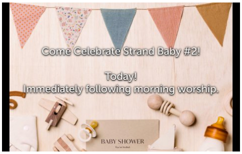
Grace Community Church of Topsail

January 18, 2026: Paul's Words on Divorce (Part 2) 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL


Come Celebrate Strand Baby #2!
Today!
Immediately following morning worship.
BABY SHOWER

Scripture Writing on interior framing
Sunday, January 25th

GCT Ladies Retreat
March 6-8, 2026
Registration Opens Soon

Psalm 84:1–2 ESV

How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O LORD of hosts!
 My soul longs, yes, faints
 for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and flesh sing for joy
 to the living God.

Continue reading »

Psalm 84:10–12 ESV

For a day in your courts is better
 than a thousand elsewhere.
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
 than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
 the LORD...

Continue reading »

♫ **Better Is One Day**

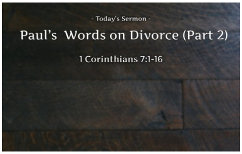
♫ **Christ Be Magnified**

♫ **Great I Am**

Kingdom Culture

How Heaven Touches Earth

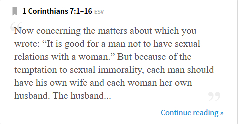
Sermon on the Mount Series



- Today's Sermon -

Paul's Words on Divorce (Part 2)

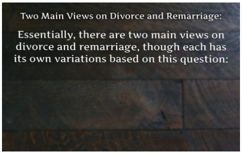
1 Corinthians 7:1-16



1 Corinthians 7:1–16 ESV

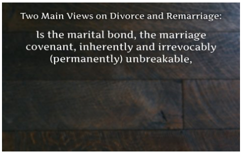
Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband...

Continue reading »



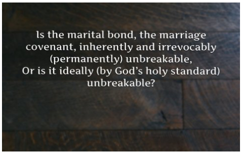
Two Main Views on Divorce and Remarriage:

Essentially, there are two main views on divorce and remarriage, though each has its own variations based on this question:

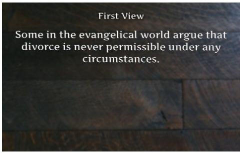


Two Main Views on Divorce and Remarriage:

Is the marital bond, the marriage covenant, inherently and irrevocably (permanently) unbreakable,

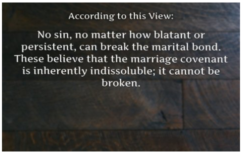


Is the marital bond, the marriage covenant, inherently and irrevocably (permanently) unbreakable,
Or is it ideally (by God's holy standard) unbreakable?



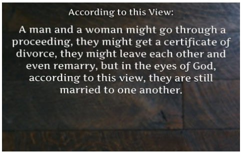
First View

Some in the evangelical world argue that divorce is never permissible under any circumstances.



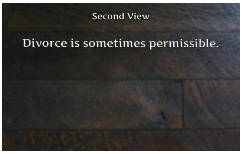
According to this View:

No sin, no matter how blatant or persistent, can break the marital bond. These believe that the marriage covenant is inherently indissoluble; it cannot be broken.



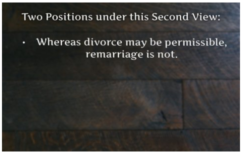
According to this View:

A man and a woman might go through a proceeding, they might get a certificate of divorce, they might leave each other and even remarry, but in the eyes of God, according to this view, they are still married to one another.



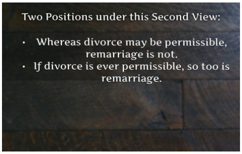
Second View

Divorce is sometimes permissible.



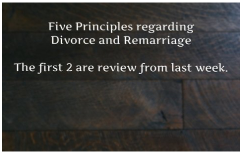
Two Positions under this Second View:

- Whereas divorce may be permissible, remarriage is not.



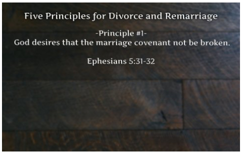
Two Positions under this Second View:

- Whereas divorce may be permissible, remarriage is not.
- If divorce is ever permissible, so too is remarriage.



Five Principles regarding Divorce and Remarriage

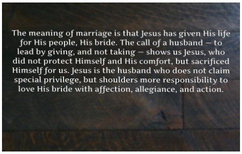
The first 2 are review from last week.



