

What Jesus Said About Divorce

(Malachi 2:16)

- Introduction:
1. “For the Lord God of Israel says that he hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously” (Malachi 2:16).
 - a. Malachi is the last revelation of the Old Testament prophets and after seeing it all, God said he hates divorce.
 - b. He also associates violence with divorce.
 - c. He also associates treachery (i.e. to act covertly, betrayal) with divorce.
 2. Those who have experienced divorce know exactly what God means and know exactly why God hates it.
 3. We live in a time when the prevailing attitudes toward divorce are rather cavalier.
 4. Also, because divorce is so prevalent in our culture, there isn’t a whole lot of love showered on those who would dare to speak on this subject, just as there wasn’t in the days of Jesus (Matthew 14:1-12; Matthew 19:1-12).
 5. It is for that very reason, this topic needs to be addressed.

I. A Word to Those Who Have Been Divorced

- A. You have the sympathy of this church family (Romans 12:15).
- B. Many psychologists believe divorce to be more traumatic than the death of one’s spouse.
- C. So, as I address this topic, I want you to know that I am sensitive to your situation, which may be no fault of your own.

II. Advice to Those Who Plan to Marry

- A. The best time to get a divorce is before you get married!
- B. Spend more time planning your marriage than your wedding.
- C. Don’t plan on changing the person you’re marrying.
- D. Reach an adequate level of maturity before you marry.
- E. Avoid financial difficulties which can strain a marriage.
- F. Don’t marry someone who won’t help you get to heaven!

III. What Jesus Said About Divorce

- A. (Matthew 19:6).
- B. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
- C. The act of divorce itself is a sin. Who said that? Jesus said that.
- D. I don’t know where this idea came from that says one can divorce, break their vows made before God and man, do the opposite of what Jesus said, and not be guilty of sin as long as they don’t remarry.

- E. Remarriage following a divorce that was not for fornication is certainly sinful, but so is the divorce itself!
- F. What should one do if they find themselves in this very situation (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)?
 - 1. Be reconciled.
 - 2. Or remain unmarried.
- G. Note that these instructions are not to be construed as permissive but regulatory.

IV. What Jesus Said About Remarriage

- A. (Matthew 19:9).
- B. Any marriage that follows a divorce that was not for the cause of fornication, is an adulterous union.
- C. Who said that? Jesus said that.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Friends, divorce is a form of marital suicide. It's a permanent solution to a temporary problem.
 - 2. However, when it comes to divorce, we need to show compassion to those who have suffered through it and whose lives have been rocked in its wake.
 - 3. At the same time, we need to call for repentance from those who initiated it without the cause of fornication.
 - 4. We also need to uphold, without compromise, the truth of God's word on the subject. Now, maybe more than ever, we need to teach the truth on this matter before people find themselves in a situation that can ruin their life here and in eternity.
 - 5. Remember, the words that Jesus has spoken shall judge us on the last day (John 12:48).