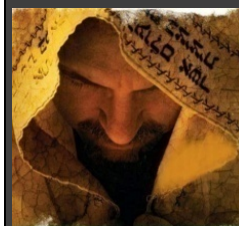


Jews For Yeshua

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To the Torah & the Testimony
If anyone does not speak according to these words
It is because they have no light in them.
Yesh'yahu (Isaiah) 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 14:12



On Divorce and Remarriage

In the contemporary Biblical culture of America today we have an issue that has become rampant within the community of believers, an issue that has become possibly just as rampant as the pornography of secular society has become. That issue is the issue of Divorce and Remarriage.

Why is this an issue? Plain and simply, because under most circumstances it is defined by Scripture, and by Yeshua's own words, as adulterous. But we have failed to grasp the gravity of it all because in our westernized American culture we have been taught to believe that the Law has been done away, and #2, as a result, we have come to believe that only violation of cultural expectations is sin, but that any commandment in Scripture inconsistent with the cultural norms of American society are optional, and in some cases even considered to be extreme if obeyed.

However, it is not society's values that are to prevail over the commandments and requirements of our Creator in the lives of His people, but His commandments and standards that are to prevail. His Scriptures reflect His standard, which is the very product of His voice and imprint of His mind; and beside His standard is no other standard of absolute, or life giving truth. So if we are His people, then it is His will, as reflected in His commandments that we are to adhere to, regardless of what our culture says is right and wrong to the contrary.

In the case of American culture, we have come to believe that sex offenders are only those who rape women and molest children. But we have forgotten that our Heavenly Father says pre-marital relations in all forms is a sex offense against His standard. Whether it is sleeping with someone you are not married to, pornography, prostitution, or sleeping with another man's wife or with somebody other than your husband. All of these sexual behaviors in our Heavenly Father's eyes are sin. He invented sex, and He determines the proper boundaries of its use, and any perversion of that intended design only leads to broken relationships and ultimately, to spiritual death.

Yeshua, likewise, when He spoke on the matter of divorce and remarriage, made it very clear that divorce is only lawful under certain conditions, and that if anybody divorces under any other condition and then remarries, that they have committed adultery because the former marriage was not lawfully dissolved.

So in this study we will go and see what the Scriptures have to say concerning the matter of divorce, adultery, and remarriage.

The Emissary Shaul stated in **II Timothy 3:16** that all Scripture is inspired by our Heavenly Father and is beneficial for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, and the only “Scripture” that existed was the “Old” Testament, or what we would call the “Tenach”, for as of the time of the writing of that statement most of the “New” Testament had still not yet been written.

So diving in now into Yeshua’s words, and into the words of Scripture, let us dig in, for it won’t take you long to begin comprehending from Scripture that divorce and re-marriage, in most circumstances, is unlawful, because the divorce itself was unlawful. As such, you will come to understand why it is an absolute must that we rethink this matter with great sobriety *and consider at minimum, refraining from any further sexual relations with those we may be unlawfully married to.*

As it is written,

*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge; **Evreem (Hebrews) 13:4***

NT Fornication (pre-marital relations) verses, Greek word “porneia” (*G4202)

All sexual relations outside of the marriage covenant made between a male and a female human. It refers to all pre-marital relations, including prostitution, homosexuality, bestiality (sex with animals), and incest, as well as pornography, voyeurism, and sex with inanimate objects, oral sex and anal sex. Metaphorically, it sometimes also refers to the consumption of foods offered up to other gods. The worship of false gods, and idol worship.

VERSES CONTAINING THIS WORD MARKED WITH A “P” For **P**ornographic/Pre-marital.

NT Adultery word involving adultery in general, Greek word “moicheuō” (+G3431)

For a man is to have sexual relations with another man's wife, or for a lawfully married man to have sex with any woman he does not have a marriage covenant with, or who as a married man engages in prostitution, homosexuality, bestiality (sex with animals), and incest, as well as pornography, voyeurism and sex with inanimate objects. Metaphorically, it sometimes also refers to the consumption of foods offered up to other gods, the worship of false gods, and idol worship. (Divorce and remarriage, Greek word (~G3429) is included in this definition).

