for the rest of his life. ([1Tim 3:5](#) “For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?”) (By about 1980, however, a modern divorce epidemic had taken hold. In the U.S., more than 50% of marriages since that time have ended in divorce.) And now that so much time has gone by with church leaders unable to resolve the divorce epidemic, it’s practically impossible to find any candidate for church leader who isn’t divorced.

In [Rev. 3:16](#), when Jesus Christ “vomits” the church of Laodicea out of his mouth, the “vomiting” is symbolic for a type of divorce. Therefore it must be stated that Jesus Christ is divorced, too. Now that so many have been divorced, the previous standard of disqualifying a man from church leadership solely on that basis is no longer feasible.

Concerning church leaders, the Bible says that he must be: [1Tim 3:4-5](#) “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5- For

if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" Obviously, a divorced man, with his house in order, is a much more qualified church leader as compared to a man with a dominant wife, on his first marriage. A man with a dominant wife is not ruling his house—his wife is, which is blasphemy according to (Titus 2:5). A man with a dominant wife is not qualified as a church leader. All church leaders with dominant wives are disqualified.

A true marriage, once made, is considered by God to be equally as permanent as any other family relationship. God takes wedding **vows** seriously. Num.30:2 "If a man **vow** a **vow** unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth." Deut. 23:21 "When thou shalt **vow** a **vow** unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee." KJV

All family relationships are permanent. Imagine what would happen if the government wrote someone a certificate of divorce for their brother. Would that "official" piece of paper from the government mean that their brother is no longer their brother? Certainly not! Could he ever be an ex-brother? Certainly not! Could he ever be just an acquaintance? Certainly not! Could he ever be a cousin? Certainly not! The government would be over-stepping its authority by issuing such certificates. Likewise, the government has no business writing divorce certificates for marriages. They are butting-in where they don't belong. (The US government loves butting-in where they don't belong, especially to cause family problems. Tragically, the U.S. government often undermines families and promotes the breakdown of marriage.)

Also, notice that the Bible gives no provision for wives to divorce their husbands. In a culture where men held authority over their wives, there would be no need for an official document if a wife left her husband. Remember, a divorce was nothing more than a declaration of separation. A separated woman cannot legally or morally get remarried unless their first husband dies. (1Cor. 7:10,11,39) Rom 7:3 "So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress:" Notice, a seeming contradiction in: Deut. 24:2 "And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife." The words "she may go" seem to imply that she is permitted to remarry another man. However, the word "may" is not in the original Hebrew text. The translator here was probably implying a "perhaps" situation, to be understood like: "she *might* go....." or "if *perhaps* she goes..... then... ..". Most women in those days needed a husband to support them. Returning to her parents or being self-supporting were usually not possible options, back then. (If indeed this passage is permitting her to remarry, it is in clear conflict with the rest of the

context, which states very clearly that by remarrying she is then: “**after that she is defiled**” vs 4.)

There were **five** main reasons for the husband to write a bill of divorce in the Bible. (Notice that in the Bible the government did not write the divorces, it was the husband who wrote the divorce.) (Deut. 24:1)

First, to avoid any uncertainty as to whether or not the wife was really being thrown out of the house..... and why (the “why” needs to be stated in writing). It must not be left ambiguous whether or not she was asked to leave temporarily for a day as compared to throwing her out permanently.

Second, in order to notify any other interested men that the woman is problematic.

Third, she had to have that document to show why she wasn't a virgin. Unmarried non-virgins were supposed to be stoned to death, in those days.

Forth, If another man wanted to marry her without knowing that she was a separated (divorced) woman, the separation document (divorce) permitted her to avoid execution for being a non-virgin. Deut. 22:20 “**But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel: Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.**”

Fifth, If a wife does marry another man after receiving an official divorce, the first husband cannot take her back. (Deut. 24:4)

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that there be no ambiguity about the divorce being official. A husband can't just tell his wife to “get out” or casually say something like “get lost”. He must make it official.

Notice that the way the Bible says to correctly handle a divorce as compared to how some people were doing it are not the same thing, especially compared to modern divorces.

All honorable men and all men who don't want a woman who is a package of trouble wouldn't marry a non-virgin. In modern times, most people don't care about such things. And then, when their package of trouble happens, they can't figure out why.

In the Bible, the bill of divorce (separation document) was written by the husband (not by the government) and put directly into the wife's hand and the husband sent her out of **his** house. (Deut. 24:1) Men were the property owners in those days. Only as a widow could a woman be the owner of a house/property from a marriage. Even if a young woman's father had given her a house/property previous to her marriage, as soon as she got married the ownership would pass to her husband. (Num. 36) (See article listed below on: **The Role Of Women Throughout History**.) The phrase “see article” means to “see article”. It's amazing how people have questions and those questions have been answered in the designated article.

Some people may say that total male ownership sounds tyrannical. But, it's not any more tyrannical than employees not being permitted partial ownership of the company they work for, nor more tyrannical than children not being permitted partial ownership of the house they live in. Does total employer or parental ownership automatically make them tyrannical and oppressive? Certainly not!

The opposite extreme is when people let the wife rule the marriage. Female dominance over men is blasphemy against God's Word. [Tit 2:4,5](#) "That they may teach the young women to be..... keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not **blasphemed**." Divorce is better than having a dominant wife. It is more obedient to God for a man to divorce a dominant wife than to continue in **blasphemy**.

