

THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF DIVORCE

Mark 10:1-12

THE SATAGGERING STATISTICS

The divorce rate has increased 300 percent since 1960. During that same period of time, the divorce rate in the church has increased 600 percent.

“The scale of marital breakdown in the West since 1960 has no historical precedent ... There has been nothing like it for 2,000 years.” (Myers)

For the first time ever, nuclear families dropped below 25% of households.

WHY MARRIAGES FAIL

One reason for divorce is marriage (some marriages shouldn't happen).

“One of the chief causes of divorce is good marriage.” (Dr. Farson)

Unrealistic expectations. The grass is greener syndrome.

“Cultures that base marriage on romantic love have the highest divorce rates.

Although passionate love burns hot, it inevitably burns out.” (Myers)

Another reason for divorce is divorce (the prevalence of it).

“We live in a society where it is now easier to renounce a marriage than a mortgage, where it is legally easier to divorce a spouse than to fire an employee.” (David Myers)

LEGITIMATE REASONS FOR DIVORCE

Biblical Reasons for Divorce:

Adultery: “Whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery” (Mt. 19:9).

Desertion: “But if the unbelieving partner desires to separate, let it be so; in such case the brother or sister is not bound”(1 Cor. 7:15).

Death: “Thus a married woman is bound by law as long as he lives; but if her husband dies she is discharged from the law”(Rom.7:2).

Other Reasons: Physical, verbal or sexual abuse; drug or alcohol addiction;

“chronic irresponsibility in parenting or finances.” (Myers)

THE WRONG QUESTION

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” (Mark 10:2)

The real issue is not when or if divorce is “legal” or “allowed.” The real issue deals with God's intention for marriage.

The Sanctity of Marriage.

“...and the two shall become one flesh” (Mark 10:8)

Marriage is like a tapestry.

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

“For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift ...” (Rom. 3:22-24)

The Church must be the Body of Christ for those whose marriages fail.

How to Help: Realize that divorce is a process ... Grow through the grief ...

Don't date for one year ... Be supportive ... Don't take sides ...

Don't give advice ... Live in reality ... Realize there is life after divorce.

God can heal the brokenness!!

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Bobby Atkins, Madison Brooke Binkley, Jim Bufford, Bobby Byrd, Erin Crawford, Jane Davis, Ruby Dudley, Kenny Frazee, Mary Ann Griffin, Nancy Gunnels, Bonnie Hart, Bennette Hobday, Jeff Joyner, Linda Lindner, Macy Morgan, Bertie Owen, Ricky Petty, Tom Sinis, Elizabeth Todd, Bobby Williams ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

O Loving God, when there's too much hurt for our hearts to hold, we turn to you for healing. How easily we go through life when all is well – but how quickly we are reduced to numbing silence when misfortune strikes. A part of us wants to know why your love for us must include the freedom for us to hurt and be hurt so badly. But so many need your presence in their hearts even more than they need answers – and this is what we pray for today.

For lives that have been torn apart by divorce, for children being pulled in so many different directions, for adults looking for answers to impossible questions, for parents and friends who suffer indirectly, we offer our prayers for your healing presence. For so many who have touched our lives in moments of need and selflessly given of themselves, we offer our prayers of gratitude.

O God, here in worship, strengthen our feeling of kinship with all those who suffer, and encourage anything we can do to live in love with one another, for we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MARK 10:2-12

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to put her away.” But Jesus said to them, “For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.”

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

October 15	<i>What Does God Want?</i> Stewardship Season	Micah 6:6-8
October 22	<i>It's Never Enough</i> Stewardship Season	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
October 29	<i>Debt Free</i> Youth-Led Worship	Psalm 116:1-14
November 5	<i>The Demands of Discipleship</i> Commitment Sunday/All Saints Day	Mark 10:17-31

On the Radio (1450 AM):

October 14	<i>I Believe in Preaching</i>	Romans 10:13-15
October 22	<i>I Believe in Stewardship</i>	Malachi 3:6-12
October 29	<i>I Believe in Grace</i>	Ephesians 2:1-9