

# **Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage**

**A History of Controversy vs.  
Jesus and the Apostle's  
Teaching**

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# Can we know the truth on MDR?

- YES (Romans 16:25-27)

# MDR Scenario



**Matt. 5:31-32; 14:1-12; 19:1-9; Mk.  
10:1-12; Lk. 16:18; Rom. 7:1-4; I  
Cor. 7:9-11, 39**

# Paradigm # 1



***“What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”***

**(Matt. 19:5-6; Gen. 2:21-25).**

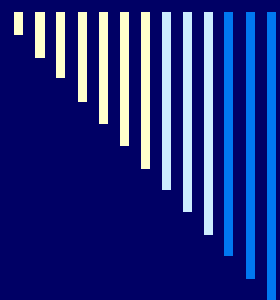
**“*Joined*” = “yoked together, couple or pair together in marriage”  
(LS 757)**



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# God's intention for Marriage

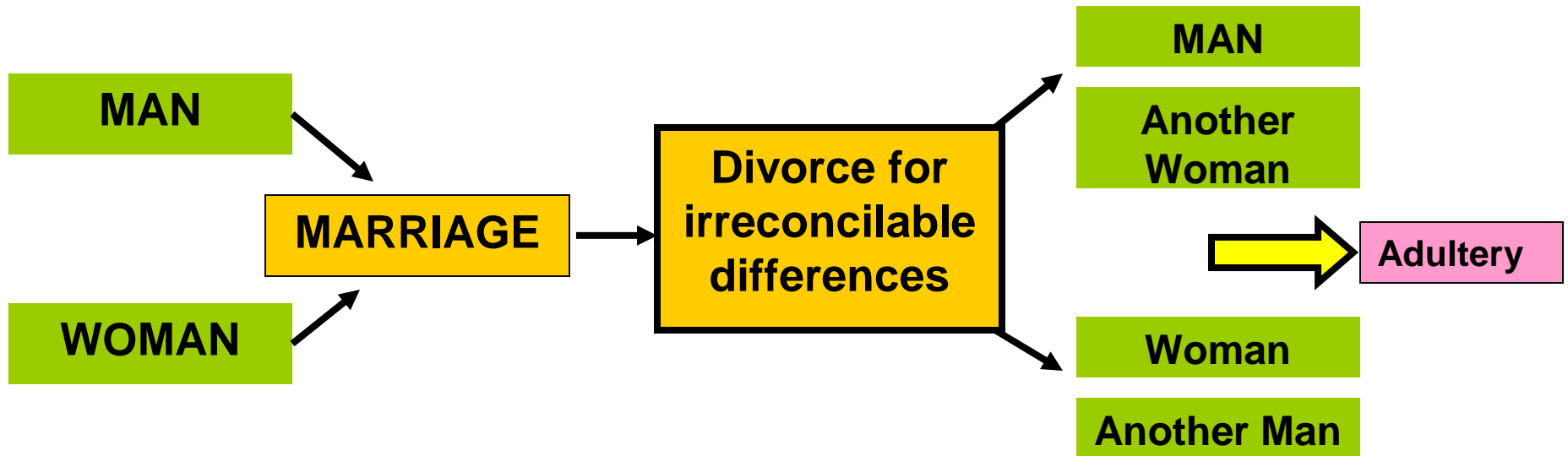
- Life (Genesis 2:24; Matt. 19:6)
  - God “joins” and a “bond” (enchained) is formed between man and woman (cf. Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:39).
  - God intends for man and wife to “cleave” (be glued or stick together) (through “thick and thin... better or worse... etc).
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# POINT ONE

- Man and wife are bound for life by God in marriage.

# Paradigm 2



**“And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery”**

Matthew 19:9

(cf. Mk. 10:11; Lk. 16:18; Rom. 7:3)

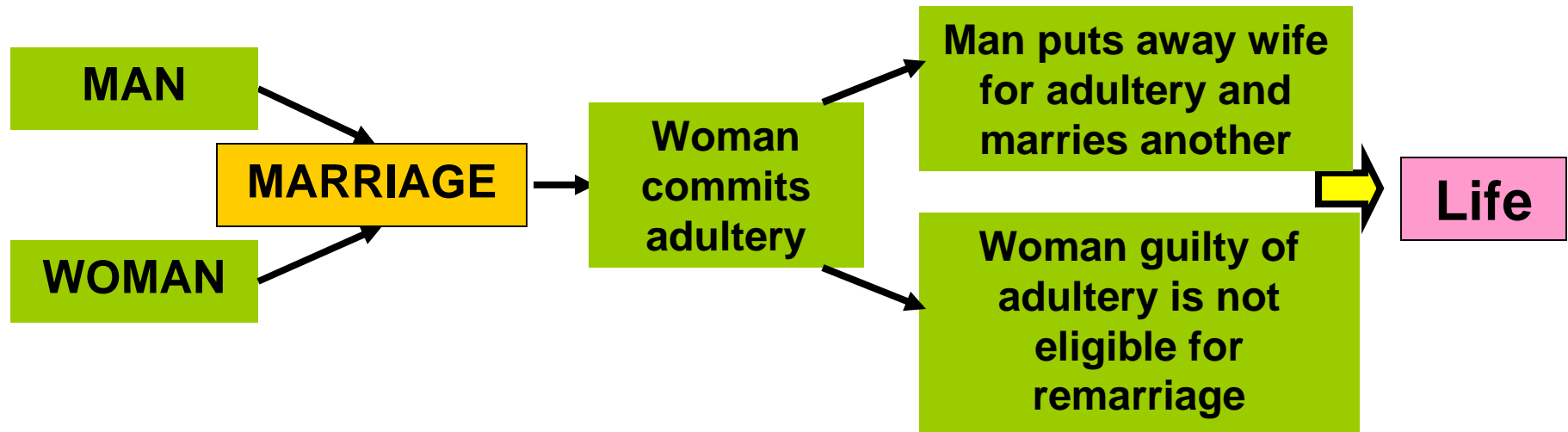


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# POINT TWO

- Just as man and wife come together in marriage they too have the power to dissolve the marriage though unlawful to do so (i.e., sin)
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# Paradigm 3