Some people may say that God hates divorce and that nobody should ever do it. However, God himself did it, as mentioned above in, [Jer. 3:8](#) and Jesus Christ did it in [Rev. 3:16](#). Husband and wife shall be one. [Mat.19:5](#)) [Mal 2:15,16](#) "Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none *deal treacherously* against the wife of his youth. 16- For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he **hateth** putting away(divorce): for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye *deal not treacherously*." This passage must not be taken out of context. The subject under discussion is the phrase, "*deal treacherously*", which is more specifically referring to when a man lightly dumps one wife, usually just because he wants another woman. Back in the days when it was hard for a woman to get a job with reasonable pay, this was very severe treatment. (And very selfish on the part of men, when done for the wrong reason.) (See article listed below on: **The Role Of Women Throughout History**.) (See article listed below on: **The Consequences of "Women's Liberation"**.)

Sometimes, some churches may even teach against divorce, but when the people do it anyway the church leaders don't do anything about it. In some cases, they may even have special classes for divorcees to get to know other divorcees. Even though they teach against divorce and remarriage, maintaining activities that get divorcees to meet and socialize with other divorcees is actually promoting divorce and remarriage. Regardless of their teachings, activities like this end up kind of like a store's unconditional money back guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with your marriage, you can bring it in and either get your money back or get an exchange for something you will be satisfied with. They end up actually motivating people to get divorced, while at the same time teaching against it.

However, if a faithful Christian man was truly blameless in the cause of a divorce (separation) and his wife was truly guilty and she refuses to repent, he could only remarry with God's blessing if he married a **faithful Christian** woman who had never been married and divorced, or if he married a **faithful Christian** widow. In most cases, the strongest evidence that a man is guilty for the divorce is that he remarries inappro-

privately. In any case, whenever he does remarry, the US government incorrectly considers him to be married to one wife, but God considers him to be legitimately married to two wives at the same time, yet only living with one. The government does not have the authority to dissolve the wedding vows. Those vows are "till death do we part". (It would not be surprising if this phrase has been removed from modern wedding vows. When people make up whatever wedding vows they want, which can easily be broken, then there is no longer any purpose in making vows. Then, is it a real marriage? It is a corrupt marriage. All corruption has its appropriate corresponding consequences.)

The only way to interpret the Bible concerning the subject of marriage and divorce (separation) without contradictions is that God treats women differently than men. It must also **not** be taken out of context. The entire New Testament was written to people who were already familiar with God's longstanding allowance for men to have multiple wives. (See article listed below on: **Marriage Misunderstandings Explained**.)

It is also very important to realize that, on the great wedding day of Jesus Christ to the church -- His bride -- in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus Christ **WILL** have a bride. [Rev.19:7](#) "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." KJV

However, rest assured that many, and probably most, of the truly saved Christians will be excluded from that wedding celebration (especially modern lukewarm Christians, which are now probably almost ALL of churches in the US) (not including churches which are completely dead). Can you imagine Jesus Christ, after repudiating His lukewarm bride, standing all by Himself on His great wedding day, with no bride? (In those days they were considered to be married from the point of the engagement.) A disobedient wife can **not** render her husband to be permanently wife-less. No wife has that kind of authority over her husband. (See article listed below on: **The Lukewarm Church**.)

A woman who is divorced is only "separated" from her husband. God will always consider her to be the wife of her first husband, until the day her first husband dies. The secular government cannot dissolve her first marriage any more than they can dissolve any other family relationship. If she has already remarried, then she is **wrongly** married to more than one man at the same time. God calls it adultery. [Rom. 7:3](#) "So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress...." It will never be blessed by God. It is sin. Jesus said: [Mat. 19:11,12](#) "..... All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it." KJV

In the books of Nehemiah and Ezra, we read that improper marriages should be broken up. [Neh. 13:23-31](#) "In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of

Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: 24- And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. 25- And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. 26- Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. 27- Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives? 28- And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me. 29- Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites. 30- Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business; 31- And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.” KJV **Also in:** Ezra 10:2-3 “And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. 3- Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.”

The first two chapters of the book of Esther describe how king Ahasuerus rightly banished (i.e., divorced, separated from) his disobedient wife, Vashti, and later married Esther. After the removal of Vashti, it was said: Est. 2:2-4 “Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women,..... And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti.” KJV Est. 2:13-17 “Then thus came every maiden unto the king; In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name. So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.” KJV

It is very rare -- and possibly non-existent -- that any church teaches and demands divorces under circumstances of corruption. Yet corrupt marriages ought to be broken up. Otherwise, that corruption will contaminate the church. It is contagious,

and will spread and contaminate the rest of the church. Usually, divorce ought to be avoided. But, when a marriage was made incorrectly, it must be terminated.

The government is wrong. They do not have the power to dissolve any marriage. It is very important that the churches recognize this governmental error. Those marriages are corruption and the churches must excommunicate/shun any member who continues in that type of corrupt marriage.

Funny thing, many people are getting divorces all the time for inappropriate reasons. But, when the Bible says to end a corrupt marriage, most church leaders act like that's going too far. Well, those are all lukewarm churches. (See article listed below on: **The Lukewarm Church.**) also (See article listed below on: Marriage Misunderstandings Explained.)

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