

## **Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15)** *Divorce and Remarriage*

**Answer the following false positions on the back of this paper:**

“But someone asks: <sup>1</sup>What about a woman who is put away (divorced) by a man simply because the man no longer wanted to be married? Fornication is not involved and the woman repeatedly tried to prevent the divorce, but to no avail. After a couple of years the man marries another woman. <sup>2</sup>Is the ‘put way’ woman then free to marry? <sup>3</sup>She certainly is, if she puts away her husband for fornication. <sup>4</sup>She would have to do this before God in purpose of heart since the divorce has already taken place, legally speaking. She could not go through the process of having a legal document charging her husband with ‘adultery,’ but God would know...” (**Weldon E. Warnock**; Searching the Scriptures, November issue, 1985)

<sup>5</sup>If, as some say, the universal moral law under which the Gentiles lived (and all now live) is taken out of the way at the cross, and those in the world are now under Christ’s law (the gospel), what now is the ground of death? <sup>6</sup>Christ’s law cannot make dead, because Christ’s system makes alive. What does this have to do with the subject of marriage - divorce - remarriage? <sup>7</sup>It simply shows that the people of the world are under a system of law other than Christ’s new covenant. <sup>8</sup>They are under the universal moral law of God, and the violation of this law makes one a sinner... <sup>9</sup>This law, though never codified in written form, was never abrogated" (**Homer Hailey**; *The Divorced and Remarried Who Would Come To God*; Page 37; 47).

<sup>10</sup>It should also be observed that neither Paul nor Christ legislated on marriage, divorce, and remarriage for two unbelievers. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, we have no right to bind on people in the world the law of Christ, which He bound on two married people who are in His covenant. Once they obey the gospel they come under Christ’s law in this matter and they are not to divorce and remarry except for fornication" (**James D. Bales**; *Not Under Bondage*; Page 10).

“The question invariably arises as to whether Jesus has made any definitive statement concerning the "legal right" of a divorced person, whether they be the innocent or guilty party, to remarry. Would God view such a remarriage as sinful, or would it be an acceptable union in His sight?

Some theologians theorize that the innocent party may acceptably remarry, but the guilty party may not. Others adamantly declare that neither may remarry. Both state far more than Jesus! <sup>12</sup>God’s Son spoke of both innocent and guilty parties remarrying, and always spoke of those unions in terms which characterized them as legitimate marriages. Jesus neither condemned nor condoned those unions by any direct teaching; He merely acknowledged their reality: A first marriage had been terminated, and a second marriage had been initiated. The prohibiting of marriage to any or all parties involved in a divorce simply cannot be justified by an appeal to the teaching of Jesus Christ. Such restrictions find their source and support only in the minds of men” (**Al Maxey**; *Down, But not Out*; <http://www.zianet.com/maxey/mdrbook.htm>).

1. She is to remain unmarried or be reconciled (I Corinthians 7:10-11).
2. No, she is commanded to remain unmarried (I Corinthians 7:10-11). If she does remarry, she becomes an adulterer just as her husband who remarried (Matthew 5:32, Mark 10:10-12, and Romans 7:1-3).
3. This is the cause coming after the affect (Matthew 19:9). The marriage that ends for reasons other than fornication, makes both parties just as “unmarried” as one who has never been joined to another (I Corinthians 7:8; 10-11).
4. Sin can be committed by thoughts (Matthew 5:27-28). However, being minded to carry out a “putting away” [divorce] and doing it are two separate matters (Matthew 1:18-20). Furthermore, if mental divorce is possible, why not mental marriages, baptisms, etc.?
5. First off, we know that all mankind is under the law of Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-15 and Ephesians 2:11-16). Secondly, the basis of death is sin (Romans 6:23), which is transgression of the law (I John 3:4). All unrighteousness is sin (I John 5:17). Righteousness is revealed through the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17). What does a non-Christian have to repent of if never under the law (Acts 17:30; cf. Acts 26:18; 20, Luke 13:3, and Matthew 3:8)?
6. It is sin that makes one dead (Ephesians 2:1 and I Timothy 5:5-6). It is obedience that brings one to life (James 1:25). If one does not continue to work righteousness that person will die spiritually under the law of Christ (James 2:14ff., Revelation 3:1, etc.).
7. If Homer was right (HE’S NOT), Jesus and Paul are liars (John 12:48 and II Thessalonians 1:8-9)?
8. Where no law is there cannot be sin (Romans 4:15). Additionally, notice that the law exists to guide because man cannot rightly guide himself (I Timothy 1:9-10; cf. Deuteronomy 12:8, Proverbs 12:15, and Proverbs 20:24). If one’s conscience is essentially his guide, why was Paul considered a sinner (Acts 9:1ff.; cf. Acts 23:1 and I Timothy 1:15). See point 5 also.
9. What??? An unwritten law is not spoken of as guiding men today. Behaviors are learned and the word of God is required to teach men about salvation (II Timothy 3:15-17; cf. Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:1-4). This unwritten law was never guide to all men to be nullified.
10. What believer was addressed in Matthew 19:3-9? Was the Samaritan woman a Christian (John 4:16-19)?
11. If James Bales is right, then as Homer Hailey suggested and we’ve disproven, non-Christians cannot sin and the law of Christ is really a law of bondage. Why convert anyone to a law that restricts them to obedience they didn’t have while outside of Christ?
12. Aside from the exception in Matthew 19:9 of fornication, whosoever marries, divorces, and remarries commits adultery (Luke 16:18). Adultery is plainly condemned throughout the New Testament (I Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, and James 2:10-12). All is down and out!