

Divorce

I. Introduction.

A. Define Divorce?

B. How does God feel about Divorce (*Mal. 2:16*)?

C. How do you feel about it, why?

D. Is Divorce ever permissible?

E. What is God's ideal perfect plan for a husband and wife?

F. 7 Degrees of Adultery.

1. In **heart and mind only** (*Mat. 5:27-30*).
2. In **words only** (e.g. Spouse says, "I want or plan a divorce or to sleep with x...").
3. In **action** (**1 time, and repents**).
4. In **action** (**multiple times, and repents**).
5. In **action** (**1 time, and does not repent**).
6. In **action** (**multiple times, and does not repent**).
7. In **action** (**multiple times, does not repent, and divorces**).

G. Key Views on Divorce.

1. **Permissible for any reason** (any or all reasons or no reason even needed).
2. **Permissible for some reasons**, but not all reasons (Adultery, abuse, desertion, drugs, mental illness...).
3. **Permissible for only 1 reason** (only for "*fornication*").
4. **Not permissible for any reason** (0 reasons, never, or no divorce ever—Charles Ryrie, Bill Gothard, Robert Thomas, Carl Laney).

H. Key Views on "*the exception clause*" ("*fornication*").

1. **Incest** (cf. *Lev. 18:6-18*).
2. **Continued extramarital sex** (cf. *Mat. 19:3-9*).
3. **Single adulterous act** (cf. *Mat. 19:3-9*).
4. **Pre-marital sex discovered during the betrothal period** (Bill Gothard, Charles Ryrie. Not a virgin and spouse immediately divorced upon discovery).

II. Scripture.

A. Word Study (total times found in KJV).

1. "**Adultery**" (40), "**adulterers**" (9), "**adulteress**" (5), "**adulteries**" (5), "**adulterous**" (4), "**adulterer**" (3), "**adulteresses**" (4)—69 total.
 2. "**Whoredoms**" (32), "**whoredom**" (22), "**whore**" (15)—69 total.
 3. "**Fornication**" (36), "**fornications**" (3), "**fornicators**" (3), "**fornicator**" (2)—44 total.
 4. "**Put away**" (51)—not all referring to divorce, "**putting away**" (1)—52 total.
 5. "**Divorcement**" (6), "**divorced**" (4), "**divorce**" (1)—11 total.
- B. God says, "**He hates putting away**" [divorce] (**Mal. 2:14-16**).
- C. **Mat. 5:1-48** – The context surrounding this divorce passage begins with the **attitudes** we should "**be**" (**5:21-26**). Next, how **Christ** came to **perfectly fulfill all the law** (**5:21-26**). Then about the importance of **dealing with anger by reconciliation** (**5:21-26**). That digs right into **adultery, lust, putting away sin, divorce, marriage, and remarriage** (**5:27-32**). It continues of the **importance of words, vows, and God's rule** (**5:33-37**). Then, instructs **no retaliation, but be giving and forgiving** (**5:38-42**). And ends the chapter with being perfect, like our heavenly Father, by **loving persecutors and enemies** (**5:43-48**).
- D. **Mat. 5:31-32**—³¹*It hath been said, 'Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:'* ³²*But I say unto you, 'That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.'*
- E. **Mat. 19:3-12** – The context surrounding this divorce passage. Starts with **restoring sinners** is heavenly (**18:15-18**). Next, **forgiveness** is like our heavenly Father (**18:19-35**). Then, **Jesus heals** those sick or in need (**19:1-2**). The main passage includes **marriage, divorce, and remarriage** (**19:3-12**). It is followed by the importance of **children** (**19:13-15**).
- F. **Mar. 10:11-12**—¹¹*And He saith unto them, 'Whosoever shall put away [divorce] his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.* ¹²*And if a woman shall put away [divorce] her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.'*" (no "exception clause").

G. **Luk. 16:18**—"*Whosoever putteth away [divorces] his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away [divorced] from her husband committeth adultery.*" (no "exception clause").

H. Miscellaneous passages related to divorce.

1. **1Co. 7.**

2. **Deu. 24:1-4.**

3. **Ezra 9-10; Neh. 13:1-3, 23-30** (cf. **Deu. 7:1-5**).

4. **1Ti. 3:2, 12.**

5. **Mar. 6:17-18.**

III. Application.

A. Divorce is not God's original or desired action.

B. Divorce is mercifully permitted due to (at least) 1 spouse's sin.

C. Divorce (right or wrong) has been forgiven by Christ (like all other sin).

D. We should pray God protects our spouse/marriage.

E. Fight to affair-proof your marriage (see "*MDR 2 - Divorce Proofing Your Marriage*" and "*MDR 4 - Remarriage*").

F. We should help others affair-proof their marriage.

G. Decide what you believe God says about divorce and honestly share it when asked, but love all as Christ loves.

H. Will you commit today to never divorce your spouse?

I. What words of advice would you give someone considering a divorce?

IV. Select References (lots of good books, below are some quick summary Web articles).

A. <http://www.eternalministries.org/articles/MarriageandDivorce.htm>

B. http://www.chewelabaptist.org/Our%20Pastor/Our%20Pastor_files/Divorce.pdf

C. http://www.biblestudylessons.com/cgi-bin/gospel_way/divorce_remarriage.php

D. <http://www.epc.org/about-epc/position-papers/divorce-remarriage.html>

E. <http://www.blessedquietness.com/journal/housechu/divorce.htm>

F. <http://www.webzonecom.com/ccn/bible-s/divorce.txt>

G. <http://www.bloomington.in.us/~lgthscac/marriagedivorce.htm>