

Angie's Marriage Column ~ July 27, 2011

My husband divorced me but now wants to remarry me again. Do I have to remarry him?

Ask Angie: I have a rather detailed question to ask. My now ex husband committed adultery endlessly during our 4 year marriage with many women. He left me and our son during year 2 and divorced me. He had his parental rights revoked so I now have full custody. Fast forward a year and a half after a divorce, he says he's sorry for everything and wants a second chance. I have forgiven him as a person over the years and I'll allow him to see his son. However, I'm not obligated to remarry him am I? I can be friendly toward him. Isn't that enough? I have no problem remaining celibate. Do I HAVE to marry him again?

Marriage Guidance: Who said you were even divorced? Some state? Can mere men separate what God joined? Biblically speaking you are still married to your husband. This area is where many couples unwittingly go astray from God's Word. They think they can sign an official looking piece of paperwork that says they are divorced and now they're good to remarry. But this is false and misleading information.

Matthew Chapter 19

Jesus Speaks Concerning Divorce

“Have you not read, That he that made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together; let not man put asunder.”

Nowhere in the New Testament does it talk about divorcing your spouse or getting remarried to a different person. Jesus only reiterates why Moses allowed the “writing of divorcement.” It was because of hardened hearts. The Pharisees always trying to get Jesus to stumble in his talk asked Jesus why Moses gave the writing of divorcement and the ability to put away their wives. And Jesus answered, *“Moses (not God) because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.”*

Nothing has changed from the beginning up to today, *it* still is not so.

This is why it says in The Word of God that when a (supposedly divorced) man or woman remarries he or she is committing adultery. The adultery is caused by the remarriage. *“Whosoever shall **put away** his wife, and marry another, commiteth adultery against her. And if a woman shall **put away** her husband, and be married she committeth adultery.”*

Notice it doesn't say “divorce” it says ***put away***. Put away, like hiding or stowing something out of sight. This is what divorce is today. You're still married but since you “put them” away they are out of sight out

of mind, so to speak. People think that just because some person behind a desk says they are divorced then it's ok to remarry another, but as you can see, it is considered adultery in God's eyes.

The bottom line is the bill of divorcement that Moses carried out was for the unbelievers and divorce today is for unbelievers!! So then you have to decide "who you are". Are you a follower of Jesus Christ and His ways, or are you a follower of the world and its ways? Divorce and remarriage are worldly acts.

Divorcing your spouse (putting them away) by signing a piece of paper may clear your conscience to remarry and give you the ability to marry someone else according to the state, but the truth of the matter is **the person you "put away" is still your husband or wife according to God**, no matter what a piece of paper says.

Do you see now why [marriage preparation according to God's principles](#) is so VERY important? This is what [Godly courtship](#) is all about: Preparation for marriage. If we were more prepared for how relationships should be, in Godly ways, perhaps our young people would not make the same mistake that more than half of all American's make because they are not emotionally, mentally, or spiritually ready for marriage.

Bottom Line

The "one flesh" marriage covenant was established by God, the Creator of the world. He is the Architect, Designer and Controller of marriage. What one controls one owns. Your marriage vows/promise to each other in marriage belong to God. So then how can signing your name on a piece of paperwork end this covenant with God? It can't!

Fortunately, your husband has come to his senses and realizes his error and wants his marriage and family back. Now, there is nothing saying that you and your husband can't renew your vows with each other, or recommit your marriage to God. But the truth is you are still married. And your husband is still the father of your children even though some person behind a desk said he couldn't be a father to his children anymore.

The real issue here is in you and your husband's non commitment to God and His truth for your lives. Don't be like everybody else and carry on as if you are not married. Think about this: If you don't remarry or renew your vows with your husband he might marry another woman causing him to commit adultery. You don't want that for him or for yourself, do you? Let your husband know that you want to work on the marriage on a Godly foundation, applying God's principles and wisdom into your actions for your marriage. What this means is you will recommit your lives to each other and live your marriage through Godly means and ways, not how the world does things. Commit your lives to God so you can then commit your lives to each other!

For everyone involved it is best to pray about this with great sincerity of heart and ask God for guidance. [Start trusting in God and His ways for your marriage](#) and it can and will be restored.

Realize that this person whom you married is your husband until death do you part. Our biblical suggestion to you is to [make the best of your relationship](#) and [be committed to what you started](#) and work on restoring the intimacy and emotional closeness that has been severed.

Both of you need to come together in Jesus Christ and ask Him to help you [restore the love that has been lost](#). The cause of the rift between the two of you is your husband's indiscretions, but you must forgive him and move on. Do not take the adultery (lust temptation) personal. [Most people do not have affairs because of who they are married to but because of a default in their own spiritual self](#)—they have to get the inner healing they need through Jesus Christ.

[Love your husband!](#)

[Husband's love your wife!](#)

[Be Love!](#)

[Love each other](#) with sincerity and not with dissimulation. Read the bible more. Study the bible together and do what it says. **Be** what you read from God's Word. Follow Jesus Christ and stay faithful to Him in heart, mind, and soul. Be a child of God. Be a Godly example to others; Show others how Christ is working in you to make you a better person for Him and for others. Be ever so thankful that God has given us the ability to change our lives through Jesus Christ!

Live joyfully with the wife (husband) whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in *this* life, and in they labour which thou takest under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 9:9)

In Christ,
Frank and Angie
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