

Marriage, Divorce And Remarriage

Lesson 1 Lawful And Unlawful Marriages

Introduction

- Tendency – allow emotions to lead us instead of revealed Word of God
- Desire to justify not making hard choices
- Following our emotions is folly and will cause us and others we influence to be lost
- Although sincere, rebellion against God is sin
- God requires obedience above all

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Following Emotions Will Destroy Us

Jer 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Pro 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

3

Rebellion Against God Is Sin

1Sa 15:1 Then Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD.

1Sa 15:3 'Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

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Rebellion Against God Is Sin

1Sa 15:20 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

1Sa 15:21 "But the people took *some* of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

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Rebellion Against God Is Sin

1Sa 15:22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.

1Sa 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from *being* king."

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Marriage, Divorce And Remarriage

Lesson 1 - Lawful And Unlawful Marriages

Lesson 2 - Lawful And Unlawful Divorces

Lesson 3 - Lawful And Unlawful Remarriages

Lesson 4 - Repenting of Unlawful Marriages, Divorces And Remarriages

Lesson 5 - MDR Errors Promoted By Brethren

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Need For This Lesson

- God is the Creator of marriage and is the ultimate authority behind marriage law
- To marry in violation of God's law results in sinful consequences that can cause others and us to be lost
- We need to know what God says about what makes marriages lawful in His sight and avoid marriages that are unlawful in His sight

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Lawful And Unlawful Marriages

Origin of marriage

God's attitude toward marriage

What is marriage?

Does God recognize and approve all marriages?

What are lawful marriages?

What are unlawful marriages?

9

Origin of Marriage

- God is the creator of all things including humanity
- God is the creator of marriage and the supreme authority over marriage and all things
- We must seek to be submissive to Him without hesitation

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God Is Creator of All

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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God Is Creator of All

Gen 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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God Created Marriage For Humanity's Good

Social desires through companionship
Sexual desires in exclusive one flesh relationship
Stable family structure for raising children
God intended marriage to last until death

13

Social Desires Through Companionship

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."
Gen 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

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Social Desires Through Companionship

Gen 2:20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.
Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

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Social Desires Through Companionship

Gen 2:22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.
Gen 2:23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

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Sexual Desires In Exclusive One Flesh Relationship

Gen 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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Sexual Desires In Exclusive One Flesh Relationship

1Co 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.
1Co 7:2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

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Sexual Desires In Exclusive One Flesh Relationship

1Co 7:3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

1Co 7:4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

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Sexual Desires In Exclusive One Flesh Relationship

1Co 7:5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

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Family Structure For Raising Children

Gen 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

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Family Structure For Raising of Children

Gen 18:19 "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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God Intended Marriage To Last Until Death

Mat 19:3 *Some* Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

Mat 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

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God Intended Marriage To Last Until Death

Mat 19:5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?

Mat 19:6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

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God Intended Marriage To Last Until Death

Rom 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

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God Intended Marriage To Last Until Death

1Co 7:39 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.

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Origin of Marriage

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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Origin of Marriage

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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Lawful And Unlawful Marriages

Origin of marriage

God's attitude toward marriage

What is marriage?

Does God recognize and approve all marriages?

What are lawful marriages?

What are unlawful marriages?

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God's Attitude Toward Marriage

- God created marriage for humanity's good
- God views marriage as honorable
- Today – marriage devalued, ridiculed and disregarded by many
- Result – unlawful divorce, adulterous marriages, abused children
- Destruction of families leads to destruction of a nation and of local churches

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God's Attitude Toward Marriage

Deu 6:24 "So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as *it is* today.

Heb 13:4 *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

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Dishonoring Marriage Destroys Nations and Local Churches

Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to *any* people.

1Ti 3:4 *He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity*

1Ti 3:5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

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What Is Marriage?

- Marriage more than intention and agreement
- Marriage more than sexual relationship
- Cultural and most importantly civil actions involved in marriage

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What Is Marriage?

Marriage is an exclusive relationship where a man and a woman agree to assume the responsibilities of husband and wife so that they become one. This relationship is governed by a covenant witnessed by God and confirmed by mutual vows and civil actions.

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What Is Marriage?

Marriage relationship is established by the marriage covenant that includes

Mutual agreement

Making vows, an oath

Public confirmation of marriage

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What Is Marriage?

Pro 2:16 To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words;

Pro 2:17 That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God;

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What Is Marriage?

Mal 2:14 "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

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Mutual Agreement

- Mutual agreement on decision to marry and responsibilities
- Engagement period usually follows
- Sexual relations forbidden until intention of marriage is completed by vows and public confirmation

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Mutual Agreement

Mat 19:5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?

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Making Vows, An Oath

- Usually vows given in some type of ceremony where promises are made before God and witnesses to uphold marriage responsibilities
- Although we speak before others, our obligations are to God who has created marriage
- Vows should be taken with greatest seriousness to carry them out

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Making Vows, An Oath

Ecc 5:4 When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for *He takes* no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!

Ecc 5:5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

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Public Confirmation of Marriage

- Some action or event occurs to indicate publicly marriage relationship has begun
- Can vary from culture to culture and from government to government
- Confirming events can either be cultural or civil or in most cases both
- Without formal confirmation, there is no marriage covenant

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Public Confirmation of Marriage

Gen 29:22 Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast.

Gen 29:23 Now in the evening he took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; and *Jacob* went in to her.

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Public Confirmation of Marriage

Rom 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Rom 13:2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

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Public Confirmation of Marriage

Gal 3:15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

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Is A Sexual Union Necessary For A Marriage To Be Valid?

