



DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

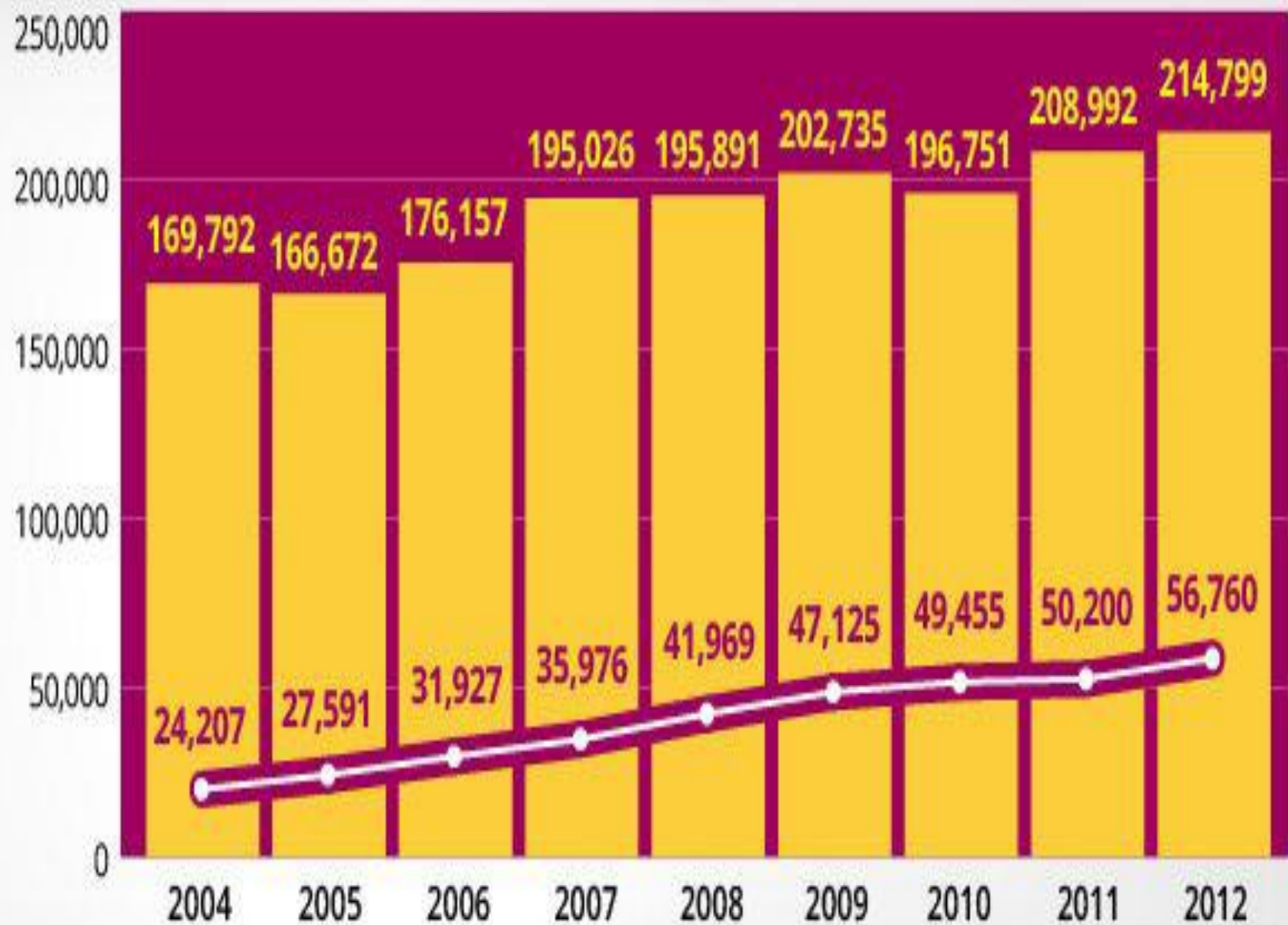
Matthew 19:1-9



- A child born today has only a 50 per cent chance of living with both birth parents by the age of 16

NUMBER OF MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN MALAYSIA 2004-2012

■ Marriage
● Divorce



Source: Syariah Judiciary Department Malaysia (JKSM), Islamic Development Department (Jakim) and Statistics Department

Graphics: themalaymailonline.com

Matthew 5:31 It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 19: 1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. 3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, 2 and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, 3 and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and

puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, 4 then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Explanation

Original intent

Prohibition of a man easily remarrying the wife whom he had just divorced

..... 4 then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, 2 and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, 3 and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and

Pharisee focus

- Permission to divorce
- Focussed on the grounds of divorce

Another example

On the twentieth day of Sivan, year three of the freedom of Israel ... I, Shelamzion, daughter of Joseph Qebshan from Ein Gedi, with you, you Eleazar son of Hananiah, who had been my husband before this time, that this is for you from me a bill of divorce and release....

