

Divorce-How Does God Feel About It?

1. Divorce is a very popular activity in the world in which we live today. Even though it is not an activity which God is pleased with, we still have a very high rate of divorce on the earth today. We probably have a record of just about as many divorces taking place as we do marriages. What a horrible shame! When a man and a woman decide to be joined together in holy matrimony, or in marriage, in God's eyes, they are no longer as two separate beings, but He sees them from that time on as one being. We read in Gen. 2:21-24: "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Hebrew-dabaq (daw-bak): to cling to, abide with, be joined together, hold on to, or to become as one being in the eyes of God. Of course when a man and a woman become married, they are still two separate physical beings; but in the eyes of God, they are no longer two beings, but one. Marriage is a very serious matter in God's eyes, and He expects us to take it as a very serious matter also. Sadly to say, many times partners in marriage take the matter very lightly. They do not take the oaths of marriage which they make before God seriously at all. And in many marriages, the partners face many unnecessary problems, because there will be one partner attempting to live their life according to the Word of God, and the other partner living their life filled with every kind of sin to be mentioned. This is very saddening to the heart of God; and it makes it almost impossible for Him to be able to bless them as He desires to do. For it is like a person trying to drive a car in two different directions at the same time. They can get nowhere.

2. When two people get married, they are entering a permanent relationship, which is supposed to be ended by nothing short of death. They are to be companions for their entire lifetime. They promise to love, honor, trust, and serve one another through sickness and in health. They promise to be true and loyal to another for as long as they both shall live. They take an oath before God Almighty to do just as we have mentioned. This is an oath or a promise which God does not at all take lightly. Yet many people have no guilt whatsoever, about stepping out on their marriage partner, and committing adultery every chance they get. They see nothing at all wrong with fooling around with other women (or men), and never feel as though they have done anything wrong. If you just step back and watch many of the men and women in our society today, you would never have any idea that they were married to anyone. And there are many who treat their marriage partner as though they have no feelings at all; talking to them with no respect whatsoever, never have a second thought about lying to them about every matter which comes up before them, and they will still stand and claim to be living a Christian life, and claim to be a faithful servant of God. May God have mercy upon them! The only thing that I can say about such an individual, is that they have been badly deceived by the devil. A person can claim to be whatever they want to claim to be; but if the life which they live does not back it up, or show evidence of it, then they are doing nothing except living a life of a hypocrite; and they are on the pathway to trouble. For God's Word tells us in Matt. 7:15-20: "***Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***" We also read in Matt. 12:33-37: "***Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.***

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth

evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

A. Beware of false prophets. This is one of the most important lessons for any Christian person to remember; to beware, or to watch out for false prophets. They are all over the world; spreading gospel which is totally contrary to the Word of God. You find them now about everywhere you go; telling everything except what God wants people to hear; especially in the area of marriage and divorce. So many will tell you that a person has the right to a divorce for any reason; which is nothing but a lie, according to what God's Word tells us. Is it any wonder that we see so many people getting divorces? We will see what the truth of the matter is, as we progress further in this lesson.

B. Which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are raving wolves. The false prophets are so deceiving; making people think that they are truly men and women of God, but are nothing but servants of the devil. They are spreading lies all over the world, and doing nothing but attempting to stop the flow of the truth which comes only from God. They act as though they want to help you any way that they can, while they are out to do nothing but destroy you. As we go a little further, we will attempt to explain how to be able to identify such deceiving serpents.

C. Ye shall know them by their fruits. What these words are telling us, is that we shall know them by the kind of life which they are living. All that you have to do, in order to see if a man or a woman is truly a servant of God or not, is just to watch their life for a few days. A true servant of God, will not bring forth evil fruit. They will have the desire to live their life in accordance with the Word of God.

D. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? We all know that we do not gather grapes from a thorn bush, but from a grape vine. In the same manner, figs are not gathered from a thistle bush, but from a fig tree.

In the same manner, a true servant of God does not live a life of evil and destruction; but rather a life of love, faith, and the other fruits of the Spirit, which we are told of in Galatians chapter 5.

E. Even so every Good tree bringeth forth good fruit. Greek-kalos (kal-os): beautiful, valuable, or beneficial. A true servant of God is considered as a good tree; and in turn, they will bring forth good fruit. Their fruit will be fruit which will cause people to want to walk close with them, and listen to what they have to say. A good tree, being a born-again child of God, will be as a completely newly grown tree; just created by God the Father. This is how God's Word describes a new child of God, in 2 Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When a person becomes a Christian, they will no longer have a desire to do evil; but they will have new desires. They will have a desire to faithfully serve the Lord, and a change will be seen in their actions.

