

HOW SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT DIVORCE?

Matthew 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:1-15

FOUR PRINCIPLES ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:

1. God designed marriage to be a covenant union between one man and one woman for a lifetime.

2. Divorce is permitted in certain extreme cases.

Sexual immorality

Desertion by an unbelieving spouse

3. In cases where divorce was permitted, remarriage is permitted.

With a biblical divorce a person may remarry.

With an unbiblical divorce remarriage results in adultery.

4. In every case, marriage and spouses are redeemable.

LIVING OUT THE PRINCIPLES:

If you are married, guard your marriage.

If you are divorced and single, seek Jesus first.

If you are divorced wrongly, repent and receive grace.

As the church we must stand for marriage, sit with the hurting, and walk with the divorced.

Group Discussion Guide

- (If you are willing to share) Were your parents ever divorced?
- What are some factors that may lead spouses to consider divorce?
- How do your coworkers / friends view marriage and divorce?
- Why is this topic rarely discussed in churches?
- **Read Mark 10:1-12.** What was the ‘test’ the Pharisees were giving? What were they hoping to accomplish?
 - How did Jesus thwart their plan?
 - How did Jesus show them the heart of the Law instead of the letter of the Law?
 - How might we think this same way as we approach the topic of divorce?
- What practical ways can our group “stand for marriage, sit with the hurting, and walk with the divorced?”
- **PRAY** for specific people you know who struggling in their marriage.
- **PRAY** for the strength of all the marriages in the church.

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