**“But I say unto you, that every one that putteth away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, maketh her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery”**

Matthew 5:32

Matthew 19:9

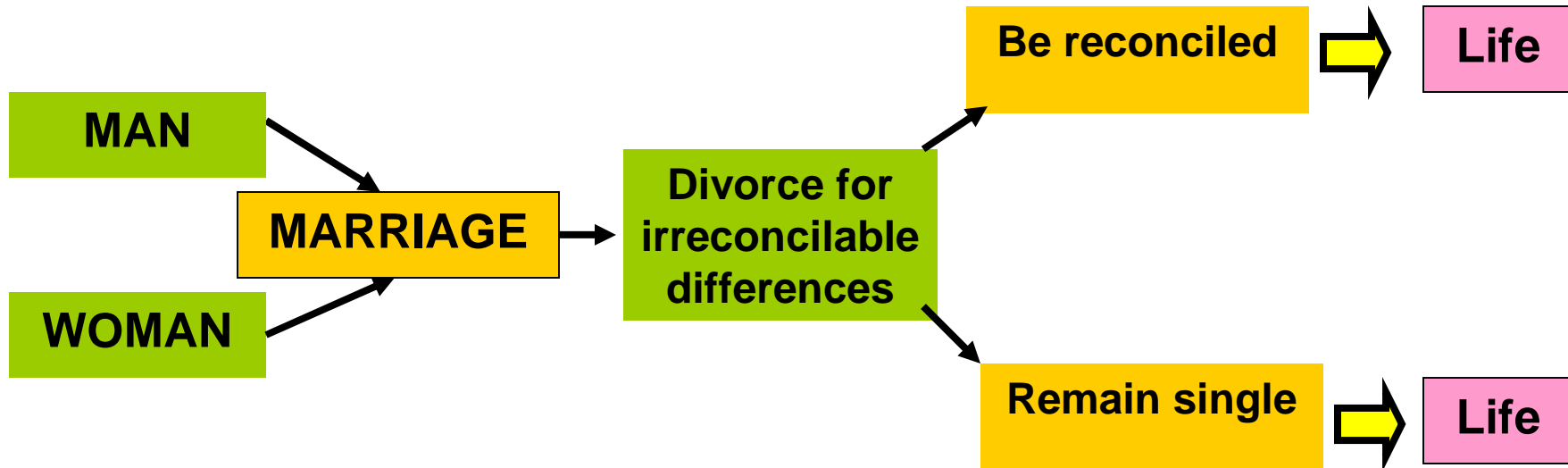


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# POINT Three

- A lawful divorce takes place when the innocent spouse puts away the guilty adulterer. Said case gives the innocent the liberty to remarry.
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# Paradigm 4



**“But unto the married I give charge, yea not I, but the Lord, that the wife depart not from her husband. But should she depart, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband; and that the husband leave not his wife”**

