

Divorce

Sermon Series: Taboo Topics & The Gospel

"I don't think it's bad to get divorced. I think it's more unhealthy to have miserable lives. We weren't put here to live miserably, we were put here to grow and learn and be happy." – Society's take on divorce.

Is it a contract or a covenant?

- Contract: If one agreeing party does something in violation of the contract then it is considered broken. The whole contract becomes null and void.
- Covenant: Both parties agree to hold up their ends *regardless* of whether the other party keeps their part of the agreement. A violation of a covenant by one party doesn't release the other party's responsibility to continue to do what they agreed to do.

What does God say about marriage and divorce?

Matthew 19:3-9 "And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, 'Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.' They said to him, 'Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?' He said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.'"

- The Old Testament allowed it because of the hardness of their hearts.
- What does the New Testament say?

1 Corinthians 7:15 "But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace"

1 Corinthians 7:39 "A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives."

Wherever the Bible allows for divorce, it does not command divorce.

Malachi 2:16 "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

- Our views on divorce and marriage MUST come from Scripture.

Malachi 2:17 "You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, 'How have we wearied him?' By saying, 'Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.'"

- God does not delight in evil. In sin. Ever.
- The Pharisees were always looking for loopholes.

**Stop looking for loopholes. Stop looking for a way out.
Cry out to God for a way to SAVE your marriage.**

The Biblical way to save a marriage:

- Christ in the center.
- Don't be unequally yoked.
- Get plugged into Biblical community. Now.
- Get help. Throw your hand up and ask for help.
- Hold State of the Union meetings. Ask how are we doing?
- Pray for your spouse regularly.

Why is this SUCH a big deal to God?

- God uses marriage to describe love and covenant.

Genesis 2:18 "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"

Genesis 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

- Marriage, before the fall.

Isaiah 54:5-6 "For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God."

- Our covenant -- man, woman, Jesus -- is a dim reflection of the relationship between the Trinity.
- Also a reflection of Jesus' covenant relationship with His people. (Ephesians 5)

God purposefully, specifically uses marriage language to describe His love relationship with His people.

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

God is faithful in His relationship with us.

God will ALWAYS fulfill His covenant with us.

The gospel empowers us to then love like this as well.

Jesus stays.