

The D-Word: Divorce

Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:15

1. GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE.

“Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’? “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Matthew 19:3–6)

- A. Marriage is a **Primary** relationship---“leave.”
- B. Marriage is a **Permanent** relationship---“cleave.”
- C. Marriage is a **Purposeful** relationship---“one flesh.”

2. GOD'S POSITION ON DIVORCE.

“This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. “Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. “But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. “For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,”



says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.” (Malachi 2:13–16)

To deal “treacherously” means to “break faith” with the wife of your covenant and with God.

Why does God hate divorce?

- A. It is a result of **Sin**.
- B. It **Violates** the marriage covenant which God designed.
- C. It causes great **Pain** and **Suffering**.

3. GOD’S **PERMISSION** FOR DIVORCE.

“but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” (Matthew 5:32)

“They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?” He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”” (Matthew 19:7–9)

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man’s wife, and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you



shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.” (Deuteronomy 24:1–4)

A. Sexual Immorality/Adultery

B. Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse

4. GOD’S PEROGATIVE OF RECONCILIATON.

“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. “Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. “Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.” (Matthew 5:23–26)

“Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.” So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley. Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.”” (Hosea 3:1–3)

5. GOD’S PERMISSION OF REMARRIAGE.

A. When there has been marital failure Prior to Salvation.

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)*



B. When divorce is due to an Unrepentant immoral partner.

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(Matthew 5:32)

“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

(Matthew 19:9)

C. When an unbelieving spouse Deserts, Breaks Faith and Divorces a believing spouse.

“But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. 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?” (1 Corinthians 7:10–16)