I Cor. 7:10-11

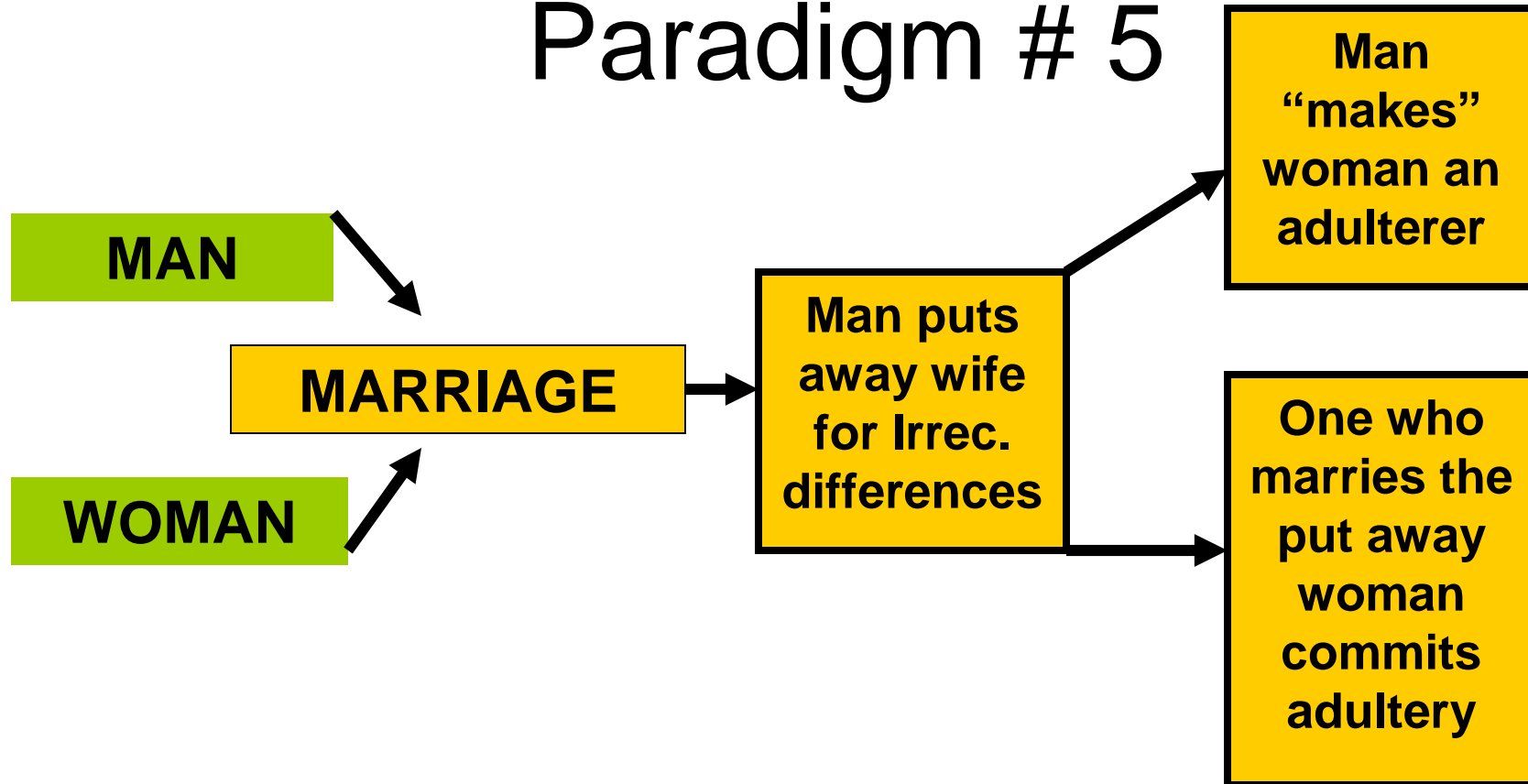


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# POINT Four

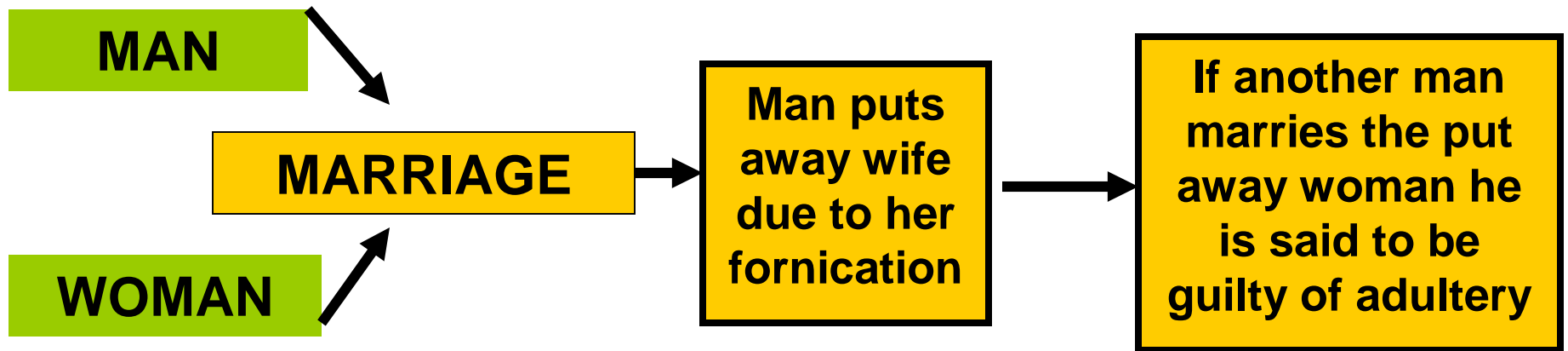
- If a divorce occurs due to irreconcilable differences both have sinned and the only recourse is for the two to be reconciled (i.e., remarried). Note once again that a divorce is recognized; however, it is an unlawful divorce.