F. But a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. Greek-sapros (sap-ros): rotten, worthless, bad, or of no benefit to anyone. This is referring to the false prophets which we mentioned earlier, or anyone else who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; and who continually bear fruit which is evil, or wicked. These kind of people are the ones which a Christian must avoid. We must pray for them, but we want nothing to do with the life which they are living.

G. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Referring again to the heart of a person, a person who has the love of Jesus Christ within them, will not bring forth evil fruit. This is because the Holy Spirit of God lives within them, and He will convict their heart, every time that they start to do anything which is contrary to the perfect will of God. In the same manner, a corrupt tree, or a lost person, cannot possibly bring forth fruit which is pleasing unto God. They do not have the love of Jesus Christ in their heart, and they will have no desire to do good; but will always be led by evil spirits, who will persuade them to do things which are evil in God's sight.

H. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. We serve a most merciful and gracious God; always willing to forgive us for every sin, if we only ask Him. But if a person continues to walk in their sin, and continues to deliberately ignore the callings and the warnings of God, to repent and turn from their sin, is going to eventually be brought down; and the final destination of those who walk in such a way, will be the fires of Hell.

I. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. As we mentioned before, all that you must do to know whether or not a person is truly a child of God, is just to watch their lives for just a few days; and observe what kind of fruit comes forth from their life.

J. Either make the tree good, and it's fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and it's fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by it's fruit. One of the most disgraceful ways in which a person can live their life, is to

try to live the life of a hypocrite. God knows our heart already, and there is not a bit of use of trying to fool Him, for it cannot be done. A person may attempt to fool other people, and many times be successful at doing so. But they will not fool God. So many marriages turn out to be a disaster, because one of the parties will pretend to be someone before the marriage, whom they really are not at all. They will fool the other individual into believing that they are truly a wonderful, God fearing person; and may continue to be successful at their deception for quite some time. But sooner or later, the truth fruit is going to come forth from their life. And when it does, it causes pain and heartache that cannot be measured. Because the two individuals are already entered into a holy vowel before God; and there is no real Christ-like way of getting out of the marriage, except for the cause of adultery. So a person's life is ruined forever. The honest party suffers tremendously, and usually the one who is the hypocrite just thinks nothing of the matter. Therefore, it is very important that a person know for certain, what kind of a person they are entering into holy matrimony with.

K. Q generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? Jesus tells these people plainly, just like it is. He does not "beat around the bush" about the matter. They are acting just like a bunch of devils; filled with evil, and pretending to be faithful followers of God. Doesn't this sound just like the generation in which we live today? People everywhere are attempting to be servants of God, and their heart is filled with evil.

L. For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. A person; any person; will always speak what is in their heart. A person who has an evil heart, will not be speaking good things. If they attempt to, their actions will always contradict what their mouth speaks. A person who has the love of Jesus in their heart, will not be allowing evil to come forth from their mouth. If a person claims to be a Christian, and is continually speaking evil and things contrary to the Word of God, then they have been seriously deceived by the devil. These things should not be happening. When a person is found in this condition, they are in desperate need of spiritual deliverance. Most likely, they have never truly been born again at all; but are only living their life in spiritual blindness, totally deceived by Satan. And a true Christian cannot remain in the presence of such a person for very long, without being influenced by the evil in one way or another. A Christian should always have a desire to be pleasing unto the Lord. And when we are having to continually remain in the presence of evil, it makes it very difficult for us to stay on the pathway of righteousness. Sooner or later, some of the evil is going to rub off on us; even though we do not intend for such to happen. This is one reason why marriage is such a very important matter in the eyes of God.

M. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. It is not just a matter of what a man (or woman) speaks, but also a matter of how a person lives their life. When we speak of "the good treasure of his (or her) heart," we are speaking of the Holy Spirit, who lives in the heart of every Christian person. And when we speak of the "evil treasure of the heart," we are speaking of the evil spirits which abide in the heart of every lost person. A person's actions will let you know real fast, whether or not a person is saved, or whether they are lost; just as the way a person continually speaks will do also. A lost person may pretend to be a Christian, but sooner or later, their words and their actions are going to reveal the truth about them.

