On Divorce, Remarriage, And Church Leadership

1 Timothy 3:1-7
Proving Grounds For Leaders in God’s Family: *The Leader’s Family Life!*

Leading managing one’s own family is a proving ground for leading God’s family!

**Not guess-work:**

1. for elders – 1 Timothy 3:4-5
2. for deacons – 1 Timothy 3:12

In each list of qualifications, we find “husband of one wife”
Who’s Qualified to Lead?

**Question:** Can a previously divorced man serve as a deacon/pastor of a church (other positions OK)

Mt 19:6 – Jesus: “let no man put asunder”
“from the beginning it has not been this way”
(vs. 8)

Malachi 2:16 – God hates divorce;
Satan hates family

**Other Circumstances:**
What if divorce before salvation?
What about if the first wife was unfaithful?
1 Timothy 3:1-7 (vs. 2, 12)

“one-woman man”
1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6
  * once for life? But widowers/
  * “exception” cases?

“bound under the law until death”
Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39

Only 1 wife in a lifetime? Widowers?
3 Conditions In Scripture Where A Man Married More Than Once...

1. **Death of spouse** (Romans 7:2)

2. **Sexual unfaithfulness** – Matt. 19:9 – pornea broader than moichao wide-range of sexual indiscretions vs. simply adultery

3. **Abandoned** - 1 Corinthians 7:10-15, focus vs. 15 vs. 10 – married to unbeliever? Stay! Vs. 15 – unbeliever leaves, the believer is “not under bondage in such cases”

God allows, **but does not command**, divorce.
Q: Should A Godly Man Be Sidelined For A Lifetime By An Unfaithful Wife?

Application of the Gospel
* we work to sustain marriages
* marriage = parable of Jesus and the Church

* New creatures in Christ! 2 Cor. 5:17
* Saul was a murderer, persecutor of the church – as Paul, new life!

* Matthew – tax-gatherer – regarded with harlots (Matthew 21:31)
What if the Divorce Took Place Before Conversion?

“Are you bound [married] to a wife? Do not seek to be released [divorced]. Are you released [previously been divorced] from a wife? Do not seek [to be married to] a wife. But if you marry, you have not sinned”

(1 Corinthians 7:27-28).  ** note vs. 28a

** God doesn’t regulate what He prohibits

Why? Vs. 9 “if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn”
The Remedy of Grace For Non-Biblical Divorces

What is there for people divorced for non-Biblical reasons / remarried? Grace! 1 Corinthians 7:8-9
1. “remain unmarried as I am”
2. if they cannot contain themselves, let them marry – it is better to marry than to burn” vs. 9

“repentance” in the commitment to Bible standard “from the beginning it was not this way...”

Freedom to minister / restricted
What About the 2\textsuperscript{nd} marriage?

1. Adultery is results from sexual intimacy at the 2\textsuperscript{nd} marriage – but not perpetual adultery (Matt. 19:9 – “marries”).

2. Bible recognizes 2\textsuperscript{nd} marriage “husband” vs. “girlfriend” – 5 husbands (John 4:18)

3. What does the Bible say about ANY adultery?
   A. confess B. repent C. commit to fidelity
Conclusions on Leadership

1. Case by case basis

2. Review the circumstance:
   * was the previous divorce from infidelity or abandonment? (exceptions)
   * was the previous divorce prior to conversion?
   * what is this man’s reputation since?

3. Result: some qualified, some not