Papyrus yadin

*“I will feed you and
clothe you and I will bring
you into my house.”*



Jewish focus

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some **indecent** in her, and he writes her a **certificate of divorce** and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house,

Mishnah Giṭṭin 9:10

The House of Shammai say, “A man should divorce his wife only because he has found grounds for it in unchastity,

“since it is said, Because he has found in her indecency in anything (Dt. 24:1).”

And the House of Hillel say, “Even if she spoiled his dish,

“since it is said, Because he has found in her indecency in anything. (Dt. 24:1)”

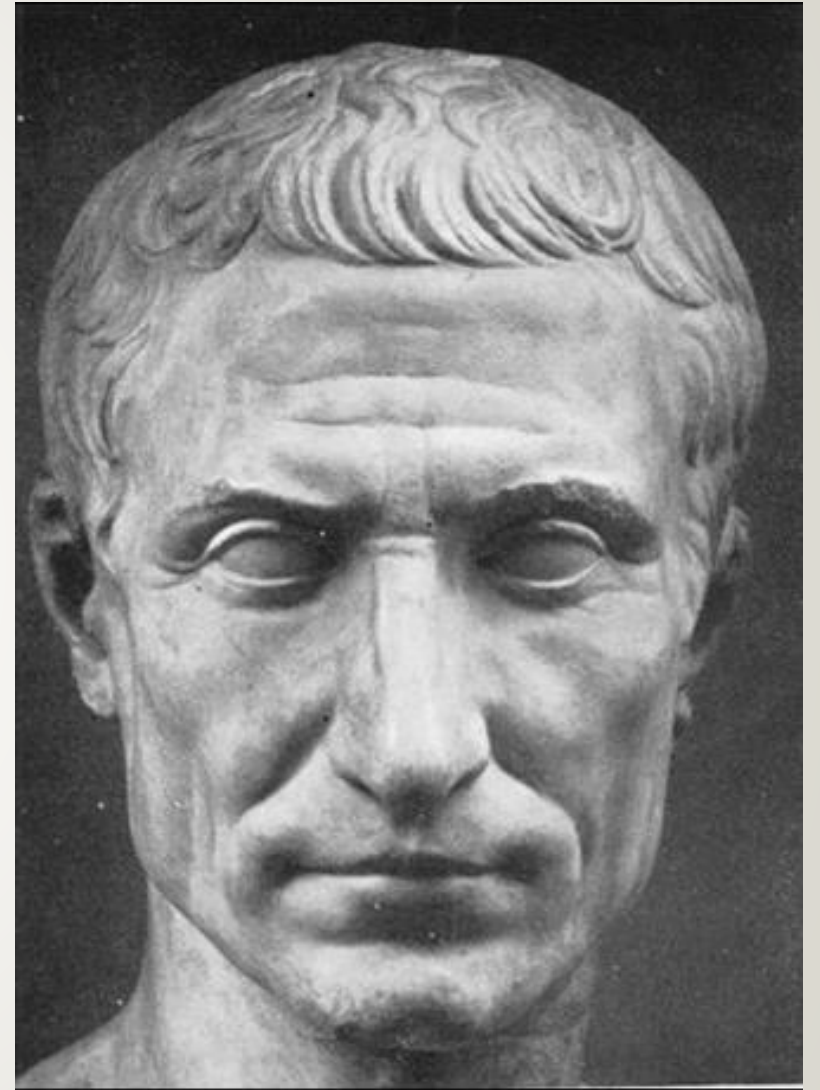
R. Aqiba says, “Even if he found someone else prettier than she,

“since it is said, And it shall be if she find no favor in his eyes (Dt. 24:1).”