For a woman is to have sexual relations with anyone or anything outside of her lawful husband, including prostitution, homosexuality, bestiality (sex with animals), and incest, as well as pornography, voyeurism and sex with inanimate objects. Metaphorically, it sometimes also refers to the consumption of foods offered up to other gods, the worship of false gods, and idol worship. (Divorce and remarriage, Greek word (~G3429) is included in this definition).

VERSES CONTAINING THIS WORD MARKED WITH AN “A” For **A**dulterous.

NT Adultery word specific to sex with divorced women, Greek word “moichaō” (~G3429)

To have intercourse with a woman who has not been lawfully divorced. (This Greek word refers only to this specific category of Adultery).

VERSES CONTAINING THIS WORD MARKED WITH AN “D” For Adultery with a **D**ivorced Woman.

Beginning with Yeshua's words as recorded in Mattit'yahu (Matthew), here are all the verses that deal with the issues of divorce and adultery.

Adultery of any kind

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:27 (A) "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery (+G3431)."

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:28 (A) "But I say to you that whoever looks at a [married] woman to lust for her has already committed adultery (+G3431) with her in his heart."

Yehochanan (John) 8:4 (A) They said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery (+G3431), in the very act."

Adultery with a divorced woman

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:31 Furthermore it has been said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce."

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:32 (P,D) "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason other than for pre-marital sexual relations (*G4202) causes her to commit adultery (~G3429); and whoever marries a woman who is divorced from her husband for any reason outside of this commits adultery" (~G3429).

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 19:9 (P,D) And I say unto you, "Whosoever shall divorce his wife, other than for discovering that she has engaged in sex outside of marriage (*G4202) and shall marry another commits adultery (~G3429): and whosoever marries her who has been divorced from her husband for any reason outside of this commits adultery" (~G3429).

Mark 10:11 (D) So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery (~G3429) against her.

Mark 10:12 (D) "And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery (~G3429)."

Luke 16:18 (A) "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery (+G3431); and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery (+G3431)."

Here are the words of Moshe (Followed by Yeshua's Correction of Moshe's Judgment) D'varim (Deuteronomy) 24

24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some sexual uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts [it] in her hand, *and sends her out of his house,*

24:2 when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's [wife],

24:3 "[if] the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts [it] in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,

24:4 "[then] her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that [is] an abomination before יהוה, and you shall not bring sin on the

land which יהוה your God is giving you [as] an inheritance.

Yeshua's Correction of this Judgment

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 19:3-9

19:3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,

19:5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

19:6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

19:7 They said to Him, "***Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?***" D'varim (Deuteronomy) 24

19:8 *Yeshua 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.*

19:9 *"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*

Here is the judgment of the Emissary Shaul that might also possibly be in error as Moshe's personal judgment was, and as Ezra 9:1-10:12 implies it possibly is – only in this case, in a situation where one would expect from Scripture a divorce to be mandatory due to the prohibition in Scripture of marrying unbelievers, unless the Emissary Shaul here is speaking in reference to those who were married as unbelievers, and then later one became a believer, while the other one did not; in which case the Emissary Shaul's ruling would seem reasonable and not in conflict with the requirement of Scripture.

I Corinthians 7:12-15

7:12 But to the rest I, not יהוה, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.

7:13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

7:15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such [cases]...

Divorce & Separation verses		
Deuteronomy 22:13-19	Nehemiah 13:23-31	Matthew 5:31
Deuteronomy 22:28,29	Yerem'yahu (Jeremiah) 3:8	Matthew 19:3-9
Deuteronomy 24:1-4	Malachi 2:16	Mark 10:2-12
Ezra 9:1-10:12	Matthew 1:19	I Corinthians 7:10,11

A man may never divorce a wife who he falsely accused of not being a virgin on their wedding night. **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:13-19**

