

- Lawful between consenting parties.
- Marriage of Believers
 - Marry only in the Lord.
 - Not to marry unbelievers.
 - Not to marry professing believers that are notoriously wicked or heretics.

4. *Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden in the word;⁸ nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man, or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.^{9 v}*

8. Lev. 18:1-30; I Cor. 5:1; Amos 2:7.

9. Mark 6:18; Lev. 18:24-28.

Notes:

- Summary: Unlawful Marriages
 - Prohibition of incestuous marriages
 - Regardless of human laws
 - Regardless of consent

5. *Adultery or fornication committed after a contract, being detected before marriage, giveth just occasion to the innocent party to dissolve that contract.¹⁰ In the case of adultery after marriage, it is lawful for the innocent party to sue out a divorce,¹¹ and, after the divorce, to marry another, as if the offending party were dead.¹²*

10. Matt. 1:18-20.

11. Matt. 5:31-32.

12. Matt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3

Notes:

- Summary: Fornication and Marriage
 - Fornication before marriage is a lawful reason to not proceed with marriage.
 - Fornication after marriage is a lawful reason for the innocent party to divorce and remarry.

6. *Although the corruption of man be such as is apt to study arguments, unduly to put asunder those whom God hath joined together in marriage; yet nothing but adultery, or such wilful desertion as can no way be remedied by the church or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage,¹³ wherein a public and orderly course of proceeding is to be observed, and the persons concerned in it not left to their own wills and discretion in their own case.¹⁴*

13. Matt. 19:8-9; I Cor. 7:15; Matt. 19:6.

14. Deut. 24:1-4.

Notes:

- Summary: Lawful Reasons for Divorce
 - Prerequisites:
 - Nature of marriage
 - Nature of man
 - Lawful Grounds:
 - Adultery
 - Desertion
 - Proceedings for Divorce:
 - Public and orderly
 - Mitigated by an objective 3rd party.

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