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# Paradigm # 5



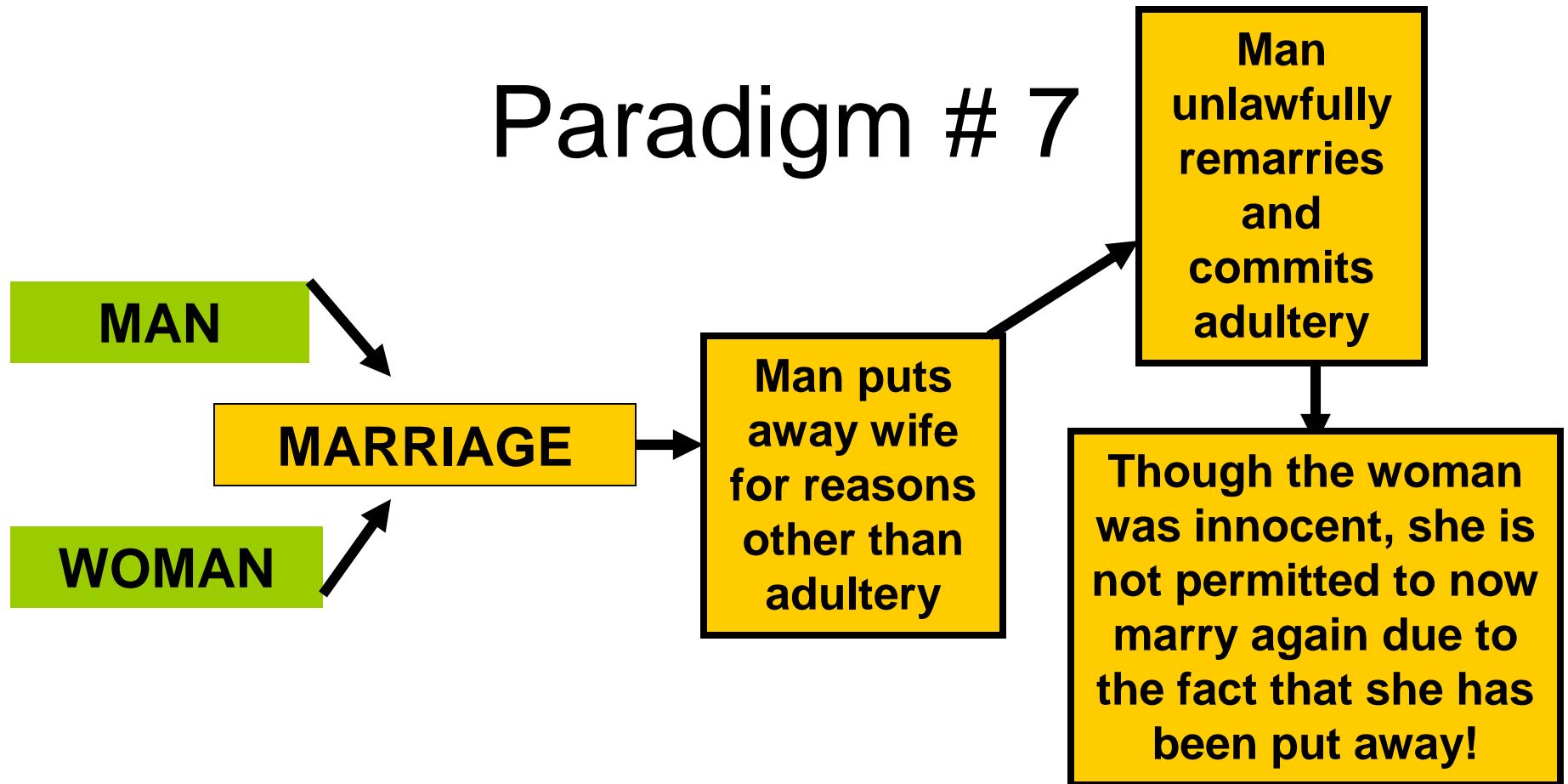
**“But I say unto you, that every one that puts away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, makes her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away commits adultery”  
Matthew 5:32**

