ISAAC

a message series by Gregg Matte & John Bisagno

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Divorce: An Exchange of Problems

Matthew 19:1-9 & 1 Corinthians 7:10-15 (p.696 & 809)



Fifty years ago parents were apt to have a lot of kids.
Nowadays kids are apt to have a lot of parents. - E. Lawson

• Divorce is an ~~exchange~~ of problems not a solution to problems.

• Family Viewpoint
Malachi 2:16

- Adults

~~Guilt~~

Life is increasingly hard to ~~balance~~

~~Wounded~~

- Children

~~Massive~~ change: roles, schedules, people

Suppressed feelings and ~~questions~~

Wonder what will go wrong ~~next~~

• Biblical Viewpoint
Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 5:31-32, Malachi 2:16

- ~~Adultery~~: Greek "Porneia"
Matthew 19:1-9

- ~~Abandonment~~ by unbeliever
1 Corinthians 7:10-15

DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE

Without question the Bible clearly teaches God has a high standard for marriage and we should hold it in such regard.

- Marriage is to be permanent. (Matthew 19: 6 & 1 Corinthians 7:27)
- Marriage is between one man and one woman. (Matthew 19:4-5 & Genesis 2:18-25)
- Same sex relationships/marriage/unions are forbidden. (Romans 1:24-27 & 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- Marriage is to be a picture of Christ and His Bride, the Church. (Ephesians 5:25-30)
- Marriage is God's tool for husband and wife to grow in holiness. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Regretfully some marriages end in divorce. The issue of divorce and remarriage from a biblical perspective has been long debated by theologians, scholars, and Christians throughout the centuries. The true questions about divorce usually center on the aspect of remarriage.

Biblical grounds for remarriage:

- Divorce and remarriage to the same person.
- When the marriage and divorce occurred prior to conversion. (2 Corinthians 5:17 & Ephesians 2:1-9)
- Divorced and the former spouse has died. (1 Corinthians 7:9 & 39)
- Divorce occurred due to adultery by the former spouse. (Matthew 5:31-32)
- Divorced and the former spouse has remarried. The former spouse's new marriage would then constitute adultery releasing the other spouse. (Matthew 5:32 & Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- Divorce occurred due to the abandonment by an unbelieving spouse. (1 Corinthians 7:12-15)

  (I would also consider a pattern of physical abuse that endangers the spouse or children in the home to be an abandonment of the role of the spouse.)

Advice to those single *without* scriptural basis listed above:

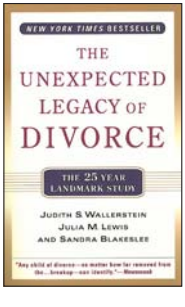
- Trust God with your singleness and serve Him with all of your heart. (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)
- Stay single until former spouse dies, remarries, or reconciles with you.

Advice to those who are remarried after a divorce *without* scriptural basis listed above:

- Confess to the Lord and others who would be appropriate.
- Allow God to be the center of your marriage, following Him closely. Truly commit for this marriage to be 'until death do us part'.

Advice to divorced parents:

- Be proactive in allowing children to ask questions for the rest of their lives. The door you and your spouse closed will be open for the rest of your children's lives.
- Don't bash the other but be honest (as appropriate to their age) as to the problems.
- Keep them in places of spiritual growth and good friendship circles.
- As appropriate to the child's age, ask for their forgiveness.



The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce
by Wallerstein, Lewis & Blakeslee

Available in CornerBooks

I read this book and found it impactful in my life as a child of divorce. I'm not recommending this as helpful theologically but sociologically.

- Pastor Gregg