Five Principles for Divorce and Remarriage

-Principle #1-
God desires that the marriage covenant not be broken.

Ephesians 5:31-32



The meaning of marriage is that Jesus has given His life for His people, His bride. The call of a husband – to lead by giving, and not taking – shows us Jesus, who did not protect Himself and His comfort, but sacrificed Himself for us. Jesus is the husband who does not claim special privilege, but shoulders more responsibility to love His bride with affection, allegiance, and action.

Ephesians 5:31–32 ESV

> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Continue reading »

Matthew 5:31–32 ESV

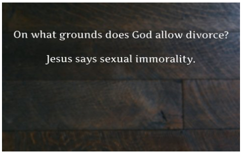
“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced...

Continue reading »

Matthew 19:1–6 ESV

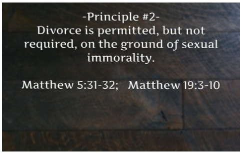
Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.
And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful...

Continue reading »



On what grounds does God allow divorce?

Jesus says sexual immorality.



-Principle #2-
Divorce is permitted, but not required, on the ground of sexual immorality.

Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:3-10

Matthew 5:31–32 ESV

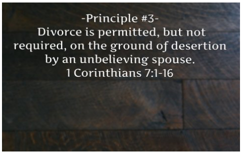
“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced...

Continue reading »

Matthew 19:3–10 ESV

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave...

Continue reading »

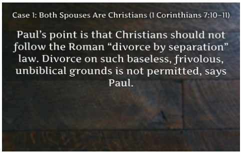


-Principle #3-
Divorce is permitted, but not required, on the ground of desertion by an unbelieving spouse.
1 Corinthians 7:1-16

1 Corinthians 7:1–16 ESV

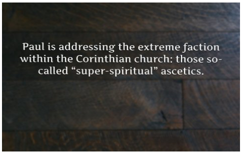
Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband...

Continue reading »



Case 1: Both Spouses Are Christians (1 Corinthians 7:10–11)

Paul’s point is that Christians should not follow the Roman “divorce by separation” law. Divorce on such baseless, frivolous, unbiblical grounds is not permitted, says Paul.

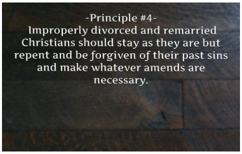


Paul is addressing the extreme faction within the Corinthian church: those so-called “super-spiritual” ascetics.

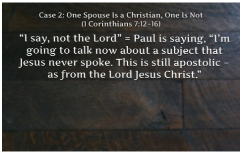
1 Corinthians 7:10–11 ESV

> To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

Continue reading »



-Principle #4-
Improperly divorced and remarried Christians should stay as they are but repent and be forgiven of their past sins and make whatever amends are necessary.



Case 2: One Spouse Is a Christian, One Is Not
(1 Corinthians 7:12–16)

“I say, not the Lord” = Paul is saying, “I’m going to talk now about a subject that Jesus never spoke. This is still apostolic – as from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 7:12–16 ESV

> To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not…

Continue reading »

Numbers 15:30 ESV

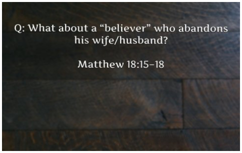
> But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner, reviles the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from among his people.

Continue reading »

Hebrews 10:26–27 ESV

> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Continue reading »



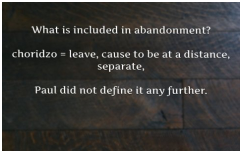
Q: What about a “believer” who abandons his wife/husband?

Matthew 18:15–18

Matthew 18:15–18 ESV

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the...

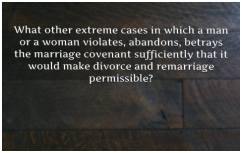
Continue reading »



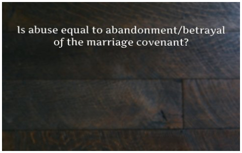
What is included in abandonment?

choridzo = leave, cause to be at a distance, separate,

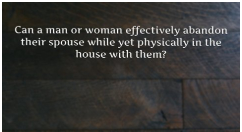
Paul did not define it any further.



