

## A Study About Elders (Part 3)

### I. Introduction:

A. Marriage is an honorable **relationship** (**Hebrews 13:4**) between a man and a woman whom have a right to each other (**Mark 10:6-9**).

1. It is one **relationship** that allows us to understand more how the Lord views His people (**Isaiah 54:5**, **Jeremiah 3:20**, and **Ephesians 5:22-33**).
2. Think about the spiritual side of marriage as it relates to our lesson on elders (**I Peter 3:7**).

B. Having said that, marriages sometimes end (**I Corinthians 7:10-16**) and that fact brings about questions that generally involve remarriage.

1. Remarriage is a very limited **liberty** (**Matthew 19:3-12** and **I Corinthians 7:39**).
2. Those who are bound to one person and choose to remarry another are committing adultery (**Romans 7:1-3**).
3. Jesus is clear on this subject matter (**John 4:5-18**).

### II. Body: He Must Be The Husband Of One Wife (**I Timothy 3:2**).

A. Could it mean one wife at a time (if lawfully remarried)? Could it mean as long as his first wife was dead when he remarried? Could it just be a qualification that only intends to eliminate polygamy? What does the word "could" tell you (**Romans 14:23**)?

1. We must be able to test and know that what we are doing is acceptable to the Lord (**Jeremiah 7:30-31**, **Ephesians 5:6-10**, and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).
2. Consider again that a widow who was married beyond the death of her first husband was consider "married to another man" (**Romans 7:3**). Does death remove from existence the reality of a first marriage (**Mark 12:19**; cf. **Deuteronomy 25:5-10**)?
3. We have no instruction, example, or clear implication in all of the New Testament that allows a man to be an elder if he is remarried for any reason - lawful or not. Can we authorize something God has not (**Proverbs 30:5-6**, **Isaiah 8:20**, **Galatians 1:6-12**, and **Revelation 22:18-19**)?

B. Considering the singular marriage principle from another text concerning those whom were "widows indeed" (**I Timothy 5:3-10**).

1. In the first century, when these qualifications were written, remarriage wasn't wise for a widow/widower for a reason (**I Corinthians 7:6-9**; **25-28**; **39-40**).
  - a. Can we really conclude that a qualified shepherd would have ignored the authorized wisdom of an Apostle (**Proverbs 12:15**, **Proverbs 19:20**, and **Ephesians 5:15-17**)?

