

Remarriage

It takes two to make a marriage, and regardless of the reasons for the divorce, it took two to make that happen as well. You must look honestly at whether you have truly forgiven your former spouse. If you become angry when speaking about him or her, or if you are unable to experience a sense of peace regarding this and put it in the past, then you have unforgiveness in your heart. You cannot move into a new relationship until you deal with this issue and resolve it. *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* (Matthew 6:14–15)

Have you looked honestly at the reasons surrounding the divorce for your personal responsibility to see if perhaps pride, unreasonable expectations or some other issue contributed to the breakup of your previous marriage? If you have unresolved personal issues, you will carry these into your new relationship. Ask God to reveal your shortcomings and allow Him to heal you. *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”* (Galatians 5:1)

How can you make sure the Lord is the center of this new relationship? Are you spending time with Jesus so that He can reveal Himself to you so that He can show you how He wants to heal and transform you into the person He wants you to be? *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12)

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22) Are you putting God first in every area of your life? Are you tithing, attending church regularly, serving God by volunteering or attending a small group? We can't do life alone. Having the support and nurture of a small group of believers to encourage and call you to accountability will go a long way to helping you become ready to be the man or woman of God who is able to assume the duties of a spouse. *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.”* (Hebrews 10:36)

For whatever reason, your previous marriage was unsuccessful. This does not mean that God wants to punish you. God wants His children to have life and have it abundantly. *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10:10) He is faithful in giving good gifts to His children. But we have the responsibility to put Him first— always. *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”* (Mark 12:30) This is how we learn to love each other, especially our spouses. In fact, it is the only way.

Additional Helpful Scriptures:

- James 1:5
- Colossians 1:13–14
- Philippians 3:13
- I John 1:9
- Psalm 103:10–12
- I Corinthians 7:39

Community Resources:

- Smalley Institute is an online resource of books, articles, audio and DVD media on the subject of marriage, dating and parenting. smalley.cc
- Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. We provide help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages that reflect God's design, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in biblical principles.
- Cloud and Townsend is an online resource that offers books, articles, audio and DVD media resources on emotional struggles, marriage, spiritual life, relationships, parenting, boundaries as well as additional topics. cloudtownsend.com/resources/question-answers/
- Family Life provides multiple resources that help people build stronger homes and communities. familylifetoday.com/

Grace Resources:

- Home Builders – PreMarried – gfcflorida.com/Ministries/couples