N. But I say unto you, That every *idle* word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Greek-argos (ar-gos): useless, nonbeneficial, or words which are of no use, or are unnecessary to be spoken; usually referring to words which are evil or destructive unto themselves or unto others.

O. For by thy words thou shalt be justified. Greek-dikaioo (dik-ah-yo-o): to be declared holy, innocent, or free.

P. And by the words thou shalt be condemned. Greek-katadikazo (kat-ad-ik-ad-zo): to be pronounced guilty of sin (before God).

3. Let us now go to Matt. 5:31-32, where Jesus told us: "***It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.***" Back in the Old Testament times, and even in to the New Testament; especially among the Pharisees; people took the laws concerning marriage and divorce far too lightly. Let us read in Deut. 24:1: "When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her

out of his house.” Back in the days of Moses, a man was allowed to divorce his wife for almost any reason. Even though this was not the way that God wanted it to be, nevertheless it took place often. The word “*uncleanness*” in this verse of scripture, covered a lot of different things. For instance, a man could divorce his wife for just going out of the house with her head uncovered. As foolish as this may sound, it was still in the Old Testament laws. The word *uncleanness* comes from the Hebrew word ervah (ervaw); which means nudity, nakedness, shame, or disgrace. We are not sure how the Old Testament laws worked as far as the women’s rights concerning their husband; whether she had any rights to divorce or not.

4. We have just spoken a little bit about what the Old Testament laws had to say about marriage and divorce. But let us get serious about the matter, and see what Jesus had to say about the matter. We read in Matt. 19:1-9: “And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, He departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judea beyond Jordan; And great multitudes followed Him; and He healed them there. The Pharisees also came unto Him, tempting Him, and saying unto Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And He answered and said unto them, ***Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.***

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. They say unto Him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He said unto them, ***Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife (or husband), except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.***” Just as we mentioned earlier, a husband and a wife are as one person in the eyes of God, once they are married. And according to what Jesus told us in his Holy Word, as we have just read, God gives us no excuse whatsoever for divorce, except for a husband or a wife committing adultery. God is very strict when it comes to the matter of marriage. And He takes very seriously, the matter of committing adultery against one’s spouse. A husband (or a wife) who even has the desire in their heart to commit adultery with anyone other than their own spouse; even though they may not have actually participated in any sexual activity with them; is also guilty of adultery in the eyes of God. For Jesus told us in Matt. 5:28: “***But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.***” When a woman and a man enter into holy matrimony, they are not playing a game, but are making serious and holy vows before God, and making what is to be a permanent relationship. We have marriages which are in serious trouble, because of husbands and wives being dishonest with one another about different things; lying to one another and doing one another wrong in different ways. But God still gives us no right for divorce except in the case of adultery. If you have made marriage vows to a man or to a woman, and you are not satisfied with the performance of your husband or your wife, due to any cause less than adultery, then the only right which you have before God, is the right to pray for your spouse, and trust God to change their heart. Regardless of how impossible it may seem, God can change the heart of anyone, if we will just trust Him, and give him time to do the work which He knows that He must do. If we will just do so, He will help us and protect us, regardless of how bad the situation may look like. Many of us have gotten ourselves into very bad and disturbing relationships, because of not taking seriously the matter of holy matrimony. I was once told by a person, that they knew that they did not love the person whom they were planning to marry, even before they were married; but they just went ahead and married them because the other person involved continued to beg them to do so. What a horrible and foolish thing to do! They were having serious trouble with their spouse, and were very unhappy. The only thing that I know to tell a person in such a situation, is that they must ask for God’s forgiveness, and pray for Him to help them to love their spouse. They must choose to love them, and trust God to bring it to pass. I cannot tell anyone in such a position, that it is alright for them to get a divorce. For God’s Word has made it very clear to us that there is no excusable reason for divorce, except adultery. A person should never make such serious vows before God, and know in their heart that they do not mean them. They are not only lying to the one which they are marrying, but they are also lying to God. What a serious sin to commit! Now they have become a part of probably the most holy connection in the eyes of God, with no way out. All that they can do is ask for God’s help, and try to live their lives one day at a time. I’m certain that it must be an awfully hard road to have to travel. But if they are going to stay in right relationship with God, all that they can do is just to pray for God to heal the relationship, and to put that love there which should of been there from the beginning, and lean upon Him continually. There are

