

What God Has To Say About Divorce

(Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 5:31-32; 19:3-10; 1 Cor. 7:10-16)

Divorce is a tough and touchy subject, yet one that is a reality not only in our society as a whole, but also in our own church. This will likely be a two-part message, and we'll be looking at...

1. What God, through His Word, has to say about divorce.
2. Some of the cost and consequences of divorce.
3. How we should respond to divorce as Christians and as a church.

I. WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT DIVORCE?

Many churches today hold to two extreme views of divorce: (1) Some believe and teach, _____ (2) Others view divorce as something akin to a _____. Both are wrong!

Even in the church setting, the teachings and ideas about divorce appear confused and conflicting. The confusion, though, is _____, but _____.

A. God Has Something To Say About Divorce (Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 5:31-32; 19:3-10)

Divorce was also a hot issue in the time of Christ:

- One view interpreted the law rigidly and said that divorce was only permitted for _____.
- The dominant view, however, taught that a man could divorce his wife for _____. The justification for this position of easy divorce was based on erroneously interpreting Deut. 24:1-4, the Bible's first mention of "divorce".

B. God Hates Divorce

God and Scripture make very clear is that divorce is a sin. Why? The Bible's teaching on divorce cannot be rightly understood apart from its teaching on marriage. Consider the following:

- Marriage is _____ of God's love and relationship with His church - believers (Eph. 5:25; Isa. 62:5; 2 Cor. 11:2).
- God instituted marriage in response to man's _____ (Gen. 2:18).
- God instituted marriage to provide for man's _____ (Proverbs 5:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
- Within marriage mankind is to be _____ godly children (Genesis 1:28).
- Man and woman were to leave father and mother and become _____ (Genesis 2:23-24). _____
- And when God has put two together, man is not to _____ (Mark 10:9)! Divorce is the breaking of a _____ relationship; it is reneging on a _____ (Eccl. 6:4-5).

C. God's Provision For Divorce

Given that He hates divorce, God nevertheless has made a provision for divorce in certain cases where a husband or wife has hardened their hearts against the other and the Lord. And contrary to popular opinion, there are really only two of them:

1. God permitted divorce in cases of _____ - (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:9)
2. God permitted divorce in cases of _____ - (1 Cor. 7:10-16)

Conclusion:

The antidote to divorce is a _____... And marriage is not so much finding the _____ as it is _____ the right person. Next week, we'll look at Part 2 of this study.

If you are divorced, you need to know that you are loved, and that there is hope for you!