# Paradigm # 6



**“But I say unto you, that every one that puts away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, makes her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away commits adultery”  
Matthew 5:32**

# Paradigm # 7



**“Every one that puts away his wife, and marries another, commits adultery: and he that marries one that is put away from a husband commits adultery”**

**Luke 16:18**

**Cf. Matthew 19:9**

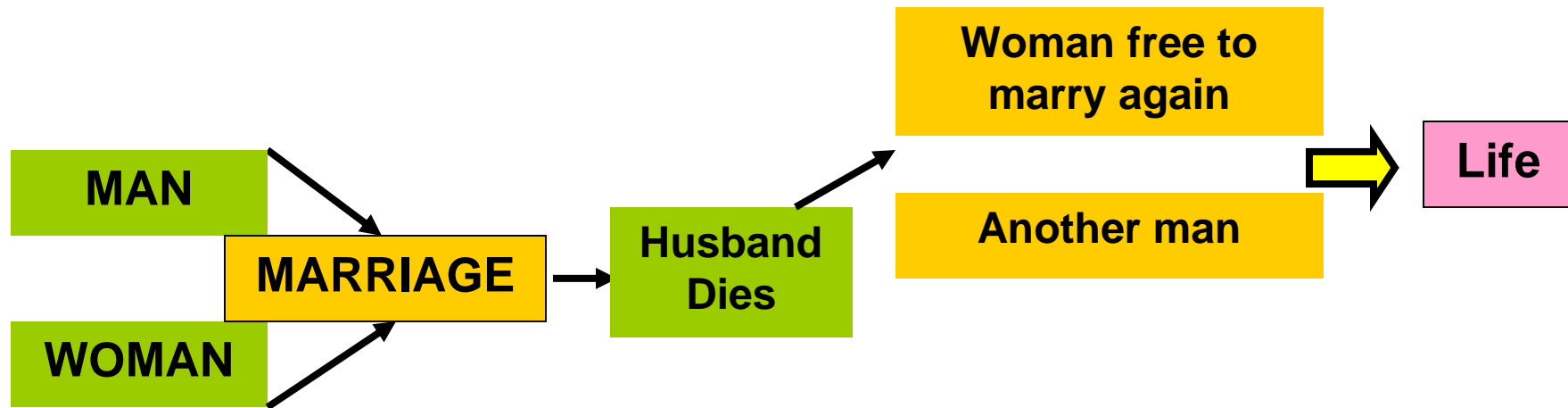


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# POINT Five

- Consider the “cause” for divorce: Was it for the “cause” of adultery or another cause (i.e., Irreconcilable differences, husband will not let wife and children go to church, wife beating, child abuse... etc)? Note that once the divorce has taken place it is done! Whether that divorce took place lawfully (adultery) or unlawfully (due to another reason) the fact is the two are divorced (waiting game and mental repudiation is out because Jesus did not authorize two divorces (this amounts to a second chance in an unlawful divorce)).
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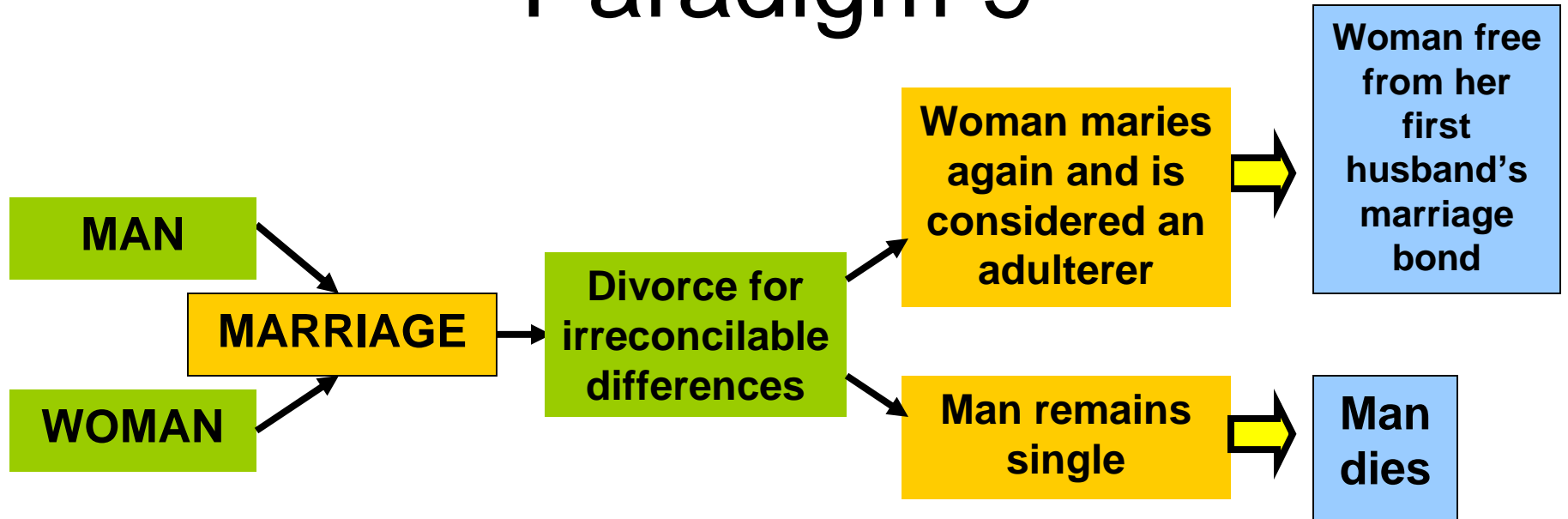
# Paradigm 8



**“For the woman that hath a husband is bound by law to the husband while he liveth; but if the husband die, she is discharged from the law of the husband. ”**

Romans 7:1-6; I Cor. 7:39

# Paradigm 9



**“So then if, while the husband liveth, she be joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if the husband die, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be joined to another man”**

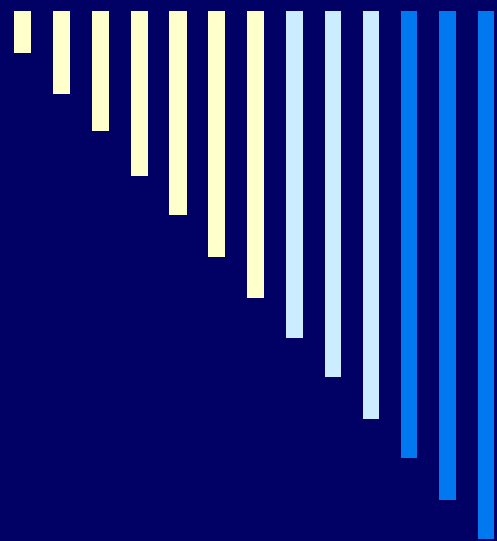
Romans 7:3



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# POINT Six

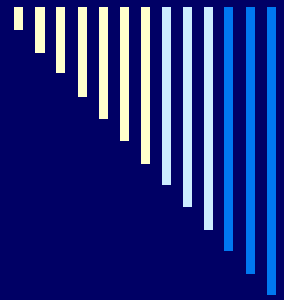
- There are two LAWFUL reasons for a marriage bond to be dissolved: adultery and or death of spouse.
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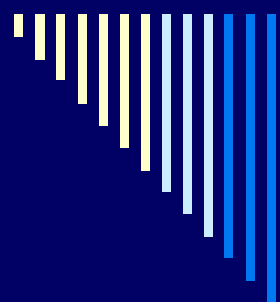
# Review of points Studied:

- ❑ God intends for a man and wife to be married for life.
- ❑ The marriage bond can be dissolved in one of two ways; i.e., lawfully (adultery or death) and unlawfully (reasons other than adultery or death).
- ❑ When the innocent spouse puts away the guilty, he/she is free to marry again.
- ❑ The guilty party has no God given right to marry.
- ❑ When a divorce takes place for reasons other than adultery the only recourse for the two is reconciliation (I Cor. 7).



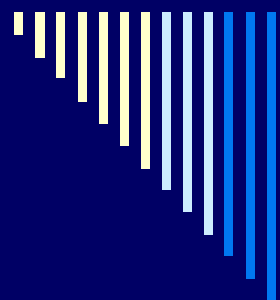
# History of Controversy

- Homer Hailey on MDR: Alien sinner not amenable to Law of Christ and adultery is not the sexual act but rather a breaking of the marriage covenant (i.e., the divorce itself) (The Divorced and Remarried Who Would come to God pp. 72 copy right 1991 by Nevada Publications).
- November of 1988, Ed Harrell wrote an article in Christianity Magazine titled, “Homer Hailey: False Teacher?” The article was written during a time when Homer Hailey was being called by many a false teacher due to the fact that he preached error on marriage, divorce, and remarriage (MDR). The article defends Homer Hailey’s character. Ed said, “A false teacher is surely one whose dishonest motives and or ignorance distinguish him from the sincere brother who has reached an erroneous conclusion.” February of 1989, Ed Harrell began a series of sixteen articles in Christianity Magazine (CM) titled, “The Bounds of Christian Unity.” These articles used Romans 14 to justify ongoing fellowship with brethren who we disagree with in areas of “considerable moral and doctrinal import” (Christianity Magazine; May 1990, pp. 6). While Ed disagreed with Hailey’s MDR position he nonetheless considered their fellowship in tact due to Romans 14.



