

I. Understand and Respect God’s Marriage Law

1. God’s marriage law stated is one man and one woman joined together by God for one lifetime ([Mt. 19:1-6](#)).
 - a. This eliminates homosexual “marriages,” polygamy, and bigamy.
2. Marriage is designed to be for life as death dissolves the marriage bond ([1 Cor. 7:39](#); cf. [Rm. 7:1-4](#)).
 - a. Marriage vows often conclude with, “until death do us part” or “as long as we both shall live.”
 - b. These vows understand that marriage is for **one lifetime**.
 - c. There will be no marriage in the resurrection i.e., in Heaven (cf. [Mt. 22:30](#); [Mk. 12:25](#); [Lk. 20:35](#)).
3. Marriage is serious and is to be permanent!
 - a. Marriage has been called and should still be called **wedlock**.
4. The single person must be looking for a mate who understands and respects God’s marriage law.
 - a. To make it plain, the single person must be looking for a mate who understands and respects God’s Law period.

II. What Happens When God’s Marriage Law is Not Respected?

1. God’s marriage law was not respected early in history as polygamy was practiced by Cain’s descendants ([Gen. 4:19-24](#)).
 - a. Solomon further perverted marriage taking hundreds of wives and concubines which ultimately resulted in his downfall and the division of the kingdom ([1 Kgs. 11](#)).
2. Conflict, competition, and favoritism happen when God’s marriage law is not respected.
 - a. Conflict came about between Sarah and Hagar and their sons, Isaac and Ishmael ([Gen. 16](#) with [Gen. 21:1-21](#)).
 - b. Competition was found between Rachel and Leah with Jacob ([Gen. 29-30](#)).
 - c. Favoritism was shown to Joseph by Jacob, which was the primary reason for Joseph being sold into slavery ([Gen. 37](#)).

3. Foreign practices are entertained ([Neh. 13:23-27](#)).
 - a. Foreign women today would be foreign to Christianity as the New Testament defines it.
 - b. It was a plague to the Jews then it is a plague to the church today ([Ezr. 9:1-2](#))!
 - c. Remember, marriage affects more than the two individuals who are married (i.e., their families, society, and the church).
4. Divorce for every reason under the Sun is practiced when God's marriage law is not respected.
 - a. Divorce was permitted under the Law of Moses though this was never the design of marriage ([Mt. 19:7-8](#); cf. [Dt. 24:1-4](#)).
 - b. God hates divorce ([Mal. 2:14-16](#)).
5. Under the New Testament, Christ allowed only **one** exception for severing the marriage bond prior to death and that is for **fornication** ([Mt. 19:9](#); cf. [Mt. 5:31-32](#)).
 - a. Fornication (*porneia* G4202 por-ni´-ah) defined.
 - i. properly of illicit sexual intercourse in general (Thayer 532).
 - b. Adultery (*moichao* G3429 moy-khah´-o) defined.
 - i. to have unlawful intercourse with another's wife (Thayer 417).
 - c. If a spouse divorces and marries another person **without** this exception, then adultery is committed ([Mt. 19:9b](#)).
 - d. If a person marries the one that is divorced due to fornication, then they commit adultery ([Mt. 19:9c](#)).
 - e. After the divorce, only the innocent person (the spouse who did not commit fornication) is permitted to remarry another eligible person.
 - i. Why? God dissolves the original marriage and permits the innocent person to remarry an eligible person.
 - f. With divorce a possibility, we restate marriage as one **eligible** man and one **eligible** woman joined together by God for **one** lifetime with only **one** exception.