



Christian Questions

TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

Dear Heather,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You wanted to know if a woman separates from her husband because he chooses to live with another woman and is actively seeking a divorce, might be allowed to remarry. You said that this man molested the woman's daughter as well and you wondered if sexual defilement was considered adultery if an actual sex act was not committed. Furthermore, the man this woman wishes to marry is a divorced Christian whose ex-wife committed adultery three times while married to him. You wanted to know if the woman and the divorced Christian man might wed without adultery being held over them, since they both want to do missionary work.

For the Christian we believe that there are only two circumstances by which a marriage may be dissolved. The first circumstance is adultery. The second is desertion by an unbelieving spouse.

(1) Adultery: "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife [husband], saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her [him] to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her [him] that is divorced (for a reason other than fornication) committeth adultery." (Matthew 5:32)

(2) Desertion by an unbelieving spouse: "But if the unbeliever leaves let him [her] do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace." (1 Corinthians 7:15)

The circumstances you presented regarding the conduct of this woman's husband demonstrate that he has committed adultery, since he has been unfaithful to his marriage vows by living with another woman. Therefore, the woman you are concerned about is scripturally able to divorce her husband and marry another. You told us that the man she wishes to marry is divorced because his ex-wife committed adultery. As in the previous case, adultery is a valid reason for divorcing, so this man is also free to marry again. There should be no accusation of adultery held over either of these people and they should be able to pursue missionary work if they so choose.

In regard to the man who molested his step daughter . . . we do not know the details as to whether sexual acts of any nature were committed, so we cannot answer whether adultery was committed or not. However, the fact that he





Christian Questions

TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

“molested” her is a serious criminal offense and is punishable under the law, if he is brought up on these charges, prosecuted and found guilty.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio

