

# What Exactly Is “Mental Divorce”?

## Introduction:

- A. In recent years there have been significant differences among brethren concerning whether some “put away” people could remarry.
- B. What is meant by the phrase “mental divorce”?

## I. Confusion Over “Marriage,” “Bond,” And “Divorce”

- A. The “mental divorce” position equates the *marriage* and the *bond*.
- B. The case of Herod and Herodias demonstrates that marriage is marriage (real), whether God approves or not. The text says they were *married*, even though John said it was unlawful (*Mark 6:17-18*).
- C. In *Matthew 19:9*, Jesus said that a man who “*divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.*” The situation is an unscriptural one, but divorce is divorce (real) and marriage is marriage (real), whether God approves or not.
- D. *Romans 7:2-3* clearly shows a distinction between the *marriage* and the *bond*.
- E. The silence of the Scriptures must be respected. That being said, there is no passage that authorizes the “put away” person to remarry.
- F. “Then, is it just a race to the lawyer’s office?”

## II. A Critical Reversal Of The Order Of The Text

- A. According to *Matthew 5:32* and *19:9*, the one who has a right to remarry is one who has put away his mate for sexual immorality. The order is (1) sexual immorality, (2) divorce, and (3) remarriage.
- B. The “mental divorce” position would have (1) divorce, (2) sexual immorality, and (3) remarriage.

## III. Consequences Of The “Mental Divorce” Position

- A. The “waiting game”
- B. “Mental marriages”
- C. Divorced and don’t know it
- D. A second putting away