

(2) 1 Corinthians 7:12-15: "...if an unbeliever departs, let him depart..."

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord)1: If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. (1 Corinthians 7:12-15)

## 5) How do you divorce-proof your marriage?

- The golden two questions in marriage.
- Marriage doesn't work without repentance.
- Don't skip the basics of your faith.
- Don't give the devil a foothold.
- Do the hard work of investing in the marital relationship.
- Listen with the goal of understanding your spouse.
- Be honest about your sin.
- Be teachable and humble towards your spouse.
- Build your marriage around a good church.
- Don't isolate your life or your marriage.
- Learn how to handle conflict well.
- Show grace to each other.

## Core Seminars – Marriage Week 13

### Divorce

#### *The Hard Realities of Broken Covenants*

### Introduction

6 During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. 7 I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. 8 I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. (Jeremiah 3:7-8)

### 1) What is divorce?

Answer: Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage

References: Eph 5:22-33; Malachi 2:14

## 2) What does God think of divorce?

Answer: God hates divorce

<sup>11</sup> Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. <sup>12</sup> As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob —even though he brings offerings to the LORD Almighty. <sup>13</sup> Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. <sup>14</sup> You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. <sup>15</sup> Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup> "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. (Malachi 2:11-16)

Reason 1: God hates divorce because it impairs parents' opportunity to raise godly offspring.

Reason 2: God is a covenant-keeping God who hates divorce because it is a breaking of a covenant.

Reason 3: God hates divorce because it destroys the picture of covenant faithfulness.

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matt 19:4-6).

## 3) Is divorce always a sin?

Answer: the Bible teaches that though divorce is always *the result of sin*...but divorce is not always a sin for both parties involved

8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery" (Matt 19:8-9)

## 4) What are the biblical grounds for divorce?

(1) Matthew 5:31-32, 19:8-9 (see also 19:3-8): "...except for marital unfaithfulness..."

5:31-32 – 31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

19:8-9 – 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

---