

# Guiding Principles for Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

- 1** Marriage is the sacred union between one man and one woman.  
*Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27*
- 2** Marriage is intended to be an exclusive and lifelong union.  
*Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:7-9; Romans 7:2; Hebrews 13:4*
- 3** Marriage is meant to reflect Christ's relationship with His church.  
*Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 19:6-9*
- 4** Death nullifies the covenant of marriage and the remaining spouse is free to remarry another believer.  
*Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 & 39-40*
- 5** Divorce is permissible in certain situations, but it is never required.  
*Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:7-8; Mark 10:4-5; 1 Corinthians 7:12-15*
- 6** Divorce is only permissible on the grounds of sexual immorality or desertion by an unbelieving spouse.  
*Matthew 5:31-32, 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:12-15*
- 7** When a believer is divorced without biblical grounds, any subsequent remarriage (to someone other than original spouse) results in adultery.  
*Matthew 5:32, 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18*
- 8** When a believer is divorced on biblical grounds, remarriage is also permissible.  
*Matthew 5:32, 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:12-15*
- 9** Improperly divorced believers should remain single or else be reconciled to their former spouse.  
*1 Corinthians 7:10-11*
- 10** Improperly divorced and remarried Christians should remain in their current marriages, but repent and receive the forgiveness of Christ.  
*Psalms 103:8-12; John 8:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 7:27; 1 John 1:9*