- A man who seduces an unbetrothed virgin shall pay the woman's father 50 shekels of silver, marry her, and may never divorce her. **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:28,29**
- A man can divorce a woman during the betrothal due to discovery of uncleanness/fornication committed by the woman prior to or during the betrothal. **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 24:1-4; Mattit'yahu 1:18,19**
- Divorce is permissible for adultery in the absence of the death penalty. Scepter of judgment would pass from Judah; **B'resheet (Genesis) 49:10**. All judgment is given to Yeshua, and Yeshua in turn defers on imposing capital punishment, allowing greater opportunity for repentance; **Yehochanan (John) 5:22; 8:10,11**. Bill of Divorce given to Israel during her betrothal period (betrothal was at Mt. Sinai, Marriage will be at Yeshua's return); **Yerem'yahu (Jeremiah) 3:8**. Death penalty cannot be imposed in the absence of two or more witnesses; **B'midbar (Numbers) 35:30; D'varim (Deuteronomy) 17:6,7; 19:15**, in which case divorce under **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 24:1-4** becomes a "potential" option.
- Our Heavenly Father *hates* divorce. **Malachi 2:16**
- Divorce due to a wife's pre-marital relations takes place during the betrothal. **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 1:19**
- Divorce must be put into writing. **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:31**
- Yeshua rebukes the leaders interpretation of Moshe's position on divorce stated in **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 24:1-4** (see next page), stating that it can only take place in light of evidence revealing that fornication (pre-marital relations) has taken place. **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 19:3-9**
- Divorce for any reason outside of fornication, and that involves marrying a new person after the "unlawful" divorce, is considered adultery in Scripture; **Mark 10:2-12**. This is because a valid vow has been made, and cannot be broken or nullified through an unlawfully given divorce.
- The wife is not to leave her husband, but if she does leave, she must remain single or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. **I Corinthians 7:10,11**

Examples of Separation in place of Divorce

- After the Babylonian captivity the faithful sons of Israel separated themselves from all of their pagan wives (the Hebrew word here is not the Hebrew word for divorce). **Ezra 9:1-10:12; Nehem'yah (Nehemiah) 13:23-31**
- Separation for spiritual adultery (worshipping idols/other gods) is consistent with **Ezra 9:1-10:12; and I Corinthians 7:12-16**.

Adultery verses		
Exodus 20:14 V'yikra (Leviticus) 20:10 Numbers 5:11-31 Deuteronomy 5:18	Deuteronomy 22:13,14,20,21 Deuteronomy 22:22 Deuteronomy 22:23,24	Deuteronomy 22:25-27 Mishlei (Proverbs) 6:32 Jeremiah 3:8;

*Adultery is forbidden; **Shemot (Exodus) 20:14 (Also, V'yikra (Leviticus) 20:10; D'varim (Deuteronomy) 5:18)***

- *The adulteress whose adultery is hidden, and who has no witnesses against her, is not stoned, but will be cursed and not able to bear children. **B'midbar (Numbers) 5:11-31***
- *A woman accused of lying about being a virgin on her wedding night is treated the same as an adulteress; **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:13,14,20,21***
- *A man who has sex with another's man's wife, both of them must die. **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:22.***
- *A man who has sex with another man's fiancée, both of them must die. **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:23,24***
- *A man who rapes another man's fiancée, the man must die. **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:25-27***
- *They who commit adultery destroy their own souls; **Mishlei (Proverbs) 6:32***

Marriage to a Woman who has prostituted herself in the past is allowed

- *It is okay to take a woman as a wife who has engaged in prostitution (pre-marital relations) in her past. **Hoshea (Hosea) 1:1,2.** Though according to Yeshua, a man can divorce a woman who has engaged in pre-marital relations (*G4202); **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:32.** The time of this divorce would take place during the betrothal period (as in the example of Joseph and Miriam; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 1:19**), for fornication (pre-marital relations) discovered concerning a woman's past after the marriage vows have taken place causes her previously committed pre-marital relations to be treated the same as if she had committed adultery; **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 22:13,14,20,21.***
- ***D'varim (Deuteronomy) 24:1-4** is an exception when the first marriage was to a wife taken captive in warfare, for she was not a free woman in her first marriage; **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 21:10-14**, but in her second marriage she was free, and so if divorced a second time (her first time as a free woman) she cannot return to the first husband, for she is now unclean. Also, concerning capital punishment, self-confession without a second eye witness to the actual event of accusation does not substitute for the minimum requirement of two or three eye witnesses to the event. So if a woman were to confess her adultery to her husband in remorse of what she did, and there were no other eye witnesses to the act, then she could not receive the death penalty under that circumstance, though separation would be an option; **B'midbar (Numbers) 5:1-31.***