Titus Flavius Josephus

At this period I divorced my wife, being displeased at her behaviour. She had borne me three children.... Afterwards I married a woman of Jewish extraction who had settled in Crete. She came of very distinguished parents.

Josephus in Life 426-427



The overriding principle

Matthew 19: 4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Matthew 19: 7 They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” 8 He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Explanation

- Divorce in the Scripture is permitted only because of man's sin. Since divorce is only a concession to man's sin and is not part of God's original plan for marriage, all believers should hate divorce as God does and pursue it only when there is no other recourse

Matthew 19: 7 They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” 8 He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Possible reasons

- Redactional
- Matthew expanded on Jesus intent was not to deny rightness of Deut 24 but to stem widespread permissiveness. Jesus' "purpose was not to lay down the law but to reassert an ideal and make divorce a sin, thereby disturbing the current complacency."
- Matthew retained the original reading in Deut 24 because his audience was Jewish whilst the other two gospels were Gentile
- (NIC_NT) Matthew is merely making explicit what was assumed by Mark and Luke to be already obvious to their read

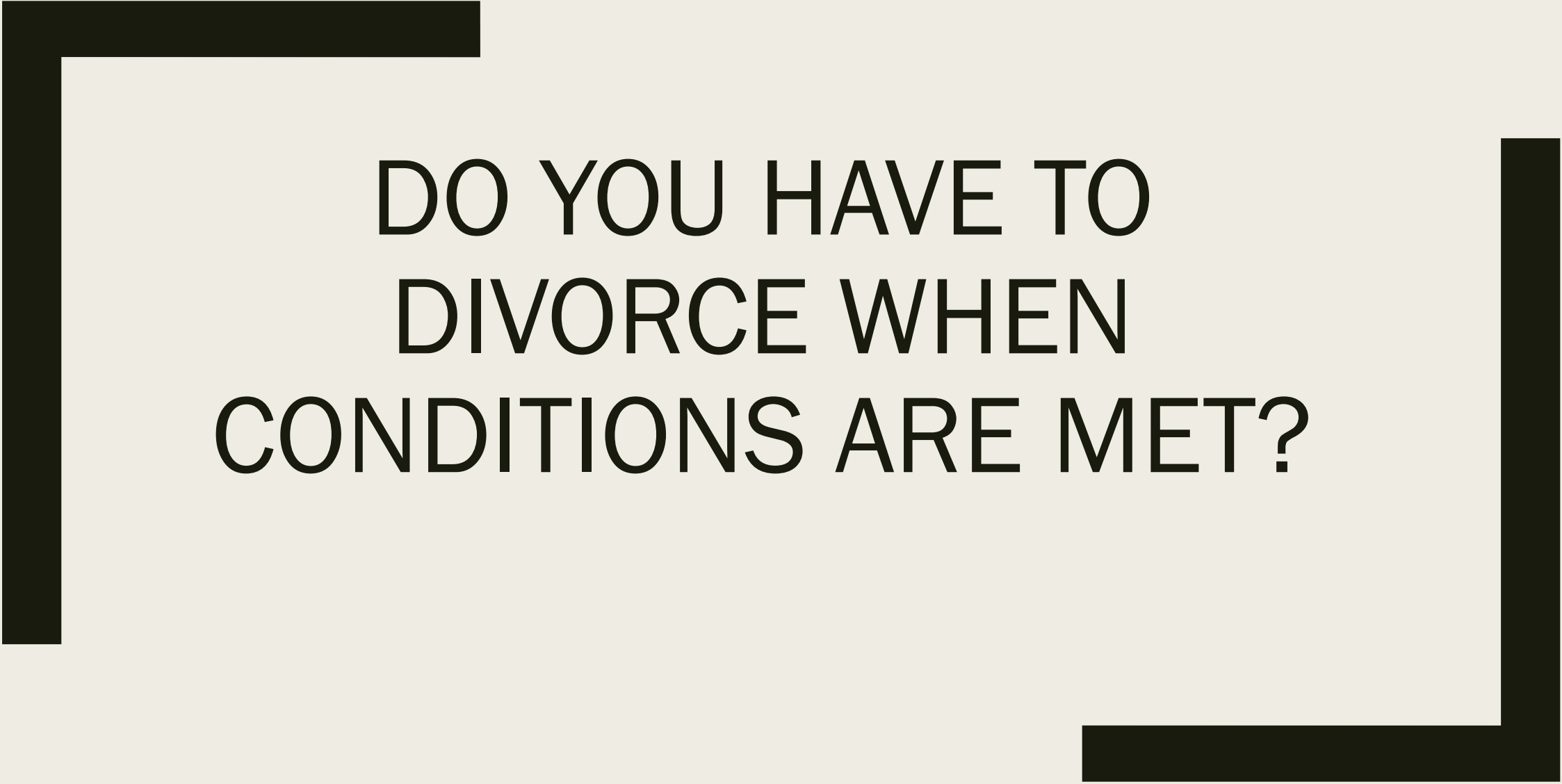
Porneia

1. premarital coitus,
2. incest (as in 1 Cor 5)
3. sexual sins that destroy a marital covenant

Porniea will include

- Homosexuality
- Sex with animals
- Sex with Relatives

Leviticus 20:10-21

The image features two thick, black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned on the left side, with its horizontal bar at the top and its vertical bar extending downwards. The other is on the right side, with its vertical bar at the top and its horizontal bar at the bottom. These brackets frame the central text.

DO YOU HAVE TO
DIVORCE WHEN
CONDITIONS ARE MET?

- The Bible does not command divorce – it permits, regulates and limits divorce.
- The Bible allows divorce – in certain situations – because of the hardness of human hearts.
- Hard hearts means people to persist in sin and hard hearts make it hard to forgive others
- In the NT becoming a Christian is about getting a new heart – a soft heart filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Such a heart is capable of change in the direction of Jesus Christ and is capable of forgiving a brother or a sister of even the most grievous of sins.
- Therefore, there really is no reason for two legitimately born again Christians to ever get divorced. By the grace of God they can change and they can forgive.