## The Burnet Meeting (Feb. 2000)

- “Toward a Better Understanding”
- Bob Owen stated, “You have differences among yourselves over divorce and remarriage but exercise your judgment to continue in fellowship. Please recognize the rights and responsibilities of others to do the same” (Bob Owen; False Teaching and False Teachers, Feb. 2000).



# Will we be consistent?

- Our preacher
- Our elders
- Our deacons
- Our beloved family members
- Our life long friends



# What are some brethren teaching today?

- **Weldon Warnock:** “But someone asks: ‘what about a woman who is put away (divorced) by a man simply because the man no longer wanted to be married? Fornication is not involved and the woman repeatedly tried to prevent the divorce, but to no avail. After a couple of years the man marries another woman. Is the ‘put away’ woman then free to marry?’ She certainly is, if she puts away her husband for fornication. She would have to do this before God in purpose of heart since the divorce has already taken place, legally speaking. She could not go through the process of having a legal document charging her husband with ‘adultery,’ but God would know.” (Searching the Scriptures, November 1985). A debate is currently pending between Warnock and Jeff Belknap with Warnock affirming the following proposition: “The scriptures teach that after a person is put away against their will and not for fornication, they may later ‘put away’ for post divorce fornication, and remarry another while their original spouse lives.”



# What are some brethren teaching today?

- **Tim Haile**: Only the innocent party in the marriage has the right to sever the bond of marriage and remarry no matter when that may occur. Adultery is the only cause for divorce and remarriage no matter when it happens because Jesus and the apostles did not deal with timing but the cause of divorce (cf. “The Race for the Right to Remarry” Tim Haile, Jan. 26, 2004 @ [www.biblebanner.com](http://www.biblebanner.com)).



# What are some brethren teaching today?

- **Terence Sheridan:** Affirmed the following debate proposition against Harry Osborn on the watchman magazine (Jan. 2002): “The scriptures teach that biblical putting away is synonymous with the civil procedure for divorce in one’s respective society and that the innocent one must secure that civil divorce in order to have a right to remarry.”
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# What are some brethren teaching today?

- **Bill Reeves:** Denied the following debate proposition against Joel Gwin (July 2003):  
“The Bible teaches that if a man puts away his scriptural wife for a reason other than fornication and then commits fornication, the original wife may not remarry.” Brother Reeves states, “Jesus gives the innocent one the right to put away and to remarry, without the provisos of pre or post anything.... There is only one putting-away (approved by God): that of the innocent one’s putting away the guilty!”



# What are some brethren teaching today?

- **Ron Halbrook:** “Next, a man may have enough regard for social convention that he will not go to bed with the ‘cut little thing’ he wants rather than his wife; therefore, he may divorce his wife, then marry the ‘cute little thing,’ thus going to the bed of adultery. Once again, the original marriage bond stays intact under divine law until he commits adultery against his wife; his legal steps do not dissolve the bond put in place when God joined them together (Matt. 19:9). Since his true wife remains faithful to the marriage bond, she and she alone has the right to repudiate the marriage under divine law” (e-mail conversation at Feb. 8, 1998 from [www.MentalDivorce.com](http://www.MentalDivorce.com)).



# Various MDR Doctrines

- **Redefining Adultery:** “The dual act of divorcing one’s wife and marrying another woman” (Jerry Basset, Olan Hicks, W. L. Wharton, Homer Hailey).
- **Consequences:** sinners may remain in sinful relationships (married to their second mate) under the guise of repentance for the covenant breaking (divorce).
- **Bible answer:** Matt. 19:9 Jesus use of fornication and adultery in the same verse.



# Various MDR Doctrines

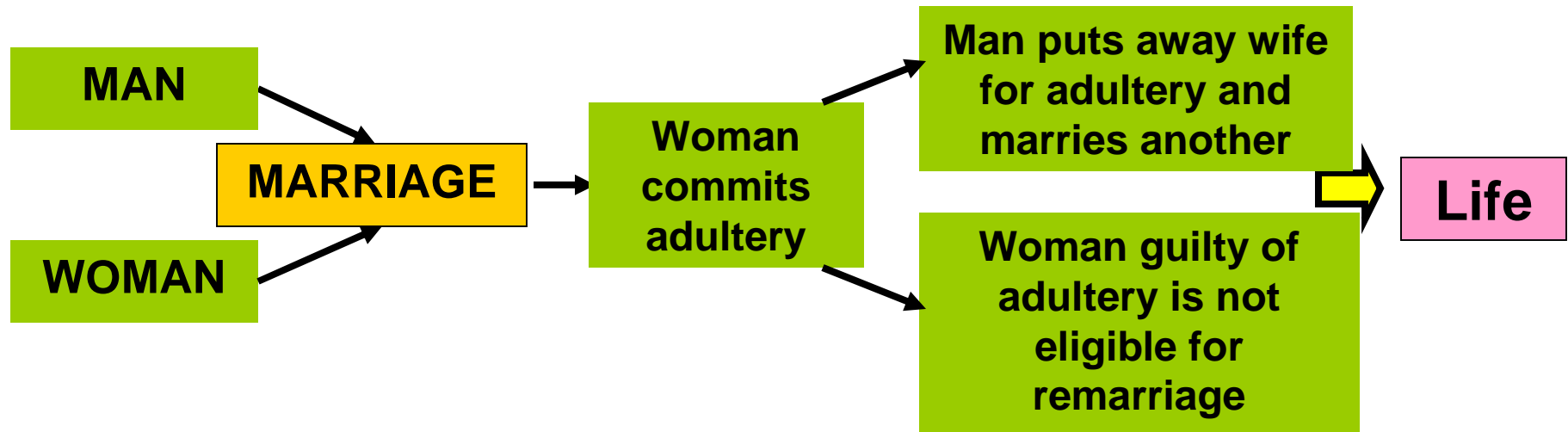
- ❑ **Alien Sinner not amenable to the Law of Christ.**
- ❑ **Consequences:** one may be baptized and have their previous marriages washed away.
- ❑ **Bible answer:** Jeremiah records at 32:27 that Jehovah is the God of all flesh. The NT depicts Christ has having universal authority too (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 17:2). If the sinner can now keep his unlawful spouse why not have murderers obey the gospel and allow them to continue in their murderous ways? Repentance means change!