- False teaching – marriage not valid until couple has sexual relations
- Sexual relationship is a privilege of marriage not a condition for marriage
- One must be married first in order to have lawful sexual relations
- Marriage of Joseph and Mary existed without sexual relations

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Is A Sexual Union Necessary For A Marriage To Be Valid?

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

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Is A Sexual Union Necessary For A Marriage To Be Valid?

Mat 1:20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife,

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Is A Sexual Union Necessary For A Marriage To Be Valid?

Mat 1:25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

- God intended marriage to last until death
- When two are first lawfully married, God joins them together and binds them to His marriage law
- God recognizes but does not approve of sinful marriages that result from people marrying against His authority
- God calls these sinful marriages adultery

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

- God recognizes but does not approve sinful divorces
- Sinful divorces end lawful marriages
- But sinful divorces do not end a person's obligation to obey God's marriage law
- Although God recognizes a sinful marriage, it must be ended since it is a violation of God's marriage law

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

Rom 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

Luk 16:18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

Mat 19:6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Mat 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

Mat 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

Mar 6:17 For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.

Mar 6:18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

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Does God Recognize And Approve All Marriages?

1Co 7:10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

1Co 7:11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

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What Are Lawful Marriages?

- We will focus on situations where at least one person has the God-given right to marry for the first time
- In two of three lawful marriage situations, the one never married may marry those who have a right to remarry
- More on remarriage in a later lesson

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What Are Lawful Marriages?

Case 1 - Both persons have never been married before

Case 2 - One never married before and one whose lawful mate has died and they have right to remarry

Case 3 - One never married before and one who divorced their lawful mate for fornication and they have right to remarry

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Both Never Married

Mat 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

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One Never Married and One Widowed From Lawful Mate

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Rom 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

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One Never Married and One Who Divorced For Fornication

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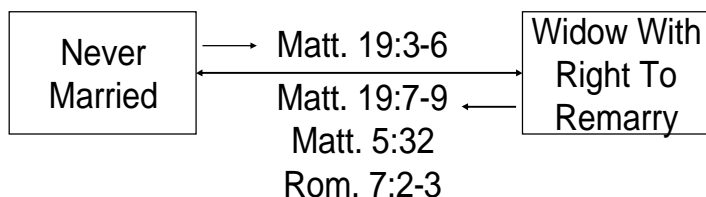
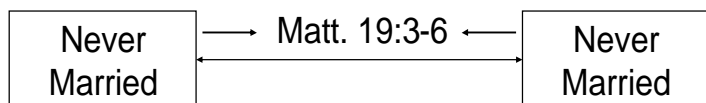
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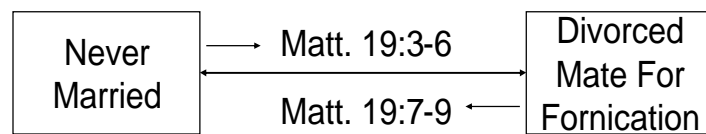
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Cases of Lawful First Time Marriages



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What Are Unlawful Marriages?

- Here we focus on remarriage although we will have a separate lesson for this later
- Unlawful marriages occur when people marry, violating God's marriage law
- In this section, we will focus on one who has never married entering an unlawful marriage by marrying someone who has no God-given right to remarry

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What Are Unlawful Marriages?

Case 1 - One never married marries one divorced by mate for fornication

Case 2 - One never married marries one who divorced their mate for other reason than fornication

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What Are Unlawful Marriages?

Case 3 - One never married marries one divorced by mate for other reason than fornication

Case 4 - One never married marries one whose lawful mate has died but they have no right to remarry

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One Never Married and One Who Divorced Mate Not For Fornication

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One Never Married and Widow With No Right To Remarry

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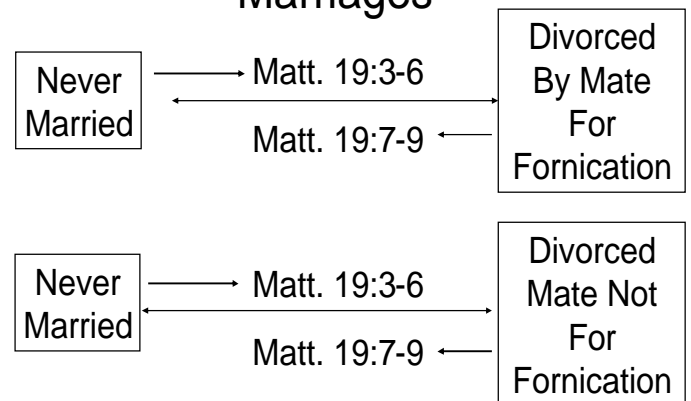
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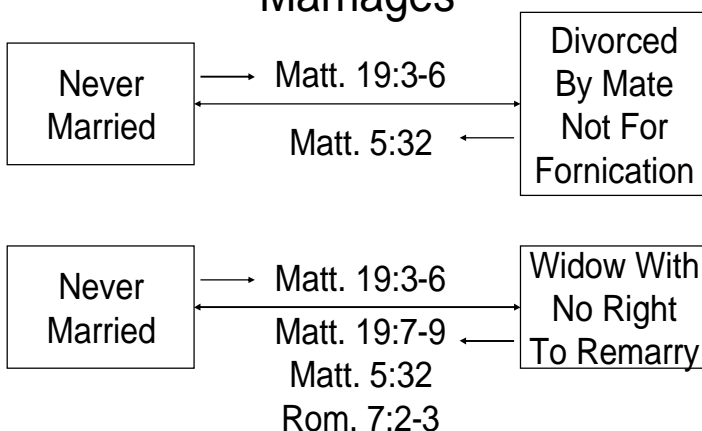
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