- But because of the hardness of hearts – because some professed believers are not truly born again – a spouse may persist in sexual sin or a spouse may not wish to be married to a true believer – in such cases, the believer is not bound. He or she is free to remarry – thanks be to God!



APPARENT
CONTRADICTION?



- Mark 10: 11B, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”
- Luke 16::18 Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

- Matthew 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except on the ground of sexual immorality**, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
- Matthew 19: 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery.

Possible reasons

- Matthew expanded on Jesus intent was not to deny rightness of Deut 24 but to stem widespread permissiveness. Jesus' "purpose was not to lay down the law but to reassert an ideal and make divorce a sin, thereby disturbing the current complacency."
- Matthew retained the original reading in Deut 24 because his audience was Jewish whilst the other two gospels were Gentile
- Matthew is merely making explicit what was assumed by Mark and Luke to be already obvious to their read



ARE THERE OTHER
EXCEPTIONS?



1 Corinthians 7: 15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Explanation

- Abandonment is a destruction of the covenant
- Other possible ones are physical threat to life and limb

Reason

- The second reason for permitting a divorce is in cases where an unbelieving mate does not desire to live with his or her believing spouse (1 Cor. 7:12-15). Because “God has called us to peace” (v. 15), divorce is allowed and may be preferable in such situations. When an unbeliever desires to leave, trying to keep him or her in the marriage may only create greater tension and conflict. Also, if the unbeliever leaves the marital relationship permanently but is not willing to file for divorce, perhaps because of lifestyle, irresponsibility, or to avoid monetary obligations, then the believer is in an impossible situation of having legal and moral obligations that he or she cannot fulfill. Because “the brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases” (1 Cor. 7:15) and is therefore no longer obligated to remain married, the believer may file for divorce without fearing the displeasure of Go



CAN A DIVORCED
PERSON REMARRY?

■ Can divorce but cannot
remarry

■ Can divorce and remarry

Explanation

- The first view is a modern interpretation of what Jesus is saying. However Jesus never said you could not remarry. They assume because of the sanctity of marriage that once you have divorced you cannot remarry. However to get some clarity about the situation lets look at what Jesus said and then Paul's advice

Matthew 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Explanation

- Obvious divorce alone does not make one an adulterer only if re-marriage was involved
- He does not separate the two