# Various MDR Doctrines

- **Race to the Courthouse:** First to file for a divorce (civil procedure) is the one putting away.
- **Consequence:** Guilty fornicator can secretly commit adultery and then secretly file for a divorce and the woman is left blindsided.
- **Bible answer:** Jesus gives the right of remarriage to the innocent (Matt. 19:9).

# Paradigm 3



**“But I say unto you, that every one that putteth away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, maketh her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery”**

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Matthew 19:9

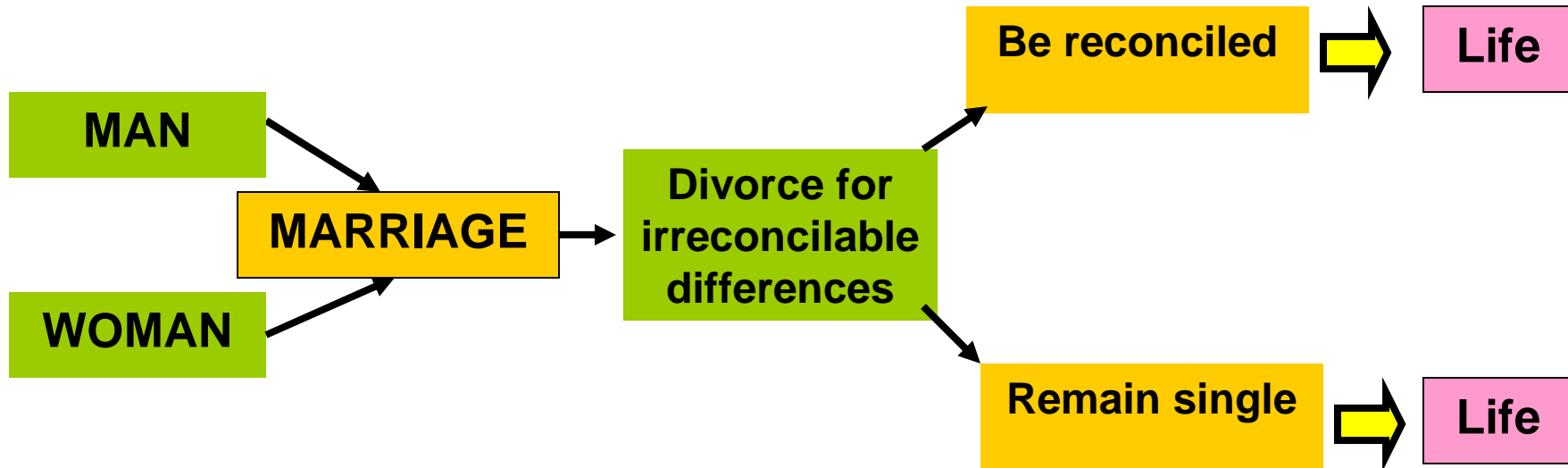


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## Various MDR Doctrines

- **Waiting Game and mental divorce:** A divorce occurs due to reasons other than adultery. One spouse sits back “waiting” for their mate to commit adultery. When adultery occurs, the waiting spouse now “**mentally states,**” I divorce you for the cause of adultery.
  - **Consequence:** Two divorces occur so that the innocent may now remarry.
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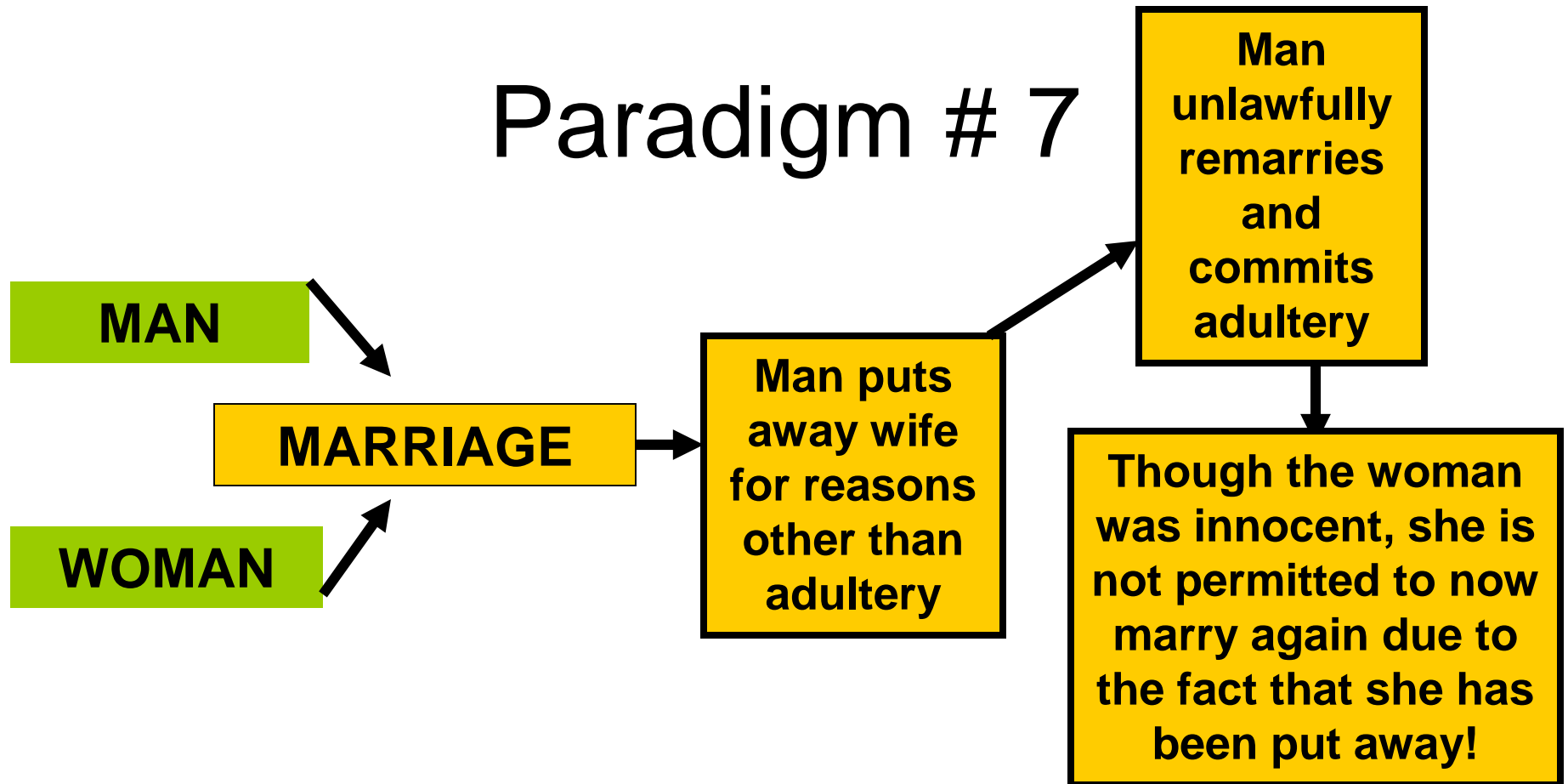
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**“But unto the married I give charge, yea not I, but the Lord, that the wife depart not from her husband. But should she depart, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband; and that the husband leave not his wife”**