several ways in which a husband or a wife can fail to be the husband or wife which God intended for them to be. One way in which a husband can fail is by refusing to provide for his own family. A wife should not have to continuously worry, because a husband will not find a job and work, and help provide the necessities of the household. God told us in 1 Tim. 5:8: "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an *infidel*." Greek-apistos (ap-is-tos): one who is an unbeliever, or who is without faith in God, or one who is untrustworthy. This is speaking of a person who has never had any real knowledge of God at all. Any person who has a close relationship with God, will also have the love of God in their heart; and will always have a desire to faithfully provide for those whom they truly love. A person who does not care enough about their own family to work and provide for them, does not find good favor with God at all. But yet even in situations like this, as awful as it may be, God does not give us the right to divorce. Also, neither a husband nor a wife should never be ashamed of one another; but should always show great love and respect one for another. Proverbs 5:18 tells us: "Let thy fountain be blessed: and *rejoice* with the wife of thy youth." Hebrew-samach (saw-makh): to brighten up, cheer up, make glad, be joyful, or to encourage. A husband and a wife should always be an encouragement to one another; not a disappointment. They should stand up for one another, and make one another feel loved and respected. And Proverbs 19:14 tells us that a *prudent* wife is from the Lord. Hebrew-sakal (saw-kal): to be intelligent, knowledgeable, wise, skillful, successful, or to have understanding. If a man has a wife as was just described, he should continually be thankful for her. Many women cause their marriages to fail to be what God would have it to be, because they do not pray and support their husbands in a spiritual manner, as God would have them to do. If men and women would attempt to walk closer to God, and put forth the effort to be the kind of husbands and wives which God desires for us to be, there would be a far less number of marriages ending in divorce. We should also be teaching our children the Godly principals concerning marriage, and what the Word of God has to say about divorce. Girls are being raised in our society today, who do not know a thing about how to operate a home, as far as the duties which a wife should be expected to fulfill. Many of them are taught nothing at home, as far as having any responsibility at all. Many of them could not fry a piece of bacon, or toast a piece of bread. If we have a wife that is responsible in fulfilling her duties, let us always be thankful to God for her. As was mentioned before, the law which we first referred to in the Old Testament, from the Book of Deuteronomy, was established mainly because of those who wanted to get a divorce for every reason that they could come up with. But many of the people just took the law for granted, and wanted a divorce for many wrong reasons. So many times they would hold a grudge against their spouse for one thing or another; rather than forgiving one another as God expected them to do. According to the Old Testament law, a man (or woman) did not necessarily even have to divorce their spouse in the case of adultery, but only if they chose to. If their marriage partner repented of their sin, and truly changed their lifestyle, they could forgive them, and their marriage be reconciled. But so many of the people just wanted a divorce for reasons that were not justified. I believe that a husband and a wife should do everything within their power to try and make a marriage successful. If a marriage partner simply refuses to cooperate; and chooses to cause their husband or wife to have to continually live in torment and heartbreak, we still find no excusable reason in the Bible for divorce. But as I said before, every possible attempt to make the marriage a success, should be tried. I do believe that God will do what may seem impossible to us, when we put our faith completely in Him, and we attempt to faithfully serve the Lord God as He would have us to do. We serve a loving, forgiving, and merciful God; and He understands when a person is placed under what seems to be unbearable circumstances. If a husband (or a wife) does not love their spouse enough to publicly show respect for them, to be one-hundred percent faithful unto them in every way, and to always be willing to do their part in every area of the marriage, then they must be left in the hands of God Almighty; for only He can do the work which must be done. But we must not consider divorce; for as we have learned from the Word of God, divorce is positively not the will of God. This is why it is so vitally important, that a person pray to God as sincerely as possible, and know without a doubt that it is the perfect will of God, before choosing to be joined together in marriage with anyone. A husband and a wife should love one another to the point of giving up their life one for another, if it should ever be necessary. There is no measuring stick in the area of love. It has no dimensions. Divorce should never be considered as a resort in solving the problems in any marriage. And when we find ourselves facing horrible circumstances in our marriage, which it seems that there is no answer to, let us always pray and seek the face of God; and allow Him to guide us in our steps which we take. For as we have mentioned earlier, many times God can make a way, when it seems as though there is no way. He can change the hearts of people, whom we may of thought there was no possibility of ever being changed. If it be a case of a lost husband or wife, God will never force

