

# The Problems of Ending a Marriage

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1 Cor 7:6-11 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. 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.

- I. Paul is speaking from his own judgment and opinion and not as a commandment from God concerning this matter.
  - A. It is clear from the rest of Scripture that marriage is honorable in all and that is an institution of God, blessed by God.
  - B. It is obvious from life and nature that there are some who never marry.
  - C. It is also obvious that there are some who marry once and then are abandoned, divorced, or widowed and they never marry again.

Luke 2:36-37 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

- D. It is obvious in these circumstances that God can use them in a special and different way than He could if they were married.
  - E. Paul goes on to say in v. 7 that “he would that all men were even as myself.”
    - 1. He does not necessarily mean to say unmarried but rather, able to keep his passions under control.
    - 2. It is possible that Paul’s poor eyesight was an asset to him in this area.
    - 3. By far, the most of men’s lust begins with the eye and what we see ...so if we cannot see well, or at all, we are spared much temptation here.
- II. Paul is speaking in these verses to those who have been married but no longer are.
  - A. Marriage is designed by God to be once for a lifetime.
  - B. It is possible to marry again after being widowed or divorced without being estranged from God.
  - C. However, Paul is giving the wise admonitions here that in most cases it would be better for them to remain single.
    - 1. This is possible for some and impossible for others.
  - D. There are many complications that develop in the affairs of life in a second marriage.
    - 1. Two sets of children and grandchildren.
    - 2. Two sets of former in-laws who must be a part of the picture.
    - 3. Two sets of relatives who have to deal with the situation, and many have a hard time accepting it, even if there is no immorality or wrong involved.
    - 4. Two separate past lives full of memories and experiences that did not include the new spouse and his or her family.

- E. There is just much more to consider about remarriage than there is about first marriage.
  - 1. Therefore, there are many more potential reasons to abstain from it.
  - 2. But again, Paul emphasizes that it is not forbidden by God – but that you are very likely to encounter great difficulties if you do.

### III. Marriage is not meant to be broken.

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. (v. 10-11)

- A. Now Paul emphasizes that this is God's commandment and not his or his opinion.

Mat 19:5-6 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.

- B. It is NEVER the Will of God for a marriage to be broken.
  - 1. Sin may make it impossible to survive, but that does not mean it is God's Will.
- C. The only exception given is in the case of fornication, but even then it is not a command.
  - 1. You do not HAVE to put away your spouse – you CAN forgive them.
  - 2. Forgiveness and restoration is God's way, but it takes GOD being real in your life to be able to do this one.
  - 3. You MUST have experienced God's forgiveness and understand what He has done for you before you can go this far for someone else.
- D. The cost of breaking a marriage is extremely high.
  - 1. Although it may seem the only way at the moment, wisdom cries out to stop and consider the consequences.
- E. The thought that you will simply rid your life of this problem and then you will live happily ever after is a lie from the devil himself, and your own deceitful heart.
- F. The breaking up a marriage affects the children and grandchildren forever, and it far deeper ways than most people ever think about – unless THEY have been subjected to it themselves.
- G. It affects the families of the couple – the parents, grandparents, everyone.
- H. It leaves your life polluted and soiled and your mind full of memories and experiences that must be thrown away ...but you find you can't throw them away.
- I. It breaks your confidence in your own self because you have broken the solemn vows you made in front of God and witnesses.
- J. It makes you skeptical of any future relationship because you have seen how fragile it is.
- K. So any difficulties in marriage should be dealt with in patience and slowly.
  - 1. Give it every chance and don't give up until there is just absolutely no way to put it back together.
  - 2. Even at that point both parties should wait before doing anything – remain unmarried or be reconciled.