1 Cor 7: 15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace

1 Cor 7: 10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

Explanation

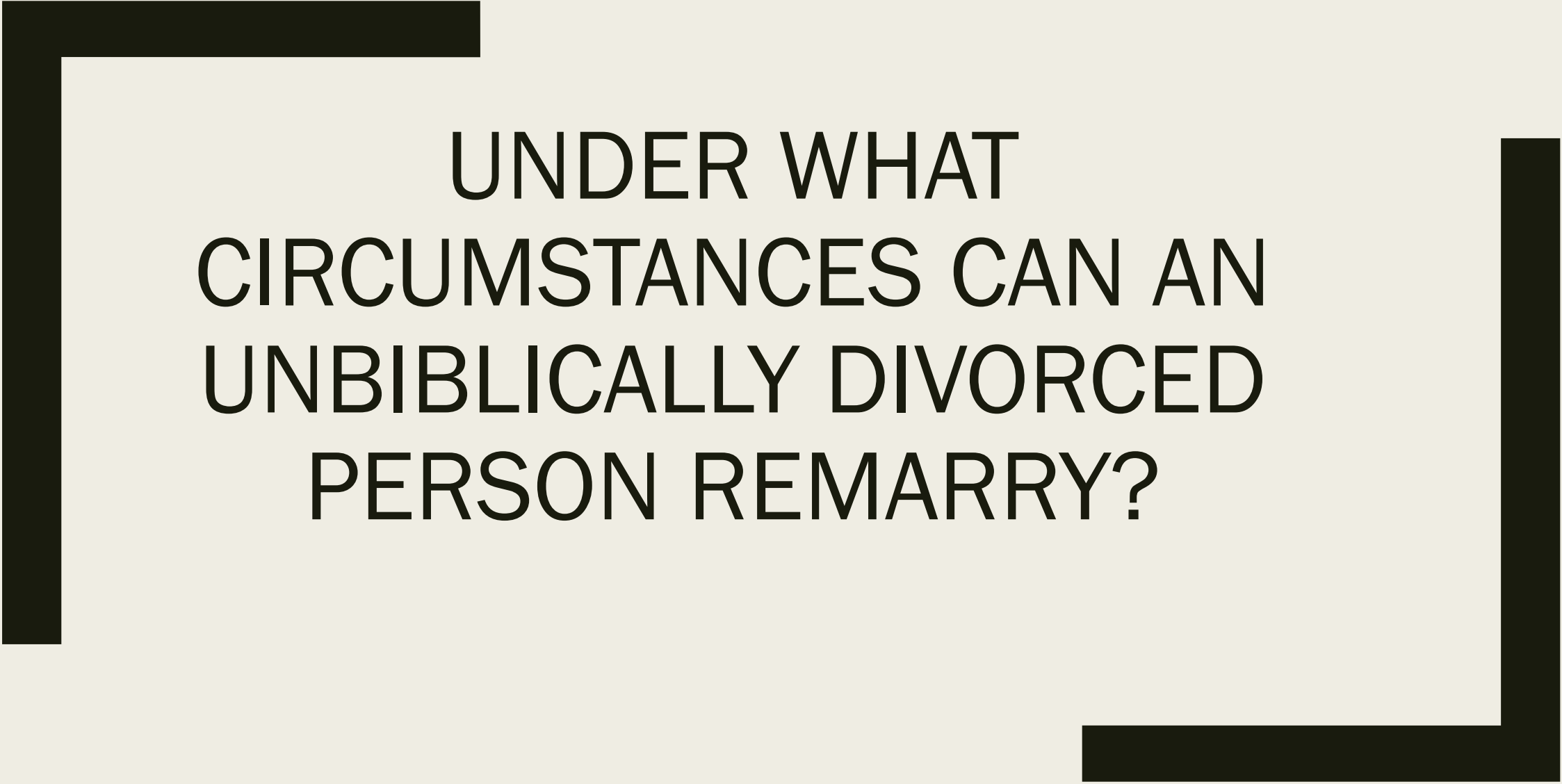
- So Paul is explicit about divorce once it has happened you are not enslaved...you are free.
- If he is referring to divorce and not remarriage he will specifically say so in the earlier verse 11

Explanation

- In the Jewish context, divorce consisted of the provision of a certificate which explicitly granted the right to remarry: the standard wording according to m. Git. 9:3 was “You are free to marry any man.” Without that permission it was not divorce. Divorce and the right to remarry are thus inseparable, and the Jewish world knew nothing of a legal separation which did not allow remarriage.
- There is nothing in Jesus’ words, here or in the Mark and Luke parallels, to suggest that he intended to initiate any such provision. His condemnation of remarriage as adultery is simply on the grounds that the divorce (unless for adultery) was not legitimate and so the original marriage remains valid in the sight of God.

