

# WHEN YOUR SPOUSE WALKS OUT

How to Get Through What You're Going through: Part 6

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## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DIVORCE?

### Old Testament

*"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some **indecency** in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house." (Deuteronomy 24:1, NASB95)*

*"Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. **"I hate divorce,"** says the LORD God of Israel. "I hate it when one of you does such a cruel thing to his wife. Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful to your wife." (Malachi 2:15-16, NLT/TEV) \*

### **Why God Hates Divorce**

- 1) He hates divorce, not **DIVORCEES**.
- 2) He hates what it does to our **WALK AND WITNESS**.
- 3) He hates what it does to our **HEARTS**.
- 4) He hates what it does to our **KIDS**.

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*Divorce is where two adults take everything that matters to a child — the child's home, family, security and sense of being loved and protected and they smash it all up, leave it in ruins on the floor, then walk out and leave the child to clean up the mess."— Michael Reagan, in his book Twice Adopted*

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### Divorce in the NT

*"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." "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.” (Matthew 19:3–9, NLT)*

*“...If a fellow believer has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. And if a believing woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him...(But if the husband or wife who isn’t a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the believing husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.)” (1 Corinthians 7:15, NLT)*

**According to the Bible, there are only two Biblical grounds for divorce:**  
**ADULTERY and ABANDONMENT.**

## **WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR SPOUSE WALKS OUT**

1. **PRAY**: Pour out your heart to God.

*“I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles.” (Psalm 142:2, NLT)*

*“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16b, NLT)*

2. **PARTNER**: Talk to a mature believer of the same sex who upholds biblical standards. Don’t talk to friends or family who will just tell you what you want to hear. Seek biblical counseling.

*“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Proverbs 12:18, ESV)*

3. **PURSUE** reconciliation.

*“For married people I have a command which is not my own but the Lord’s: a wife must not leave her husband; but if she does, she must remain single or else be reconciled to her husband; and a husband must not divorce his wife.” (1 Corinthians 7:10–11, TEV)*

### **Dos**

- a. Reunite **PHYSICALLY**.

*“Do not deprive each other of sexual relations...” (1 Corinthians 7:5, NLT)*

- b. Forgive **MUTUALLY**.

*“Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges...” (1 Corinthians 13:5, The Living Bible)*

- c. Identify the issues **RESPECTFULLY**.

*“Don’t act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to.” (Ephesians 5:17, The Living Bible)*

- d. Make changes **ACCORDINGLY**.

*“Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.” (Matthew 3:8, NLT)*

#### **Don’ts**

- a. Don’t **CHASE** them.
- b. Don’t make **EMOTIONAL** decisions.
- c. Don’t **BLOW THE BRIDGE!**
- d. Don’t **IGNORE** serious issues such as abuse.

#### **If divorce occurs...**

1. **FACE** your faults, but not the failure.

*“Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves...” (Romans 12:3, NLT)*

2. **FORGIVE** your ex.

*“...forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” (Colossians 3:13, NLT)*

*“Work at living in **peace** with everyone...” (Hebrews 12:14a, NLT)*

3. **FOCUS** on your future.

*“Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.” (Lamentations 3:21–23, NLT)*

### **ACTION STEPS**

**DIVORCECare – beginning September 12**