

Series: Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: A Closer Look at What the Bible Really Tells Us Session 5 – Putting it All Together in the Local Church

Review

List taken from *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*, by Jay Adams, pp 97-98, Zondervan Press.

Marriage:

- Is a divinely-ordained institution
- Is the first and most fundamental institution
- Is covenantal and binding
- Is a covenant of Companionship
- Is the place for true intimacy
- Is to conform to the model of Christ and His Church

Divorce:

- Always stems from sin
- Is not necessarily sinful
- Always breaks a marriage
- Is never necessary among believers
- Is legitimate on the grounds of sexual sin
- Is legitimate when an unbeliever wishes to divorce a believer
- Is forgivable when sinful

Remarriage:

- In general, is desirable
- is possible for a divorce person
- Is possible for a sinfully-divorced person through forgiveness
- Is possible only when all biblical obligations have been met
- Is possible only when parties are prepared for marriage

The Way We Handle Marriage at the Local Church

We must understand the sacred, God-ordained nature of marriage.

Require premarital counseling for all those individuals that are married in this church.

We must support the God's guidance that Christians not be unequally yoked to unbelievers. **2 Cor 6:14** – ***“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”***

In instances of conflict between members, we must support God's standard for reconciliation as articulated in **Matt 18:15-17**.

Like any other sin, divorce for unbiblical reasons is sin ... like any other sin ... and Jesus died to cleanse all truly repentant people.

Divorced Members

As sinners saved by grace, we must understand that divorced people can be just as saved and just as cleansed of their sin as any other truly repentant person.

FBC must be a place of welcome and safety for all people.

Church Leadership

1 Tim 3:1-13 – vss 1-7 deal with those who would be pastors while vss 8-13 deal with deacons.

The key element behind **1 Tim 3** qualifications is that the man must live a life *“above reproach.”*

It is the job of the existing church officers to carefully and humbly determine if a man considered for leadership meets these requirements.