

“Divorce and Remarriage Fact Sheet”

- Historians agree that the early church did not approve of remarriage after divorce.¹
- Outside of the exception verses in Matthew, biblical scholars generally agree that the New Testament condemns divorce and remarriage.

The Passage	The Explanation	The Position
Mark 10:11 ¹¹ “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.”	Any man who divorces his wife and weds another woman commits adultery against his first wife.	Divorce + remarriage = adultery
Mark 10:12 ¹² and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”	Any woman who divorces her husband and weds another man commits adultery against her first husband.	
Luke 16:18a ¹⁸ “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery	Any man who divorces his wife and weds another woman commits adultery against his first wife.	
Luke 16:18b ... and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.	A man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. [Notice, no exception! And no so-called “innocent party”. Even if the divorced woman is “innocent”, the one who marries her commits adultery, no exception.]	Marriage to divorced woman=adultery
1 Corinthians 7:10–11a ¹⁰ But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband ¹¹ (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband),	Paul gives Jesus’ instructions (“not I, but the Lord”). A wife must not divorce her husband. If she does, (1 she must remain single for life or (2 she must be reconciled to her husband.	No divorce, no remarriage, only reconcile.

¹ The early church followed a strict understanding of Jesus’ words. Most of the church fathers (the generation of leaders after the apostles) allowed separation but not divorce in the case of adultery. They also forbade remarriage in any case except the death of a spouse. *Remarriage after Divorce in Today’s Church: 3 Views* (Counterpoints: Church Life) (Kindle Locations 179-181). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

<p>1 Corinthians 7:11b ... and that the husband should not divorce his wife.</p>	<p>Paul continues Jesus' instructions. The husband must not seek to divorce his wife.</p>	<p>No divorce, no remarriage, only reconcile.</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 7:39 ³⁹ A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.</p>	<p>Wife is bound to her living husband. Only if he's dead, is she free to remarry a Christian.</p>	<p>No remarriage to a different spouse until death.</p>

The Positions on Unclear Passages

	<p>No Divorce, No Remarriage</p>	<p>Divorce, but no remarriage</p>	<p>Divorce and remarriage</p>
<p>Matthew 5:32</p>	<p><i>Porneia</i>, in light of Deut. 22:13-21, refers to discovered premarital relations that were previously concealed.</p>	<p><i>Porneia</i> refers to any adulterous behavior after marriage begins.</p>	<p><i>Porneia</i> refers to any adulterous behavior after marriage begins.</p>
<p>Matthew 19:9</p>	<p>Divorce + remarriage=adultery except when concealed premarital relations are discovered.</p>	<p>Divorce + remarriage=adultery. Divorce is allowed for adultery, but not remarriage, since the exception clause refers only to divorcing, not remarrying.</p>	<p>Divorce + remarriage=adultery, except when there is adultery in the marriage. Then, divorce and remarriage of the innocent party is allowed.</p>