

What God Thinks about Divorce

Mal. 2:16

Introduction:

- A. Our society and divorce.
 - 1. "Marriage No. 17" (B'ham News, 1/1/89).
 - 2. 1996: 1,157,000 divorces and 2,339,000 marriages in U.S.
 - 3. In church: About 10% divorced or married to divorcee (Own observations).
- B. Our God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16)
- C. Our study involves three aspects of divorce.

Discussion:

I. Some REASONS For Divorce.

- A. *Ignorance of God's will*: Inadequate teaching, Inadequate study, Inadequate interest.
- B. *Influence of Society*: Media treatment, Sexual revolution, Social acceptance.
- C. *Ill-chosen mates* - Little regard for: solid values, sound wisdom, guidance by parents.
- D. *Impatience* with: weaknesses and faults, normal problems of marriage, attainment of goals.
- E. *Inconsideration* of: each other's needs (cf 1 Cor. 7:1-5), other family members, God's will in daily affairs.
- F. *Infidelity in marriage*.

II. Some RULES Of Divorce.

- A. Rules set by man.
 - 1. Society.
 - 2. Some religious people.
- B. Rules set by Christ.
 - 1. It is a sin to divorce for "just any reason" (NKJV) (Matt. 19:1-8; cf. Mal. 2:16)
 - a. Some think that no sin is committed unless there is a remarriage.
 - b. There is no adultery, but there is the sin of divorcing for "just any reason."
 - 2. It is further sin when such a one remarries – the sin of adultery (Matt 19:9; cf. Mt 5:31, 32)
 - a. Cannot remarry unless the reason for divorcing was fornication.
 - (1) Not "for the suspicion of fornication".
 - (2) Not "know in heart" without proof.
 - (3) Not divorce now for some reason, then later discover the fornication.
 - (4) Not some other reason then fornication as after thought - when want to remarry.
 - 3. Paul does not give another set of rules in 1 Cor. 7:10-16.
 - a. Verses 10-11 the same as Jesus gave.
 - b. Verses 12-16 deals with a believer deserted by an unbelieving companion – not remarriage.

III. Some RESULTS Of Divorce.

- A. On the families.
- B. On the church.
 - 1. Church has obligation to fornication within. (1 Cor. 5; Rev. 2:20).
 - 2. Church must consider evidence in second marriages.
- C. On the parties themselves.
 - 1. Hard even on those with right to remarry.
 - 2. Harder on those who have no right to remarry.
 - a. Either a life of Celibacy. (cf. Matt. 19:10-12).
 - b. Or a life of fornication, resulting in condemnation (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9,10).

Conclusion:

- A. No divorce is a good one - someone gets hurt.
- B. Divorce should not be hasty - even for fornication.
- C. Considering all about divorce, no wonder the Lord hates it.