



## What God Says About Marriage & Divorce

**Luke 16:18**

**18 "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery."**

**Matthew 19:1-9**

**Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.**

**3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"**

**4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 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'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."**

**7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"**

**8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."**

POINT: We cannot define marriage...only God can define marriage.

PROBLEM: The divorce rate among professing believers is virtually the same as those who do not profess Christ.

### 2 Thoughts Concerning Marriage / Divorce:

#### 1. Marriage is a spiritual union (vs. 5-6)

**Shammai:** Divorce was never permissible.

**Hillel:** Divorce was no big deal (predominant view during Jesus day)

**Leave:** Abandon

**Cleave:** Glue oneself to

POINT: Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church.

*“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” Ephesians 5:22, 25*

POINT: Christ never commands us to do in our marriage what He has not done for His church.

POINT: Marriage is one man and one woman for one lifetime under one Lord.

## **2. The major cause of divorce is a hard heart (vs. 7-8)**

*“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 uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s wife, if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after 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 is giving you as an inheritance.” Deuteronomy 24:1-4*

POINT: God never commands or commends divorce.

*“Somehow, someday, every marriage becomes a struggle. Accurate diagnosis always precedes effective cure. No change takes place in a marriage that does not begin with confession.” -Paul Tripp, *What Did You Expect**

POINT: Confession begins with self...not your spouse.

POINT: What is down in the well, comes up in the bucket

*“As in water face reflects face, so a man’s heart reveals the man.” Proverbs 27:19*

## **3. Divorce is at times permissible but divorce is not praiseworthy (vs. 9)**

*“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*

There are 2 times where divorce is permissible: Adultery and Abandonment by an unbeliever.

*“But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.” 1 Corinthians 7:15*

POINT: Seeking repentance and restoration is always our main goal.

*“Marriage is not about you, divorce is all about you.” –J.D. Greear*

## **Common Questions Concerning Marriage/Divorce/Re-Marriage:**

1. If I am divorced and remarried, should I divorce and go back to my first spouse?
2. What if I am divorced, can I seek remarriage?

POINT: A Biblical divorce can lead to a Biblical remarriage. An un-Biblical divorce cannot lead to a Biblical marriage.

3. What defines abandonment?
4. What do I do if I am married to an unbeliever?

*“But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.” 1 Corinthians 7:12-14*

POINT: God is using the believer in the marriage to sanctify the unbeliever in the marriage.

“It is not the big moments that define our marriage. It is the little moments that define our marriage.”  
–Paul Tripp

CONCLUSION: A marriage that will last a lifetime starts with today.