

Elephants in the Church

“Divorce”

(Matthew 19:1-12)



- Introduction:
1. According to the CDC, there were 2.1 million marriages in 2016 and 813,000 divorces in the same year - 38%.
 2. There was once a stigma placed upon those who divorced, but those days are long gone.
 3. Prior to the last few generations, divorce was a relatively rare phenomenon. But over the last few decades, divorce has changed from being viewed as rare to routine.
 4. Cavalier attitudes concerning divorce prevail in our culture.
 5. As we turn to the Bible for answers, we find that the topic of divorce has always been a controversial subject. It was a “hot potato” in the days of Jesus, and things haven’t changed in 2000 years.
 6. While condemning divorce, we must also give care to support and love those whose lives have been torn apart because of it.

I. A Word To Those Who Have Been Divorced

- A. You have the sympathy of this church family (Romans 12:15).
- B. Many psychologists believe divorce is more traumatic than the death of one’s spouse.
- C. So as we discuss this topic, we want you to know that we are sensitive to your situation, which may be no fault of your own.

II. Advice To Those Who Plan To Marry

- A. The best time to get a divorce is before you get married!
- B. Spend more time planning your marriage than your wedding.
- C. Don’t plan on changing the person you are marrying.
- D. Reach an adequate level of maturity before you marry.
- E. Avoid financial difficulties which can strain a marriage.
- F. Don’t marry someone who is not in love with the Lord more than you.

III. What The Bible Says About Divorce

- A. Divorce is contrary to the will of God and is consequently a sin.
 1. Instruction by Jesus (Matthew 19:6).
 2. Instruction by the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
- B. Every time there is a divorce, someone is guilty of sin.
- C. Limitations God placed on the divorced (Matthew 19:9-12).

- Conclusion:
1. Divorce is a form of marital suicide. It is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.
 2. However, when it comes to divorce, we need to show compassion to those who have suffered through it and whose lives have been rocked by its wake.
 3. At the same time, we need to uphold, without compromise, the truth of God’s word on the subject. Now, maybe more than ever, we need to teach the truth on this matter before people find themselves in a situation that can ruin their life here and in eternity.