

**“DIVORCE AND
REMARriage”**
1 Corinthians 7:10-16

INTRODUCTION

As Paul continues in chapter 7, he answers more of the Corinthians' questions about marriage. He deals with Christian divorce, and the situation of a Christian married to a non-Christian. God hates divorce, but He loves reconciliation! Unfortunately, the current value of marriage today has been shaped by our media and educational systems. Basically, it has been degraded because people have turned their backs on the scriptures that describe what marriage really should be.

CHRISTIAN DIVORCE

The scriptures say that **“marriage is honorable”**, Heb. 13:4. For Christians, this should make a world of difference! Paul states the marriage ideal in verse 10. Jesus, however, knows that divorce will happen. **“He said to them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality and marries commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”** Matthew 19:8, 9 NKJV. The grounds for Christian divorce are infidelity. Some bad reasons for divorce are: “I don't love you any more”, “We aren't compatible”, “My needs aren't being met”, “We are going in 2 different directions”, “I married the wrong person”. These are childish and carnal excuses.

THE GOD OF RECONCILIATION

God loves restoration and reconciliation! It is the core of the gospel. While the world's advice is often to break up and/or leave, the Lord is working to keep things together. **“...and has committed to us the word of reconciliation, Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ,”** 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 NKJV. God wants us to be used in the potentially long process of reconciliation. At times it can be a person's relationship with Jesus that needs mending. Often, people are just tired of trying and they give up on their relationship. Without an actual heart change, another marriage attempt would result in the same failed result. Allowing the scripture to guide us gets us to get to the real issues of the matter!

NOT UNDER BONDAGE

There is real pain for many married couples, in the case of a believer with an unbeliever. In **Matthew 10:32-39**, Jesus describes a sword of division that He may bring to a family. When two unbelievers get married and one later gets saved, there are changes in the relationship. The unbeliever may be frustrated that the believing spouse doesn't drink, party or enjoy the same entertainment anymore. At times the unbeliever will want to leave this situation, but some may choose to stay.

The reason for the believers to stay is to be a good witness as they display a new character, the presence of the Bible in the home, new standards of language, actions and entertainment.

Another problem that may occur in a marriage is domestic violence and abuse. This can happen in so-called Christian homes! Some men may take Ephesians 5 out of context. In **Luke 22:25, 26** we are told not to lord over others. Headship at home is about serving, not power and control. If someone is abused in a relationship, that person should get out! Reconciliation is still the goal, but the abuser needs to change. You are not called to bondage, but to peace.

CONSIDER

If your marriage is on the rocks, God can save even the worst of marriages! Remember when Sarah laughed at God's promise of what seemed impossible? God's response was, **“Is anything too hard for the Lord? Genesis 18:14** NKJV. Ultimately, marriage is a sign of Jesus and the church, so the Lord wants to save marriages! He also wants to give rest and heal those who have suffered through a bad relationship, **Matthew 11:28-30**. *Are you close to someone going through marital struggles? May the Lord help us to be ambassadors of Christ with His words of encouragement and reconciliation, even when the tide of worldly opinion is against it!*

PRAY

- * for the Men's Retreat at LeTourneau, that men would be strengthened to stand for our Lord.
- * for the Women's' Retreat, “The Way Home”. May the Lord save and deliver those who have been running from Him!
- * for the Veterans Day Assembly on Monday, November 12th. Many vets need inner rest!