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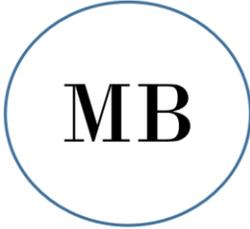
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Divorce?

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Contents

Contents

Other Titles	1
Copyright.....	3
What does God say about Divorce?	5
About the Author	9
FREE Resources	10

What does God say about Divorce?

God intends marriage to be a lifelong bond. In this way, marriage is to be a symbol of God intense and devoted love for His people. Therefore, God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). Sadly, divorce has become very common in the West today whereas in the past it was not very common.

What does God's Word have to say about divorce though? Are there any circumstances where it is permissible? Yes. Is divorce an unforgivable sin? No. Does it have consequences though? Yes, because a man and a woman in marriage have become one physically, emotionally, and spiritually and have been separated through divorce. In addition, divorce in a Christian marriage may be a disqualifier to ministry leadership.

In this book, I have endeavored to list out the Scripture in a way that will flow well in answering all the questions people ask about divorce today. Read through the verses, take notes on what it says, outline the passage—hear the Word of the Lord and do what it says (James 1:22). God's Word is the standard on Divorce, not what the best sounding arguments are and not public opinion. Obey God's commands, Obey our Lord Jesus Christ, even if it is difficult and costs you.

May the Holy Spirit open the eyes of your heart and teach you as you read.

For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Romans 7:2-3

And He saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Mark 10:11-12

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Matthew 19:3-9

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

1 Corinthians 7:10-24

Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

1 Corinthians 7:27

The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:39

In Summary: The Bible teaches never to divorce for any reason other than Adultery and even in such cases reconciliation and forgiveness is still an option! The only other case in which the Lord holds a Believer guiltless is if one's spouse (an unbeliever) leaves them because of their Faith—in such cases the Believer is not at fault when they have made every effort to maintain marriage despite differences in regard to their Faith.

If there is abuse in a relationship, divorce is not Biblically an option, the Scripture is silent on that scenario; however, contacting the proper authorities and separating until the other spouse changes and gets the help they need is within Biblical teaching.

About the Author

Ryan M Marks (B.A. in Communications and pursuing an MTS in Theology from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary) has taught in two local churches and served as an evangelist throughout Missouri. Having begun preaching and writing at 15 following the Lord's call, Ryan has authored a number of books. He serves as Director of and contributor to the blog and online ministry of FocusingOnTheMarkMinistries.com which provides resources for evangelism and discipleship globally.

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