Text from Mishnah gittin 9:3

R Judah “Let this be from me your writ of divorce, letter of dismissal, and deed of liberation, that you may marry anyone you want.”

A thick black L-shaped frame is positioned around the text. It starts at the top left, goes right, then down, then right again, forming a partial rectangular border around the central text.

UNDER WHAT
CIRCUMSTANCES CAN AN
UNBIBLICALLY DIVORCED
PERSON REMARRY?

1 Cor 7: 10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

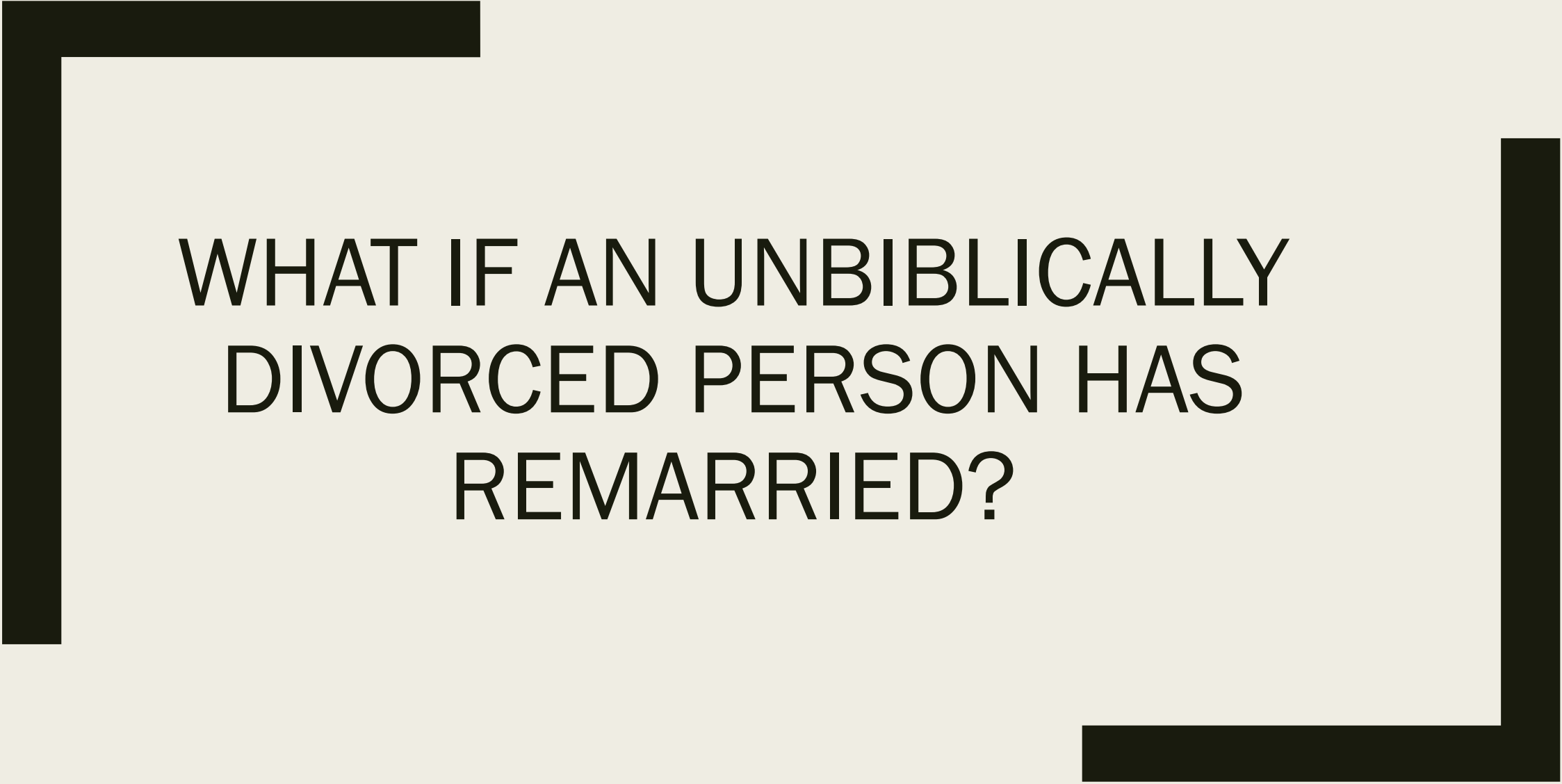
