

## Jesus' Teaching on Divorce & Remarriage – Pt. 2

Matthew 5:31–32

—

Tom Pennington

April 19, 2026

**MAIN IDEA:** In Jesus' third illustration in the Sermon on the Mount, He continues to apply the 7th commandment against adultery, particularly concerning the issues of divorce and remarriage. In fact, in Matthew 5:31–32, Jesus explains that *without biblical grounds* divorce and remarriage violate the 7th commandment against adultery. So as Jesus' disciples, we must be fully committed to our marriage covenant. We consider several observations about this passage...

### SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Corruption of the OT Teaching on Divorce
- II. Jesus' Exposition of the OT Teaching on Divorce & Remarriage (32)
  - A. The Divine Design of Biblical Marriage (Mt. 19:4-6)
    1. God created the institution of marriage (4-5; cf. Gen. 1:27; 2:24).
    2. God determined the priority of marriage (5a)
    3. God determined the boundaries of marriage (4, 5b-6a).
      - Male & Female (4)
      - One Man & One Woman (5b-6a)
    4. God established the primary purpose of marriage (5b-6a; cf. Gen. 2:18; Pr. 2:17; Mal. 2:14).
    5. God ordained the lifelong permanence of marriage (6b).
      - By making marriage a covenant (Pr. 2:17; Mal. 2:14)
      - By His joining a man & woman in marriage (6b)
  - B. The Deadly Sin of Unbiblical Divorce & Remarriage (32)
    1. A wife, whose husband divorces her without biblical grounds, commits adultery if she remarries (32a).
    2. The new husband of a wife divorced without biblical grounds commits adultery in marrying her (32b).
    3. A husband who divorces his wife without biblical grounds commits adultery if he remarries (19:9).

### ***Biblical Arguments against Polygamy***

1. Before the fall, God created marriage for two people (Gen. 2:24).
2. Jesus explicitly reaffirms the creation model of two (Mt. 19:5-6).
3. The OT records the pagan start of polygamy and the conflict it produces (Gen. 4:19; e.g., Gen. 16-30)
4. The Mosaic Law regulated it to minimize its harm but never condoned it (Ex. 21:10; Dt. 17:17; 21:15-17).
5. The NT elder—an example of Christian maturity—must be “a onewoman man” (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6).

6. Marriage pictures the relationship of Christ and His one bride, the church (Eph. 5:31-32).

***Why Is Divorce Sin? (with two exceptions)***

1. It violates God's design for marriage (Mt. 19:4-6).
2. It violates our promises in the marriage covenant (Pr. 2:17; Mal. 2:14).
3. It violates God's character (Dt. 7:9).
4. It violates God's command (Mt. 19:6).

***Applying Jesus' Teaching...***

1. Embrace God's design for a biblical marriage.
2. Commit to your spouse for life.
3. If you're unbiblically divorced or married to someone who is...
  - a. Seek God's forgiveness.
  - b. Seek your former spouse's forgiveness.
  - c. Seek reconciliation if neither has remarried and both are believers.
  - d. If you remarried, believe the Lord's promise of forgiveness, love your current spouse with all your heart, and be devoted to your current marriage for life.

**BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS:**

1. Read, review, and discuss each of the points under *Biblical Arguments against Polygamy*. Why is it important for Christians to understand these arguments and be equipped to answer the polygamy question

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Ephesians 5:22–33. What key truths do these verses teach about marriage? How do these truths help us have a high view of marriage? What does the apostle Paul believe about Genesis 2 (Eph. 5:30)? What are practical ways to ensure your marriage reflects the apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 5?