



DIVORCE

1. God's plan

1. God wants marriage – Gen 2:24
2. The 2 become one flesh – Mk 10:6-9
3. Marriage was meant to be permanent
4. God only permitted limited reasons for divorce because of the hardness of the people's hearts. – Mk 10:4-5
5. God hates divorce – Mal 2:16

2. There are only 2 reasons for biblical divorce

1. If a Christian husband or wife discovers that his/her mate has been sexually unfaithful, the spouse who is innocent of the marital infidelity is permitted to divorce the offending spouse and to remarry. – 1 Cor 7:15
2. If a Christian's unbelieving spouse leaves the Christian (not vice versa!), then the Christian who has been divorced in this way is free to remarry. – Mt 5:31-32

3. Things to consider

- 23 000 Israelites committed fornication (pornia - which speaks of a broad range of sexual immorality — single, married, or even incestuous.) in one day. It is impossible to believe that all were unmarried – 1 Cor 10:8
- Believers may not divorce but if they do they may not remarry but must stay single until their ex-spouse dies or be reconciled – 1 Cor 7:10-14
- Adultery makes you God's enemy (Chose sides) – Js 4:4

4. Remarriage

1. Marital infidelity (sexual unfaithfulness) by the spouse. The innocent party may divorce and remarry. – Mt 19:9
2. A Christian's unbelieving mate departs from the Christian. The divorced Christian is free to remarry. – 1 Cor 7:15
3. Any and every divorce from one's unsaved past is forgiven at the time of salvation. They may remarry – 2 Cor 5:17
4. If your spouse or ex-spouse dies. – Rom 7:2-3

5. To divorcees

- This person, although innocent of the actual adultery committed by his/her spouse, may have, through other non biblical conduct or characteristics, contributed at least indirectly to the breakdown of the marriage. Such a divorced person should seek counsel from a qualified pastor or church elder to effect biblical change in his or her own life before even considering undertaking another marriage.
- There is a lot of biblical backing for us to “forgive one another,” as in Eph 4:32 and Col 3:13. It is entirely biblical for the offended party to seek God diligently for the grace to forgive the adulterous spouse.
- Ideally, the optimum solution is reconciliation and restoration of the marriage. In a remarkable passage in Jer 3:8-20, God said that “Israel [had] committed adultery [and God] had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce.” Yet God cried out to Israel to repent and turn back to Him, and declared that He would receive her back. Through prayer and competent counsel, it is possible for at least some marriages shattered by adultery to be brought to a place of repentance, forgiveness, and restoration.

6. To leaders

- You may not marry any believer that has been divorced because you are causing the couple to commit adultery
- You as a leader are not only condoning adultery but also allowing it and leading them into hell. Adulterers will not inherit the Kingdom of God – Gal 5:19,21
- God is going to judge us as for leading the flock astray – Heb 13:17

7. Summary

We must die to the flesh and live for Christ