

What Has God Said About Who Can Marry?

Introduction:

- A. An extremely sensitive subject, but one of critical importance.
- B. Our standard, just as with every issue, must be clearly defined.
 - 1. What our standard is not.
 - 2. Our goal – to discover and submit to God’s objective standard (*1 Pet. 4:11*).
- C. This lesson investigates two different principles which, if properly understood, have the potential to clear up many of the questions that are frequently raised.
 - 1. Who has a God-given right to marry?
 - 2. Is there a difference between **marriage** and the **bond**?

I. Who Can Marry?

- A. One who has never been married (*Gen. 2:24; Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:8-9,28*).
- B. One whose mate has died (*Rom. 7:3*).
- C. One who puts away his/her mate for sexual immorality (*Matt. 19:9*).
- D. Those who are reconciling (*1 Cor. 7:11*).

II. Is There A Difference Between **Marriage** And The **Bond**?

- A. Much confusion exists, and when we fail to make the distinction, even our terminology becomes quite confusing.
- B. Paul’s instructions in *Romans 7*.
 - 1. “*The married woman is bound by law to her man while he is living...*” (see *Matt. 19:6*).
 - 2. Marriage is an agreement between **two** parties, the bond involves **three**. Unless that “triangle” is formed, it isn’t a pleasing relationship to God.
 - 3. “*...but if her man dies, she is released from the law concerning the man.*”
 - 4. “*So then, if while her man is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress.*”
 - 5. “*Likewise, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ...*”