

The Two Types of Marriages

Before we can diagnose our marriage, we have to be educated on the two types of marriages. This is something that I cover extensively in my "Authorized Divorce: When God Objects to Your Union" course, but without going into too much detail when we become believers, we transport from the Kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of Light (Col. 1:13). The word kingdom means government. It means that we operate and live our lives under a different set of rules than the rest of the world. We serve a sovereign king (God) and we do what He says. So, when it comes to marriage, we do what He says. The reason why so many Christians are finding themselves having to deal with divorce is because they didn't know anything about this. They thought (or worse were actually taught) that we can pick whoever we want to marry and then invite God into it to get the kind of marriage illustrated in scripture. That isn't how it works. Under God's government, He makes our choice in spouse. All marriages in the kingdom of heaven are arranged marriages...marriages where God chooses the participants in the institution, as well as the timing of the marriage. So, the answer to why your marriage sucks can be found by taking a look at the chart below. It comes down to this simple question, when you got married, did your marriage have God's approval or not?

Two Types of Marriages

Kingdom/Government of Heaven

❖ **Authorized/God Arranged Marriage**

- God Chooses
- God Officiates
- God Approves
- God Blesses
- Reflect the Godly Institution described in scripture
- Divorce is prohibited



Earthly Kingdom/Government

❖ **Unauthorized Marriage**

- Man or Satan Chooses
- Man Officiates
- God doesn't approve
- Is cursed
- Is toxic and abusive
- Divorce is Required



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Take the Quiz



Still confused? No worries. Let's take a quiz to help you determine if your marriage has God's approval or not.

1. Are you and your spouse equally yoked? Yes or No?
2. Did you ask God His opinion on both the person you married and the timing of when you were married BEFORE deciding to date them? Yes or No?
3. Did you abstain from intimacy with your spouse entirely before marriage? Yes or No?
4. Was Christ Lord of your life (not just savior) before your marriage? Yes or No?
5. Knowing God's character of goodness and His heart of unfailing and never-ending love for you, do you believe that you are married to God's choice for you? Yes or No?
6. Is your marriage toxic and/or abusive? Yes or No!



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Quiz Answers and Explanations

1. **Are you and your spouse equally yoked?**

The bible warns against marrying those that are unequally yoked with you. In the Old Testament, the way God ensured the Israelites didn't do this was to tell them not to marry people who weren't Israelites (Deut. 7:3). Marrying a pagan would ensure that you would be unequally yoked. You would serve a different god, have different life goals, disagree on how to raise your children, spend your money, etc. No one who wasn't an Israelite would agree on things like circumcision of the children, tithing, or observing any of the feasts every year without fail. Yet all of these things were a way of life for the Israelites and things that were a part of their faith. It's the same for us today. As believers, we are to live out our faith. Having someone simply tell you they are a Christian, is not the same as being able to see it in their lifestyle. If either you, your spouse, or both of you weren't living out your faith when you married one another, then it's likely that you are unequally yoked. (2 Cor. 6:14)

2. **Did you ask God His opinion on both the person you married and the timing of when you were married BEFORE deciding to date them?**

In the Kingdom of Heaven, marriage is an institution that God Himself officiates. He tells us both who to marry and when it's okay to marry them. If we don't ask God for His opinion, it seems silly to them to ask Him for His blessing. Furthermore, once we start dating someone, then our souls become yoked together. Our emotions are involved, our lives have been changed to make room for this person. We are very unlikely to be able to hear God clearly on His opinion once we've already started dating someone. If the answer to this question is no, then you may be in an Unauthorized Marriage.

3. **Did you abstain from intimacy with your spouse entirely before marriage?**

There are very few Christians that don't know and understand that being intimate before marriage is in direct disobedience to the Word of God (1 Cor 6:9). Yet most of us remember the scripture about being better to marry than to burn, so we ignore one scripture for another and get married. However, we soon realized after we start having problems that the wages of sin is death because we've found ourselves in a dead marriage.

4. **Was Christ Lord of your life (not just savior) before your marriage?**



Quiz Answers and Explanations (cont.)

Unfortunately for most Christians, there is a huge disconnect between Christ being our savior, and Him being our Lord. We live our lives calling the shots for ourselves and praying for God's help every now and then when we need it. But that isn't how it's supposed to work. Christ is supposed to be the Lord of our lives. Again, we live in a Kingdom with a sovereign King. He calls the shots, and we carry out His plans. If you weren't living your life in that way before getting married, then you were likely doing what seems right. But the bible says there is a way that seems right to a man that leads to destruction (Prov 14:12). For many of us, once we seek God and understand God's plan and purpose for our lives, we quickly realized that our spouse wasn't a part of that plan.

5. **Knowing God's character of goodness and His heart of unfailing and never-ending love for you, do you believe that you are married to God's choice for you?**

God loves us so much that He sent His son to die for us. Furthermore, His character is 100% absolute goodness. If He were to choose a spouse for you that treats you in a way that is toxic and abusive, then He would not be a good God.

6. **Is your marriage toxic and has it been that way for 5 years or more?**

One of the tale-tell signs of an Unauthorized marriage is toxicity and abuse. If there is verbal, emotional, financial, spiritual, or physical abuse in your marriage for an extended period, you are almost definitely in an unauthorized marriage. Believers, people who love God and are men and women after his own heart, don't behave that way on a repetitive basis. The Holy Spirit just absolutely won't let them continue living that way. One of the biggest tricks of Satan is to masquerade as an angel of light so that he can fool the very elect (2 Cor 11:14). He tricks those of us who love God into believing that we are getting into a marriage that God will be in with us, only for us to realize too late that we're in a marriage that God doesn't approve of. Then, he turns around and guilts us into staying because we know how much God hates divorce. This cycle is completely demonic and it's NOT God's will for us!



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What Do I Do Now?

If your answer to questions 1-5 is No, and your answer to question 6 is yes, then you are almost certainly in an unauthorized marriage. But how do you know and if so what do you do now?

Well, how do you know is simple, you ask God. For most of us living our lives without God's input is what got us into this mess. From this moment forward we must be determined to learn to recognize the voice of God and to obey what He tells us. Ask God if He approved of your marriage and then wait for an answer. God loves you and He always wants to talk to you. He's just waiting for you to be ready to listen and to give Him your undivided attention.

For many of you, He was already speaking to you before you found this book and now this book has just confirmed it; now you know you're in an unauthorized marriage. If that is the case, then you'll need to do one of two things. If you missed God on the timing of your marriage but not on the person, then He may cause a separation and a later restoration. But if you missed Him on the person, then you will need to get a divorce. Unauthorized marriages are not recognized by the Kingdom of Heaven only by the kingdom of darkness. God hates divorce in the Kingdom of Heaven (in marriages that He put together), but yours is not one of those marriages.

But wait, again ask God. Many of you are dealing with varying levels of abusive spouses and leaving is easier said than done. But God is faithful, He will make a way of escape for you. You don't have to figure the details out on your own. God has a plan for your escape. All you have to do is ask Him what that plan is and then help you to be sensitive to hearing and obey your role in it.

In my personal situation I dotted all my I's and crossed all my T's so that I could leave, but then still couldn't do it. So, God burned my ship and blew up my marriage without me having to have the courage to do it myself. For some, it happens entirely differently. But rest assured God has a plan for your life and from this moment forward if you're determined to discover what that plan is and participate in it, then you're on your way to the abundant life that God has for you!