a person to believe in Him. But He can certainly do the work in a person's life, that will cause them to want to turn to Him. We are told in 1 Cor. 7:15: "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace." God knows that sometimes we cannot do anything to prevent separation from taking place, if a spouse simply refuses to do as the Word of God commands them to do. But He is able to do the work which will cause them return. And when such situations take place, we must always have a heart of forgiveness, and never allow Satan to harden our heart; causing us to forbid God from doing the work which He knows must be done. Divorce is a horrible thing; and as we have shown many times throughout this lesson, from the Word of God, is completely in contradiction to the will of God. But many times it happens, even when we make every attempt that we know how to make, to prevent it.

5. Now we come to the question, if a marriage does end up in divorce, even for the only excusable reason; which is adultery; does a person have a right to remarry after getting a divorce? The Word of God is plain and simple to understand, in what it says regarding this matter. When the Pharisees brought the matter up before Jesus, in Matt. 5:31-32, as we said before, He told them that whosoever shall marry her (or him) that is divorced, that they are guilty of committing adultery. And as we refer back to Matt. 19:9, we read: ***"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."*** It sounds to me as though the Word of God is giving a person permission to be remarried, if the reason for their divorce is because their previous spouse was truly guilty of the act of adultery. But it also sounds as though anyone who marries one who is divorced because they were actually guilty of the act of adultery, also brings the penalty of adultery upon themselves. Adultery is the only means of release that a person has from a marriage. And also the only act which allows a couple to be single once again, in the eyes of God. When two individuals come together in marriage, and then they later decide to get a divorce, for any reason other than for the committing of adultery, then they are both guilty of a horrible sin, in the eyes of God. Now this is God's Words, not my words. Let us also remember what Paul told us in Romans 6:14-15: "But sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, God forbid." Paul is reminding us that even though we are no longer under the Old Testament law, but under the grace of God, we are not to commit sin simply because we have the grace of God to cover us. Even though God has made a way for us to receive his eternal forgiveness from sin, through the blood of Jesus, we are not to intentionally commit sin of any kind; not divorce, or any other wrong doing. He made the arrangements for Jesus to go to the cross, and shed his precious blood, and cleanse us for all of our sins. Yet Paul is also reminding us that we are not to just walk in sin, simply because we know that the grace of God and his marvelous mercy will bring forgiveness to us.

Conclusion:

I believe we have discussed many important issues which relate to a husband and a wife being happily joined together in marriage. But sadly to have to say, there are many men and women who are joined together in marriage, who can find no happiness in their marriage at all. This comes about because of many different reasons. Many times the husband or the wife become untrue to their marriage partner, they act as if they are ashamed of them in public places, many times the husband will fail to provide for his family as he should do, and many times he shows no respect for his wife, by the words which he allows to come forth out of his mouth. These things ought not to be! This is very displeasing to the heart of God. Many husbands (or wives) are taking advantage of their spouse in one way or another, rather than truly loving them as they should do. God tells us in his Word, to pray for them, and trust God to change their wicked hearts; regardless of how impossible it may seem to be. Let us always remember, that with God, all things are possible. He can make a way, when there seems to be no way. Many men (or women) get stuck in a situation where they feel as though they will never be forgiven by God, if they should ever even think about divorce as a way out. Without a doubt, divorce is a sin, and should not take place, except in the case of adultery. But let us also remember, that we serve a God who can do what seems to be impossible to us. We serve a loving and a merciful God, and He is very much concerned about the welfare of his children. All that we can do, is to try and use Godly wisdom, and ask Him to forgive us for the mistakes which we make. God knew that we were not going to be perfect creatures when He created us. But many times we have to bear the consequences for some of the mistakes which we make; especially when we know ahead that we are doing wrong. As we said before, this was the purpose for the blood of Jesus; so that we could receive forgiveness when we make mistakes and do wrong. So if you ever find yourself in a situation in which there seems to be no means of escape; including a marriage; even after you have prayed and done all that you know to do; then all that you

can do is to keep trusting in God, and allow Him to do what He knows must be done. God is understanding, He loves you, and He always wants what is best for you. And if you will give Him the time, He can, and He will, change the heart of your spouse. And He will give you the power to make it from day to day, even when it may seem as if there is no way to make it. Remember, with God all things are possible!

Calvin Smith