Explanation

- The onus is to reconcile

The former spouse remarries

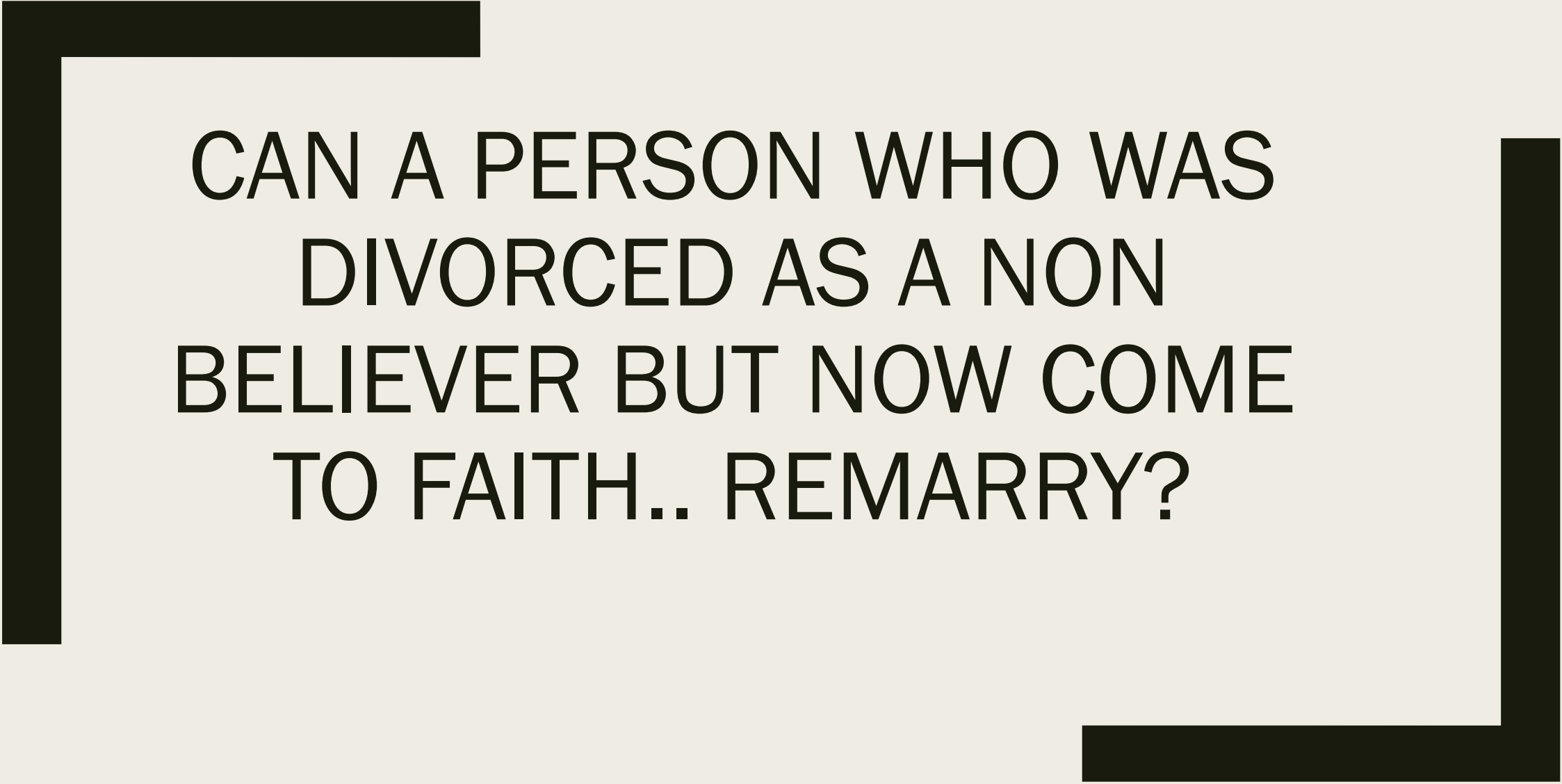
The former spouse dies

The former spouse is an unbeliever

The image features two thick, black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned on the left side, with its horizontal bar at the top and its vertical bar extending downwards. The other is on the right side, with its vertical bar at the top and its horizontal bar at the bottom. These brackets frame the central text.

