

Moral Issues: Divorce

(Malachi 2:14-16)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. A woman came to a lawyer seeking a divorce. She said she really hated her husband and wanted to hurt him. Then she asked for some advice. The lawyer advised her that for the next three months, she should refrain from criticism, speak only well of him, build him up, tell him what a great guy he is, and try your best to meet all his needs. Then after he thinks that he has your confidence and love, hit him with the news and it will hurt more. The woman loved the idea, so she complimented and built up her husband for the next three months. And do you know what happened? After three months, they forgot about the divorce and went on a second honeymoon.
 2. Marriages and families are falling apart in record numbers today.
 3. At one time in our society, there was a stigma placed on those who had divorced, but not so today.
 4. Until recently, divorce has been a relatively rare phenomenon. But over the last few decades, divorce has changed from being viewed as rare to routine.
 5. Ills. - Fox Network broadcast a show entitled, "Who Wants To Marry A Multi-Millionaire?" This show demonstrated just how lightly some people in America regard the institution of marriage. After all, if it doesn't work out, they could just get a divorce - or in this case an annulment. Thankfully, the show bombed and was cancelled. Maybe our society still has somewhat of a collective conscience, and aren't ready to lower marriage to such a level.
 6. 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.
 7. While everyone is taking sides and trying to decide who's right and who's wrong when it comes to this topic, I sometimes wonder if we fail to consider the people involved, whose lives have been torn apart.
 8. While we must speak the truth on this subject, we must also do so with compassion and understanding.

I. Precautions That Can Help Prevent Divorce

- A. Know well the person you are marrying.
- B. Don't plan on changing the person you are marrying.
- C. Reach an adequate level of maturity before you marry.
- D. Avoid financial difficulties which can strain a marriage.
- E. Don't marry someone who is not in love with the Lord more than you.

II. What The Bible Says About Divorce

- A. Instruction by Jesus (Matthew 19:1-12).
 - 1. Divorce is contrary to the will of God and is consequently a sin.
 - 2. That does not mean that both parties are guilty of sin when a divorce occurs, but at least one party is guilty of sin.
 - 3. God's intent for marriage (Matthew 19:1-6).
 - a. Leave (Matthew 19:5).
 - b. Cleave (Matthew 19:6).
 - c. Till death (Romans 7:1-4).
- B. Instruction by the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
 - 1. The command: Do not depart.
 - 2. What about those who already violated that command?
 - a. Remain unmarried (1 Corinthians 7:11).
 - b. Or be reconciled (1 Corinthians 7:11).
- C. Instruction by Jesus concerning remarriage following divorce.
 - 1. (Matthew 19:9-12).
 - 2. Divorce and remarriage, saving for the cause of fornication results in a sinful state of adultery.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Divorce is a form of marital suicide. It is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.
 - 2. When it comes however to divorce, we need to show compassion to those who have suffered through it and whose lives have been shaken 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.