

Divorce or Remarriage, which is the 'sin' ?

by WmTipton

[Assertions/Conclusions of this Article](#)

We hear from a vocal few that it isn't the divorce that is the problem, but instead is the remarriage that God hates and is where the 'real' sin is.

Here is a very clear statement from L:

L:

I don't believe the issue for most of us is so much divorce, but it is in the remarriage----which Jesus calls adultery.

This is precisely the point, so bear this in mind. These doctrines literally teach that God is 'ok' with putting away and divorce, but only the remarriage is the issue.

In this article we will show that taking of a second wife wasn't the sin, the core sin is right where God says it is when He says "I hate putting away"

[Supporting Evidence](#)

Lets start with this foundational verse to see what God says He hates.

Mal 2:16

For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. (KJV)

Jehovah, the God of Israel, says, He hates sending away, and to cover with violence on his garment, says Jehovah of Hosts. Then guard your spirit and do not act treacherously.(LITV)

We see clearly that what GOD claims to 'hate' is putting away. As you can see this is in direct conflict with the statement made by the person above.

When a man remarries, he basically has taken a second wife. Whether he is defined as a polygamist or not would be determined by his either still being married to his previous wife or whether he had put her away. I spent quite a while trying to prove that taking of a second wife was forbidden in scriptures, at the very least in the New Testament. To my dismay there is no prohibition in taking a second wife while one is still married to the former wife and the only passage in the scripture that lays out any certain restriction would only prevent deacons and Bishops from having more than a single wife. Sadly this actually directly implies that there COULD be regular joes like you and me in the church who were married to more than a single wife.

If taking a second wife while the first one lived were the REAL problem here as "L" has asserted above, then Gods tolerance of polygamy in BOTH covenants makes no sense whatsoever.

At the very least we should see CLEAR law prohibiting this act, and if not law, then at least some New covenant prohibition by Jesus Himself.

Regrettably there is nothing.

We could attempt to say that Jesus returned things to a Garden-like environment where it was one man and one woman, but the problem there again is Pauls restriction for the bishops and deacons, that these leaders be of one wife, that does not exist for the church as a whole.

If this 'law of the husband' were so absolute then surely there ought to be something somewhere in Gods word for ALL men to never take a second wife.

But the fact is we see that God not only has tolerated the taking of a second wife, but the law also promoted such a scenario when it commanded a man to take his dead brothers childless wife as his own....even if he was already married.

The stage is actually set against anyone who claims that it is the taking of a second spouse while the first lives is the real 'issue' here.

Dont misunderstand, I do not believe God wanted men to take multiple wives, but I do believe that He has not condemned or prohibited it based on my fairly extensive study on the matter.

When we add this to what God Himself says to 'hate', putting away, and then start to see what was going on with the Jews as a whole with their callously throwing out their wives and in many cases they were just trading up for a newer model, we begin to understand that posters like the one above are entirely wrong. It isnt the taking of a second wife that is the core issue here. It is exactly what GOD Himself has said, He hates putting away.

When Christ came on the scene He was dealing with the same old nonsense that Moses had in the desert with the Hebrews. They were casting out spouses on a whim and now they had Moses to play the scapegoat for them. See, Moses had dealt with this frivolous putting away in the desert (see Lev 21) and at the end of the 40 year trek there Moses gave a repetition of the laws in speeches to this younger generation of Hebrews, the children of that generation who had sinned so greatly against the Lord, and in those speeches (which we see presented in Deuteronomy) Moses gave a regulation to this hardhearted putting away as shown in Deut 24:1-4. This was Gods way, through Moses, of trying to get this people to stop treating marriage like it was a dating service. What ended up happening though, was by the time of Christ the Jews had turned this regulation into a 'commandment' so that now instead of their being restricted by it, they literally were using it to 'command' themselves to put their wives away for any ambiguous 'uncleaness' ("for every cause") they might find in her.

In that regulation in [Deut 24:1-4 the wording shows that these men had been putting away their wives for some ambiguous 'uncleaness'](#). Something that they found about her that they didnt like to use as an excuse to throw her out over. No one says they want a divorce without giving some reason, that would make THEM look bad. So they have to find something about this person that is detestable so that it is the fault of the person being cast out.

In Jesus day these men were not only casting out these wives for no good reason, but as Matthew 19 shows, they literally were making it Moses 'commandment' that they do so.

So we ask ourselves....Divorce or Remarriage, which is the 'sin' ?

What did God say He hates ?

That answer is very plain...very easy. God HATES putting away.

So where does Jesus come in ? What about His saying that we commit adultery upon remarriage?

That is quite easy too, given the situation.

Remember the Jews were making it a 'commandment' for them to put away their wives 'for every cause' ?

These men literally believed that what they were doing was not sinful. Since Moses had supposedly commanded it, they were without guilt in the matter. They literally had convinced their darkened minds that the were not sinning in the least by casting out a wife into the streets who had done no wrong.

When Jesus tells them that they ARE committing adultery when they do this, Jesus is letting them know that they ARE sinning even if they believe themselves guiltless. Apparently they had heard His teaching in Matthew 5 on the matter, and so came to 'test' Him later as presented in chapter 19.

There He not only tells them, when they ask about this 'for every cause' divorcement, that they DO commit adultery when they do this vile thing, but they also drag this innocent woman into their own sin and their sin even affects the man that will eventually marry this woman.

This sin of the hardhearted mans is FAR reaching, drawing in everyone around him.

Of course we notice that Jesus did not say that this innocent wife was prohibited from marrying again, but instead clearly shows that she almost certainly will marry again.

Given the details as a whole, that the taking of a second wife is never prohibited in Gods word, and showing what GOD has said He hates, along with the details of this hardhearted, frivolous divorcement, its easy enough to understand that PUTTING AWAY IS the issue..the WHOLE issue..as far as God is concerned.