WHAT IF AN UNBIBLICALLY
DIVORCED PERSON HAS
REMARRIED?

- Deal with the sin of adultery
- Continue with your current marriage and be faithful to you spouse



CAN A PERSON WHO WAS
DIVORCED AS A NON
BELIEVER BUT NOW COME
TO FAITH.. REMARRY?

Explanation

- The onus is to reconcile

The former spouse remarries

The former spouse dies

The former spouse is an unbeliever

A thick black L-shaped frame is positioned around the text. It starts at the top left, goes right, then down, then right again, forming a partial rectangular border around the central text.

WHY IS GOD SO BIG ON
MARRIAGE AND SO
NEGATIVE ON DIVORCE?

Malachi 2

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

Malachi 2

(ESV) 13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD'S altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant

Malachi 2

(ESV) 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

The integrity of covenants –hallmark of God's design

- Abraham is covenant ..can be relied upon
- Brings eternal life
- Our covenant ...is a reflection of that



PERICHORESIS

Explanation

- our God is a One-and-Three God, we are led to the conclusion that the relationship “within” God is a relationship theologians called perichoresis.
- This Greek term describes the mutual indwelling and interpenetration of Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Since our love participates in God’s way of loving, then marital love is “perichoretic.”
- That means, above all, that marriage is a relationship of mutual indwelling and interpenetration. Divorce destroys perichoresis, our indwelling of one another.

And they shall become one flesh. “One flesh” is essential to the biblical view of marriage. It means, one mortal life fully shared. Two selfish me’s start learning to think like one unified us, sharing one everything: one life, one reputation, one bed, one suffering, one budget, one family, one mission, and so forth. No barriers. No hiding. No aloofness. Now total openness with total sharing and total solidarity, until death parts them.

The tension

Genesis 2:
and the two
shall become
one flesh.

Genesis 3:16 b Your
desire will be for
your husband, and
he will rule over you.

Every time a divorce happens Gos' picture to the world is blurred

Jesus redeems marriage and makes one flesh possible

Ephesians 5: 31 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Two dimensions—Change in direction

- You see if they keep directing their actions towards each other and being transactional in their interaction it will surely fail because of sin as each spouse will have their own selfish interests. I do this for you and you reciprocate and do this for me and this will break down as we can never fully satisfy the other
- The direction is now directed upwards
- The husband loves the wife and sacrifices not to indulge her every whim and desire and lay the moon at her feet but so that she will be holy and blameless ...so that she will grow in her faith
- The wife respects and submits to her husband as she would Christ so it does not mean blind submission but submission in a manner that is godly and allows the family to progress under his leadership to serve Christ.

Hosea 3: 1 The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes. ”2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. 3 Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

(NIV) 4 For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

Hosea

- Hosea is a picture of how God treats us with unconditional love
- Gomer his wife did not deserve his love or loyalty because she had betrayed Hosea and yet at great expense and cost to himself Hosea redeemed his wife from the slavery of prostitution
- The past is forgiven , the future is new

The next dimension is the cross

- A picture won by sacrifice
- Forged by forgiveness
- Enabled by grace
- Powered by the Spirit

- Neither the husband's sacrifice nor the wife's obedience will be perfect in this life and in this marriage
- However the cross brings in forgiveness, grace, and the Spirit
- First thing ..wife complain he does not sacrifice and he says she does not listen
- The cross always allows a reset button at the foot of the cross we can all start a fresh....the past hurt and injustices laid at the foot and we are given a clean slate
- Marriages with the cross at the Center ...Marriages with both of you at the Center. Will always have your past baggage and unforgivable sins
- Only Marriages with the cross at the Center will be able to survive and thrive and show the world it is possible because the cross is not a joint who is right or who is wrong it is about forgiveness and grace

Picture of grace and forgiveness

Marriage is more than human romance, wonderful as that is. It is more than close friendship, wonderful as that is. Marriage is the display of Christ and his Bride in love together. A beautiful, tender, thriving marriage makes the gospel visible on earth, bringing hope to people who have given up believing there could be any love anywhere for them.

