

Divorce and Remarriage

Spare Yourself: Having trouble with your spouse? He or she is not all that you expected? Okay, you have had some surprises and conflicts that are now turning your world upside down. You are not the only one in these days that is sort of at the end of their marital rope. Out of all these sickening troubled times you are emotionally famished and mentally frustrated with your spouse. Perhaps you know that you are spiritually out of touch with the Lord and operating on your own 5 cylinder engine (one cylinder is lacking power). You think in desperation that you can't go on like this much longer and you will have to pull the pin and file for divorce. Wait a minute Hang on this too shall pass. But you say, "I hate the idea of going on any longer so I am going to do it anyway;" I shall divorce that dreadful... I have had enough we have never made it work very well and it probably never can or will.

First of all, let us consider what the Lord himself has said so simply and straight forward about divorce. Two verses give the intention of the Creator, Jesus Christ. Mt. 19:6 and Mk. 10:9. They are a double take kind of affirmation on the ungodly idea of separating after marriage. People can really get out of touch with the Lord in times like these; the fallout of this is we mentally separate from the physically distancing spouse in times of marital conflict. The Spirit of God has seen that this instruction "do not separate" be placed two times in the Word of God. It is the most straight forward statement about divorce. Under no circumstances should a marriage commit divorce. This is God's instruction for all those who are married.

Only two exceptions are allowed for divorce in the Bible, adultery is one of them. The situation is ugly and ungodly. Adultery at the end comes instantly but develops over a period of time mostly from a godless mindset. Even if adultery happens it is not necessary for one to commit to a plan for divorce. God's idea about broken relationships is that reconciliation be made and restoration to a renewed and loving relationship be restored. In the practical application of God's best this ideal is seldom desired or sought after. As sinners need to be reconciled to God an erring spouse should be reconciled again to the partner of marriage. What God has joined together should not be broken. God helps by His Spirit, instructs with His ideal in His Word and can enable the heart to obey, if we are careful to seek His favor. There are probably people near you that can mediate and counsel. Seek someone like this, and in the mean time do not make any fast decisions.

It seems that God has set the marriage as permanent because He himself never would do that; He is perfectly faithful. God is a faithful God. In the concept of discipleship the student is not to go beyond His master, He is to be like Him, faithful. The faithful among men seem to be few but none the less it is the design of God for human relationships. His ideal is that we be faithful to the spouse of our youth. Under the Law divorce happened for other reasons than adultery, but when it did it was because of hardness of heart, Mt. 19:8. Hard heartedness has other ramifications physically and spiritually. To be hard hearted means that we do not allow the penetration of the Spirit's truth and voice into our being. God's way is always best and has a most pleasant result. Divorce depends on a negative mind set about the other, their personal actions, their hurting and cutting words and finally the decision for divorce. The destiny most of the time is irreversible while the descending consequences are set in motion. God's will in all this is negated, superseded and disobeyed and usually at this point few regard what God has said or commanded. Other people who claim to be Christians even encourage it often against the Lord's will and advice.

Didn't the Lord say through the apostle Paul that if you marry you shall have trouble in life, this is a marital expectation that all couples eventually face, I Cor. 7:28b! Good marriages demand early planning about what kind of a person to marry. Consideration on how to deal with the problems and struggles that arise must be weighed in light of the person you marry. The world has no powerful and supernatural resource to help with the problems of life but God's people do. When you are young, advice from older godly married people would be valuable. Then too if you made a mistake about the person you married when you were young, God can still intervene and bring blessing and stability in spite of the past out of the will of God actions.

When divorce is on track, the world runs to the lawyer and gets the divorce papers going. The hate builds. Your justification for divorce builds paved highways to the divorce court. You never anticipate the consequences that will be forth coming not only now but in eternity, when the negative emotion runs high. Perhaps the forethought before you were married was too idealistic and lacked a sense of reality about the future. It was the "live happily ever after" idea that struck you initially regarding your future spouse. Your plans materialize for divorce and you are determined to do your thing. You muse to yourself: "I am going to do something before I go bananas." I can't take this anymore. Now your heart is in limbo; you are actively plotting against the one you loved so much in previous times. You forget your promises, you justify breaking them if you did think of them and every inclination that you ever had to be faithful in the past is erased and replaced with excuses. And you end up throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Most Christian marriages have certain vows that meet biblical standards. These standards are based after God's design and His character. When adopting the way of the world or even beginning to think about divorce the future divorcee is buying into the devil's lies. God's standards are high and have great reward! In faithfulness your testimony grows, your ability to think with Him in the Word matures and the Spirit empowers your life. Life's problems can be surmounted with God's wonderful help. Many times the problems are in the wrong conditioning of the mind. God can change that, too.

This is how it works in God's Kingdom. You be faithful to the Lord and obey His will regardless of how much pain you suffer and you will be rewarded. God has a way of testing and proving us that develops our maturity. Based upon this you set your path for your future for good or bad. If you are not considering the Lord's will that much, you determine privately or secretly, neglecting upward thoughts and do your own thing.

1. God's purpose for man and woman is that they be joined together first in holy matrimony. Then they become one flesh. If they are married they are to remain in such a state until death, I Cor. 7:10. God's original intention was that any man should only have one living wife. God created male and female and the marriage relationship should take priority of relationship over parental relationships. God's ideal is that man should remain in the marriage condition which he has accepted and this marital condition should not be broken by any human justification; Gen. 3:18-25. Yes, God is a God of grace and can forgive, but he does not fix the consequences which may descend to even the 4th generation, which will probably come in a time which you shall never see because you may not live that long. You think of the regrets now, what will you face in eternity when you shall see as a redeemed Child of God all things more perfectly.
2. There is no sanction of any other kind of human union mentioned in the Bible. All homosexual activity, marriages, live ins, significant others, lovers and casual lovers are perversions committed in human relationships. All sexual relations with animals is another perversion of

human relationship; *According to God's Holy Word*. Deut 27:21. The wages of sin is death and who can number the kinds of death that there are? Divorce is a death to a relationship. A death in the human family bodily or martially or other kinds of relationships are devastating; who shall see the end turn out well when the in between is saturated with ungodliness. Never should a person get married without carefully weighing the final result of the marriage.

If divorce is wrong according to the Bible, remarriage in the sight of God is wrong also. This is also simply stated in God's Word. The Scriptures are Mark 10:11 and 12 among other places. These were the words of Jesus Christ the Creator God. This was His design for His creation.

So if one divorces he commits a sin of grave consequence and if one remarries he commits another sin of grave consequence. When you live in a state of divorce and remarriage you live in a continual state of sin. Will God bless this sin? Forgiven perhaps, consequences undoubtedly; the world is filled with it, avoid being a victim. Trust God and Obey Him and find His goodness, healing and blessing in all your relationships. It may not be tonight but there is a tomorrow coming.

More help is on the way if you seek God's counsel and blessing. It's fun to grow old together.

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