Our Heavenly Father's View on Vows and Oaths

For this study it is also important to establish the serious and binding nature of vows. For the marriage covenant that is activated at the conclusion of the betrothal period during the wedding

ceremony is a vow; and vows cannot be broken, and can only be neutralized under the most specific of circumstances (by death of spouse, or in the case of a woman, by a woman's father or husband upon the first time they hear the woman's vow proclaimed, thus the reason at traditional weddings why it is stated that if there are any who object to the marriage, "to speak now or forever hold their peace"). And where separation is allowed (not divorce) for the reasons mentioned above of pre-marital relations that had been hidden prior to the vow, for adultery discovered in the absence of two or more eye witnesses, and in the case of unlawful marriages, such as with a believer to a pagan, as a homosexual union, to an animal, as an incestuous union, or other forbidden relation in which cases the original vows would have been unlawful to make to begin with.

Lawful Vows and Oaths cannot be broken.

Vow = *Neder/Nadar* H5087/5088; Swear = *Shaba* H7650

-Vows involve the commitment *to give or dedicate* someone or something to God or before God.

-Swearing is a promise *to do something* for God, *and/or to confirm something* to God or before God.

V'yikra (Leviticus) 5:4 Or if a soul swears (takes an oath), pronouncing with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knows of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these.

B'midbar (Numbers) 30:1 Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, ***This is the thing which יהוה has commanded:***

B'midbar (Numbers) 30:2 "If a man makes a vow to יהוה, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth."

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 23:21 "When you make a vow to יהוה your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for יהוה your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you."

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 5:4 "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed."

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 5:5 "Better not to vow than to vow and not pay."

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 12:36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to יהוה'."

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;"

Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:36 "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

Yaaqov (James) 5:12 "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," be "No," lest you fall into condemnation."

For more on vows see **B'midbar (Numbers) 30:1-16** on how a woman's vows are treated; and **Evreem (Hebrews) 11:32** concerning Yephthah, a man who the Scriptures present as one of the great men of faith, but who fulfilled his vow to Adonai in a way that most would consider unthinkable in western culture today.

From these it can be seen why it is that divorce can only occur during the betrothal period, and only upon discovering that the bride to be is not a virgin as a result of having engaged in pre-marital relations; because the marriage vow has not been made yet. But once the vow has been made, then it becomes neutralized only by the death of one of the marriage partners. Or if the vow was unlawful, then the woman can be separated from the husband, but cannot engage in any sexual relations with any future partners.

As it is written concerning the woman,

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 desires, though only in Yeshua.

And concerning the man,

I Corinthians 7:27, Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek to have a wife.

This last verse brings us to our final consideration. Becoming a eunuch, or choosing to voluntarily abstain from sexual relations under questionable circumstances.

First, if after studying the above verses you find yourself in an unlawful marriage, you may decide to divorce and remain single or you may decide to remain together, but refrain from any further sexual relations, and/or you may decide to become a eunuch. Or you may decide to stay together and ignore the warnings in these Scriptures which are designed to protect you not just from a temporal earthly perspective, but also from the eternal perspective, to keep your soul safe from eternal harm. Or you may decide something else altogether. The choice is yours to make.

Me and my wife, have chosen to refrain from sexual relations because of the pollutions introduced into our minds as youths. It has done nothing but strengthen our marriage and our spiritual walk. So this is a good option for those who have the confidence within themselves to know without a shadow of a doubt that they can resist the desire to engage in sex in the face of any temptation that can arise within a marriage.

In addition to our mutual commitment to chastity, I also became a eunuch (I actually did this just before we married), for I was incapable of resisting my urges in the presence of testosterone, which is the hormone that awakens the sexual part of the brain. Without testosterone present that part of the brain simply remains dormant. As a result, me and my wife have had complete

success in keeping our relationship pure and undefiled by the contaminations of our youth; and our spiritual walk in Yeshua has been blessed beyond comprehension in many ways as a direct result.

If you are considering the option of becoming a eunuch, then please read our abbreviated study on our website entitled, "On Becoming a Eunuch", or for the full testimony of my life and decision in the Master Yeshua, you can obtain the book, by the same title, at amazon.com or [Barnes and Noble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com).

May you make the right choice in these matters, and have good success in all your relations with both man and God.

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