

# What the Bible Says About...

## MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

### INTRO.

A. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services reports that in 2008, there were **7.1 marriages/1000** citizens and **3.5 divorces/1000**.

- There are few topics which stimulate as much emotion as the topic of marriage and divorce.

Because that is true, I want to make a few statements before we examine "What the Bible Says About Marriage & Divorce:

#1- I realize that there is almost no one present today who is not affected - either directly or indirectly - by this topic.

#2- It is not my desire to inflict any pain on anyone.

#3- As a Christian, if I had been divorced, regardless of my personal feelings and convictions, I would want my children to be taught in a manner which would enable them to establish a strong, stable marriage and avoid the pain which inevitably comes with divorce.

#4 - While I have no right to "take away hope that God has given" NOR "give hope that God has not given" in this, or any other area of our lives.

B. With Paul's admonition to the Philippian Christians- "...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling", let's see **what the Bible says about marriage and divorce**:

### I- WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MARRIAGE?

A. The Purpose:

- 1- [Genesis 1:27-28](#)- bring children into the world
- 2- [Genesis 2:18](#)- prevent loneliness; provide intimate companionship
- 3- [I Corinthians 7: 1-5](#)- sexual fulfillment (see also [Hebrews 13:4](#))
- 4- Provide basis/foundation for social order - [Ephesians 5:21-6:9](#)

List some of the qualities God designed to be taught in the home:

5- Provides a "living example" of our relationship to Christ - [Ephesians 5:23](#)

B. What is our God-designed role as husbands and wives?

- HUSBANDS: (Submit to your God-ordained role)

1. Leader of our family with a loving attitude - [I Corinthians 11:3](#)

- [Ephesians 5:25](#)-

- [Colossians 3:19](#)-

- [I Peter 3:7](#)-

2. Assume the responsibility of teaching and training your children

- [Ephesians 6:4](#)-

3. Provide for your family

- [I Timothy 5:8](#)-

- WIVES: (Submit to your God-ordained role)

1. Submit to your husband

- [Ephesians 5:22-24](#)-

- [Colossians 3:18](#)-

- [I Peter 3:1](#)- (3 charges:)

- a. Be submissive to your husband
  - b. Keep yourself morally pure
  - c. Dress modestly
2. Primary function and priority- "Keep the home"

- [I Timothy 5:14](#)-

- [Titus 2:4-5](#)-

## II- WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DIVORCE?

A. [Malachi 2:13-16](#)- Gives a summary of God's attitude

*"...You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. <sup>14</sup> You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. <sup>15</sup> Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup> "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel..."*

B. There are THREE New Testament passages which deal with marriage and/or divorce:

- [Matthew 5:27-32](#)- (Sermon on the Mount)

- Only ONE reason for divorce - adultery

- [Matthew 19:3-9](#)- (Pharisees trying to trap Jesus)

- Question: "Can a man divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

- Answer: "Don't separate what God has joined together."

- Question: "Then why did Moses command it?"

- Answer: "He didn't; he allowed it because your hearts were so hard."

- [I Corinthians 7](#): ( Four Questions:)

1. "Is marriage to be avoided?"

2. "Must 'mixed marriages' (i.e. Believer and Non-Believer) be dissolved?"

3. "Is celibacy preferable to marriage?"

4. "Should widows remarry?"

C. There is one passage which uses marriage as an illustration of the relationship between law and death.

- [Romans 7:1-3](#)- death releases the surviving marriage partner from the marriage covenant ("*law of marriage*")

### CONCL.

A. When Christ was asked about marriage and divorce, he said, "Go back to the beginning. That's the way God designed man and woman to live together. God joins man and woman together; man should not break that union."

B. God hates divorce.

C. If you are not married, choose a husband/wife very wisely.

If you are married, work out any problems you may be having.

If you are divorced, remain unmarried... or marry "only in the Lord" if you are divorced because of adultery.

D. "Do I presume to have answered all your questions regarding marriage and divorce?"

- NO... But I do presume to have shared with you God's principles which must form the basis for your conclusions.