

Study of Matthew

October 16th, 2022

Discussion Question: Does your decisions perpetuate (to prolong the existence of) sin or righteousness?

Matthew 5:31 – 32

Jesus again addresses the issue of what you have heard people say, but here is what is truth. Divorce is one of the great debated issues in Scripture.

Sadly, many have been shamed in the church because of divorce; others treat marriage like the return policy at Wal-Mart. Try it, if you don't like it bring it back and find something else.

Let's dig based on what God says and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth.

1. God's Position on Divorce

Malachi 2:16 *"For I hate divorce!" says the Lord, the God of Israel. "To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife."* [NLT]

Some will try to offer every excuse in the book...

- God knows I made a bad decision...
- God doesn't expect me to stay in a relationship that does not make me happy.
- We got married too young and didn't know what we were doing.

Truth is we are deflecting; trying to excuse our bad and even sinful decision-making skills. Yes, God understands but HE still hates the outcomes of our bad decision making. The truth is we didn't follow HIM!

God hates divorce! So guard your heart! (That's God's position)

We might want to ask, why does God hate divorce?

2. Plague of Divorce

Malachi 2:17 *"You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the Lord's sight, and he is pleased with them. You have wearied him by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"*

The stats on divorce in America give us a gloomy picture of our Republic.

This has become a plague on our society, and it is calling evil good.

3. Permitted Divorce

Matt 19:3, 7 - 9 *"And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"...7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed 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."* [ESV]

Allowing because of hardness of heart is not a compliment!

Hardness of heart implies destitution of (spiritual) perception

Many families never reach into God's promise of favor because they are destitute to spiritual perception.

God gives permission for divorce because one spouse is sexual immoral; that is they go outside the covenant of marriage and engage in sexual immorality.

In either case sexual immorality or physical abuse there is the breaking of covenant.

4. Penalty of Sinful Divorce

Jesus says that divorce creates adultery.

We can argue all day long...but we can't say we believe that God loves us because of what the Bible says and then say that this does not apply.

We all have great excuses for our sins.

- We fought all the time...so our position is to divorce not to put away anger?
- We just didn't love each other...so our position is to divorce and not to deal with the fact that we are not loving unconditionally

5. Pardon for Failed Marriages

First understand God's Word...HE does not command divorce (many people have stayed with unfaithful people and watched God restore)

God does not commend divorce either...HE still hates it.

Divorce is not an unpardonable sin! It is amazing that some Christians will rejoice in people asking forgiveness of every other sin and celebrate those testimonies but treat divorce individuals like second class citizens.

That position does not consider the whole council of God...that position stubbornly clings to one verse and ignores all the others.

[Biblical Perspectives on Divorce and Remarriage - Jack Hayford Ministries](#)

6. Plan of God for Marriage

Matthew 19:4 – 6 *"He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*