

Dear Karen,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You stated that you are your husband's third wife. Recently he left you and returned to his second wife. You said you had nothing to do with your husband's two failed marriages and that when you first met him he was already separated from his second wife. He subsequently got a divorce and the two of you married. Then ten months into your marriage he left you and went back to his ex-wife. You told us that you are praying for God to restore your marriage and wondered if you were wrong for so doing. You said that you love your husband very much.

We must first say that we commend you for wanting to restore your marriage. Jesus reveals the sacredness of marriage in Matthew 19:6, "So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Since the Christian marriage is also an earthly picture that symbolizes the heavenly union of Christ and his bride, when a person strays and engages in fornication outside the marriage covenant, it is the obligation of both parties to prayerfully ask the Lord for guidance to find a way to set matters right. Whether your husband knows it or not his actions show that he is not respecting God's sacred laws and is selfishly looking for a means of escape.

According to you, your husband has not divorced you in order to remarry his second wife. Thus far, he is guilty of unfaithfulness (adultery). The scriptures allow you two options. You can forgive his indiscretion and take him back if he chooses to return or you can divorce him since he has committed adultery. However, this is what you CANNOT do. You cannot take him back if he remarries his second wife and THEN divorces her again in order to remarry you. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 states, "If a man does not like something about his wife, he may write a letter stating that he has divorced her, give her a letter and send her away. If she then remarries, and the second husband also divorces her, or dies, the former husband may not marry her again, for she has been defiled." This scripture tells us that once a man or woman divorces their husband or wife and marries another, he or she cannot remarry the one they previously divorced, even though they realize the foolishness of their prior action and have heartily repented. To remarry someone after you have divorced them in order to marry another shows fickleness and inconstancy and is an abomination with the Lord because it mocks the very sacredness of the institution of marriage.

Should you pray to God to restore your marriage? Yes, scripturally you may pray that prayer. However, you should first and foremost pray for God's will to be done regarding your marriage. His will may not be your will, but His will is always right. Even though you love your husband, his behavior is an indication that he may not be a suitable mate. You must also pray to God that you will accept His will, whatever the outcome.

If your husband divorces you and either you or he marries another, neither of you can ever (according to Deuteronomy 24:1-4) marry each other again. You cannot divorce, marry another and then divorce that person and go back to the former spouse. This behavior is unacceptable with God.

We hope we have answered your question and that your prayer will be answered according to God's will. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at [www.christianquestions.net](http://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**