

The Messy Church

1 Corinthians 7 and Matthew 19

The Messy Divorce Dilemma

The Current Divorce Rate

45% first marriages end in divorce

60% of second marriages end in divorce

73% of third marriages end in divorce

The costs of divorce are huge in terms of the spiritual, mental, emotional, relational and physical consequences of divorce.

The average financial cost of a “contested” divorce is **\$13K to \$20K**. The average cost of an “uncontested” divorce is **~\$1500**.

Marital Desertion

1 Corinthians 7:10-16 (NLT)

But for those who are married, I have a command that comes not from me, but from the Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. 11 But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else be reconciled to him. And the husband must not leave his wife. 12 Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her.

Marital Desertion

13 And if a Christian woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. 14 For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy. 15 (But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.) 16 Don't you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you? And don't you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you?

The Word Of God Has A Clear BEST Practice:
One Mate for a Lifetime

God's Grace is present and we live by God's Grace

**The KEY to a lasting marriage is MARRYING THE
RIGHT
person according to *GOD'S WILL***

What Factors are Associated with Divorce and/or Marital Unhappiness? **Factors THAT ARE HARD TO CHANGE ONCE You are MARRIED (*Static Risk factors*):**

1. Having a personality tendency to react strongly or defensively to problems and disappointments;
2. Having divorced parents;
3. Living together prior to marriage;
4. Being previously divorced, yourself or your partner;
5. Having children from a previous marriage;
6. Having different religious backgrounds;
7. Marrying at a very young age (18-20);
8. Knowing each other only for a short time before marriage;
9. Experiencing financial hardship

Factors that you can change to improve your marriage, if you work at it (*Dynamic* risk factors):

1. Bringing in Jesus into the center of the marriage with prayer, common spiritual experiences, strong faith
2. Negative styles of talking and fighting with each other, like arguments that rapidly become negative, put downs, and the silence;
3. Difficulty communicating well, especially when you disagree;
4. Trouble handling disagreements as a team;
5. Unrealistic beliefs about marriage;
6. Having different attitudes about important things;
7. A low level of commitment to one another, reflected in such things as not protecting your relationship from others you are attracted to, or failing to view your marriage as a long-term investment

Matthew 19:3-6 (NLT)

*Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason? Haven't you read the Scriptures? Jesus replied. They record that from the beginning God made them male and female. And he said, This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. **Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.***

Matthew 19:7-12 (NLT)

Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away? they asked. Jesus replied, Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful. Jesus' disciples then said to him, if this is the case, it is better not to marry!

Malachi 2:16-17

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. You have wearied the Lord with your words. How have we wearied him? you ask. By saying, All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them or Where is the God of justice? (NIV)

When is Divorce an Option?

There are two limited special conditions:

1. Hard Hearts due to unfaithfulness (Greek: *porneia*)

Matthew 19

Matthew 6:15 *But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins* (NLT).

2. Desertion by a spouse 1 Corinthians 7



Wednesdays, 6:30pm
Starts September 18
NWFCS Small Group Room

A 13 week support group that will help you heal from the hurt. It's a warm, caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through. Gain hope for your future! Childcare available.

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