

Divorce & Remarriage



God's Viewpoint of Divorce:

- **I Corinthians 7:3**

1 Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

- **Malachi 2:16**

Malachi 2:16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

- **Jeremiah 3:3-8 God gave Israel a divorce even though He hated it**

Jeremiah 3:3-8 Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot's forehead; You refuse to be ashamed. 4 Will you not from this time cry to Me, 'My father, You are the guide of my youth? 5 Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end?' Behold, you have spoken and done evil things, As you were able." 6 The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. 7 "And I said, after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 "Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.

Statistics on Divorce:

80% of children from divorced families get divorces

Pastoral wisdom:

- **Never counsel someone to get a divorce. It is their decision before God. Be part of the solution, not the problem. If they decide to scripturally divorce than you may altar your counsel**
- **Always offer hope, even when there is no hope. Speak faith in the midst of the mountains**
- **Never condemn, judge or think or speak less of. Mercy triumphs over judgment**

Scriptural Reasons for Divorce:

- **Adultery (Matthew 5:31-32; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18)**

Mark 10:2-11 The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him. 3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her." 5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 6 "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." 10 In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. 11 So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.

- **Willfully divorcing your spouse and marrying another is adultery**
- **Abandonment (I Corinthians 7:10-17)**

1 Corinthians 7:10-17 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. 12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife? 17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

- **Extreme reasons: incest, physical beating, drugs & alcoholism, false religions**

What Causes Divorce? (Matthew 19:3-10)

Matthew 19:7-9 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

- Hardness of heart - selfishness
- Being too hasty. Allow the Holy Spirit plenty of time to heal the marriage
- Upbringing (generational curses)

“Not all divorce is sinful, but is a result of sin”

Reasons I have heard people give for divorcing:

- “We have grown apart”
- “We are incompatible”
- “I married the wrong person”
- “My needs aren’t being met”
- “My wife only allows me to have sex once a month”
- “My husband doesn’t meet my emotional needs”
- “I am not happy. God would not want me in that type of relationship”

“Biblical freedom is not the ability to do as I want, but to do as I ought”

Some people are under the notion they will be happier if they get a divorce. They will be rid of the strife and arguing. I have talked to people who have done that and they regret their decision. They realize too late that the spouse they had really wasn’t that bad of a person, and they could have worked it out.

- “I can be closer to God by not being married”
- “She/He refuses to change”

One person left his wife because he said, “I prayed you would change and you didn’t”. He left that relationship, which was his fifth marriage! Maybe he is the one who needed to change.

While changes need to be made in all of us I have found it beneficial to work on myself. When I make changes in me it allows God to work on changes in my spouse. It is important to take the log out of our own eye before taking the speck out of my brother’s eye.

- “She’s too domineering”
- “He’s too controlling”
- “He/She is too negative, selfish, etc.”
- “I can’t take it any more”
- “We don’t love each other any more. We fell out of love”
- Verbal abuse
- Husband wanted to move and wife didn’t
- The argument: “It is better to divorce than for our kids to be in an unhappy environment”



What you can do if you have been through a divorce?

- Wait a minimum of 2 years before considering another. This is not a law but wisdom (1 Corinthians 7:27, 32-33)
- Allow God to bring healing into your life
- Be an active part of a church
- Focus on your relationship with the Lord
- Avoid the world’s dating game
- Understand that God can do miracles and resurrect the dead

How do you approach a remarriage?

- Learn your lessons from the past
- Realize the grass will *not* be greener on the other side. When you get there you find out it is cardboard. Commitment the second time around is usually tougher than the first
- Marry only a believer (2 Corinthians 6:14)

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

How to avoid divorce:

- Have your own prayer life and walk in the Spirit
- Pray together (know the power of agreement)
- Pray for each other (recognize spiritual warfare)

- **Focus on the positive. Remember why you got married in the first place**

Philippians 4:8 ... whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

- **Reaffirm your love and commitment to your spouse on a *daily* basis as you do to the Lord**
- **Make the word “divorce” off limits, and never allowed in any argument or discussion.** It is never an option. Speaking the “D” word is speaking death to your marriage. It is destructive and detrimental to any progress you may hope to make. It shows lack of self control.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

We have seen some couples use this as a weapon against their spouse during arguments. It is off limits and hitting below the belt. We have known people who threatened their spouse with divorce because they thought it was the only way they would change them.

- **Invest in your marriage as you would a business. Read books, listen to CD's, go to marriage teachings, seminars, etc.**
- **Agree to seek godly counsel if you need help. Often divorce happens because one spouse is too prideful to admit they need help or are willing to ask for it**
- **Make forgiveness a way of life (70 x 7 and beyond)**
- **Weather trials. Perseverance is to be a way of life for a believer.**
- **Give 100% on your part. It is *not* a 50-50 partnership**
- **Be committed to obeying God no matter what happens. We are called to serve God and our spouse whether they ever do or not**
- **Learn and live by the Seven Rules on having a good fight:**

1. ***Keep it honest*** – Be committed to honesty and mutual respect
2. ***Keep it under control*** – Make sure the weapons are not deadly
3. ***Keep it timed right*** – Agree that the time is right
4. ***Keep it positive*** – Be ready with a positive solution, soon after the swing
5. ***Keep it tactful*** – Watch your words and guard your tone
6. ***Keep it private*** – Don't swing at your mate in public
 - a. Avoid open old embarrassment or subtle, cutting sarcasm
7. ***Keep it cleaned up*** – When it's over, help clean up the mess. This involves kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness



Best way to stop a fight:

“When you are beaten surrender ... some adult married couples can be very poor losers, very childish. All it takes is three mono-syllabic words: I am wrong’ or ‘You are right’. When you say this, the fight ends

- **Love by *choice*, not by *feeling*.** There is no feeling necessary in agape love. To love requires action. We are commanded to love our enemies, so why not our spouse?

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Titus 2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

How to love:

Start in natural and God will bring the supernatural. Act on the word and God will add the feelings. Put on love until you feel it.

Colossians 3:12-13 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

