

Series: Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: A Closer Look at What the Bible Really Tells Us
Session 3 – A Biblical View of Divorce – Part 2

A Review of Divorce Part 1

1. Divorce, is the repudiation and breaking of the covenant of Companionship.
2. What God really hates, is not the legal proceeding per se, but what divorce brings into His people's lives.
3. Divorce is the result of sin. But if all sin is forgivable, then we must not call unclean those who have been divorced, repented and accepted God's forgiveness.
4. While God does not like divorce because of what it causes ... He does accept it as a reality for life in a fallen human condition.

Divorce Among Believers

Paul is giving the basic command that neither the Christian wife nor the Christian husband my divorce one another. As God's people, we have entered into a permanent covenant of companionship.

If a divorce takes place, the partners must remain unmarried to leave open the possibility of reconciliation ... that is the example of God and His dealing with Israel despite their unfaithfulness to Him.

Divorce Among the Unequally Yoked

2 Cor 6:14 – “Do not be bound together [KJV unequally yoked] with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”

The believing partner must attempt to keep the marriage intact. If, however, the unbelieving partner will not continue the marriage, divorce is an acceptable option. God has called the believer to peace.

The Exception Clause

Matt 19:9 Jesus says: “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Sexual immorality (fornication) is the only specific cause for which divorce is acceptable to God.

Fornication (*sexual immorality, unchastity, or marital unfaithfulness*) includes sexual sin of all sorts: incest, homosexuality, bestiality, and even adultery.

Adultery (always refers to more than sexual sin ... and always has the marriage covenant in view.) is the breaking of the covenant of companionship by introducing a third party

A Word About Forgiveness & Reconciliation

Isa 55:7 - Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Believers are to pursue reconciliation in the marriage relationship. The process outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 provides the guide. If a believing partner will not reconcile then their condition becomes like an unbeliever and the guidance for those unequally yoked not pertains to the situation.