I Cor. 7:10-11

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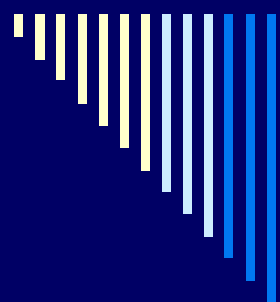
**Luke 16:18**

**Cf. Matthew 19:9**



## More recent doctrines

- Romans 14 covers our differences in the areas of MDR application. One may believe that Jesus allows a divorce for the cause of adultery no matter when it happens and one may not. As long as we both agree that God intended marriage to be one man, for one woman for life and that adultery and death is the only breaking of the marriage bond then we may remain in spiritual fellowship.
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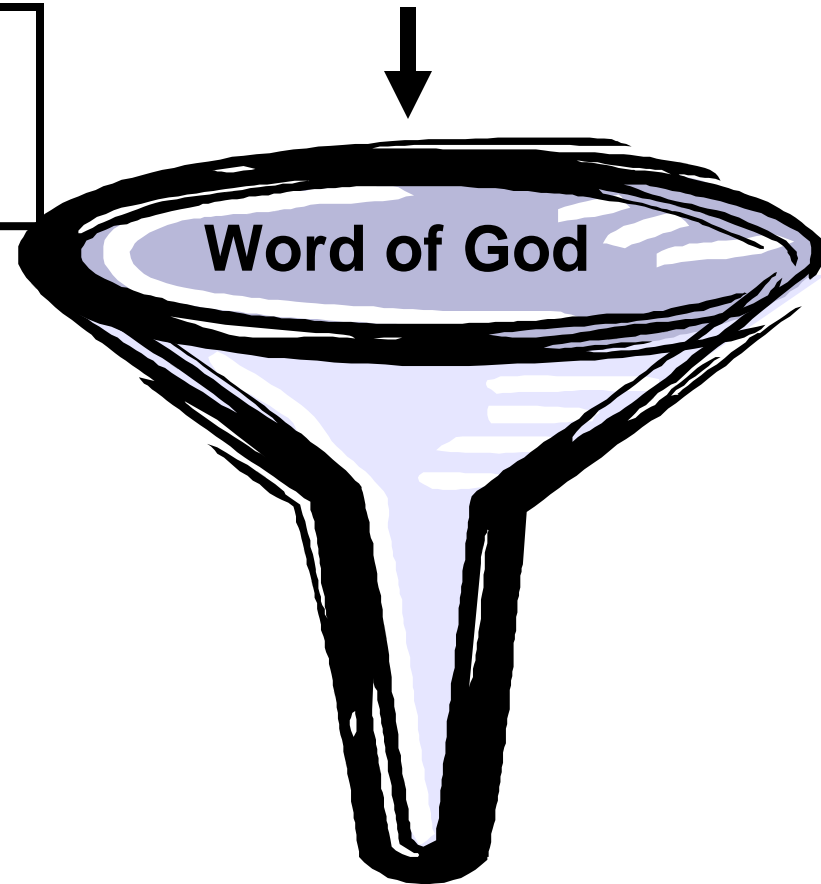


## More recent doctrines

- ❑ One may divorce for the “kingdom of God’s sake.”
- ❑ Wife beating, financial strains, husband will not let wife and children attend worship etc...

# MDR Scenario

**Conclusion**



**Matt. 5:31-32; 14:1-12; 19:1-9; Mk.  
10:1-12; Lk. 16:18; Rom. 7:1-4; I  
Cor. 7:9-11, 39**