

# Christian Ethics

## Divorce and Remarriage

There are 4 positions to take

- People can get divorced and remarried, at will
- People can never get divorced under any circumstances
- People can get divorced, but never can remarry
- People can get divorced under certain circumstances and, if those circumstances are acceptable to God, they can remarry

# God's Position towards marriage

- Genesis 2.23-25
- Mark 10.1-9
- Marriage is permanent and should not be ended through divorce

# God's position on divorce

- He hates it, and it is an act of treachery. Malachi 2.10-16
- Remarriage constitutes an act of adultery. Mark 10.9-12
- People seek divorce because of the hardness of their heart. Mark 10.5
- It's never a solution, He never suggests it, and it never has His endorsement

# Where does that leave us?

- Does this mean that the correct position is “no divorce under any circumstances?”
- No.
- Because God’s declared hatred for human sin is never the completed story

## For instance

- Killing is explicitly forbidden: Exodus 20:13 “Thou shalt not kill.” And the punishment is death
- Unless God commands you to kill. In II Kings 9.6-8, God anointed Jehu king, and told him to kill the family of Ahab.
- Unless God authorizes a government to do it. Romans 13
- And if you kill someone accidentally, then you have God’s protection. Numbers 35.10-12

- And sometimes the argument for “no divorce, ever,” is that marriage is so sacred because it is a picture of the Church.
- True, but killing is heinous, because one person has killed another person who bears God’s image
- The seriousness of the sin doesn’t put it outside the realm of being “forbidden, but regulated”

There are some mitigating factors to  
divorce

- Deuteronomy 24.1-4 regulate it. They don't endorse it. It protects the person being divorced. It doesn't grant absolution to the one seeking divorce
- Ezra 10.1-44
- Matthew 5.31-32. It may not be an exception for us, but it was an exception for someone, for something
- I Corinthians 7.10-17



So my position would be

- Divorce is never the solution to a “bad marriage” (that’s a very selfish viewpoint)
- Divorce should never be sought or initiated
- When it is, this is a reflection of hard heartedness
- But there are very limited situations in which God doesn’t condemn it

- And very limited situations in which remarriage is permitted