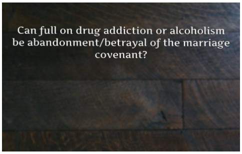
What other extreme cases in which a man or a woman violates, abandons, betrays the marriage covenant sufficiently that it would make divorce and remarriage permissible?



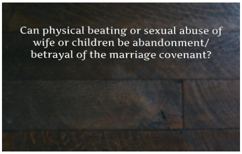
Is abuse equal to abandonment/betrayal of the marriage covenant?



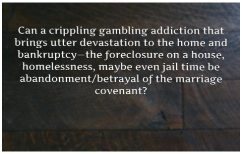
Can a man or woman effectively abandon their spouse while yet physically in the house with them?



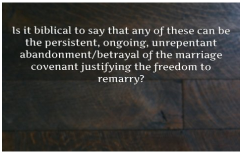
Can full on drug addiction or alcoholism be abandonment/betrayal of the marriage covenant?



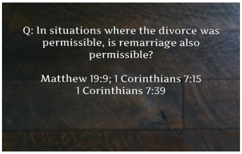
Can physical beating or sexual abuse of wife or children be abandonment/ betrayal of the marriage covenant?



Can a crippling gambling addiction that brings utter devastation to the home and bankruptcy—the foreclosure on a house, homelessness, maybe even jail time be abandonment/betrayal of the marriage covenant?



Is it biblical to say that any of these can be the persistent, ongoing, unrepentant abandonment/betrayal of the marriage covenant justifying the freedom to remarry?



Q: In situations where the divorce was permissible, is remarriage also permissible?

Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:15
1 Corinthians 7:39

Matthew 19:9 ESV

"And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Continue reading »

1 Corinthians 7:15 ESV

"But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace."

Continue reading »

1 Corinthians 7:39 ESV

"A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord."

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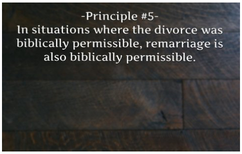

-Principle #5-
In situations where the divorce was biblically permissible, remarriage is also biblically permissible.

Psalm 103:8–13 ESV

> The LORD is merciful and gracious,
> slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
> He will not always chide,
> nor will he keep his anger forever.
> He does not deal with us according to our sins,
> nor repay us…

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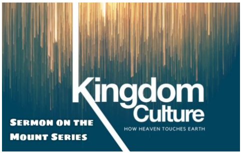
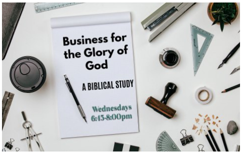
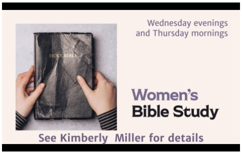
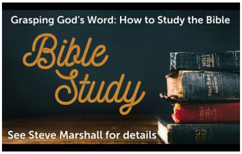

Kingdom Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH
SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

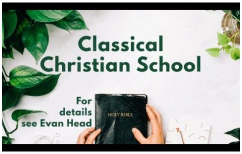
Abide

GCT Ladies Retreat
March 6-8, 2026
Registration Opens Soon


Business for the Glory of God
A BIBLICAL STUDY
Wednesdays
6:15-8:00pm


Wednesday evenings
and Thursday mornings
Women's
Bible Study
See Kimberly Miller for details


Grasping God's Word: How to Study the Bible
Bible Study
See Steve Marshall for details


Classical Christian School
For details see Evan Head

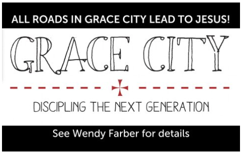
Nursery

Newborn - Toddlers

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14

10am Volunteer Opportunities

Contact:
Hali Ray



ALL ROADS IN GRACE CITY LEAD TO JESUS!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

See Wendy Farber for details

Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
A Taste of Sunrise Coffeehouse

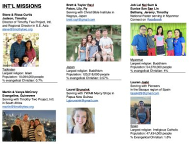
Discussions on Biblical Manhood

GCT Business Directory

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members

Looking for a handyman?
Need your house power washed?
Need a babysitter?
Need an Uber?

Yellow Pages



INT'L MISSIONS

Steve & Rissa Curtis
Judson, Timothy
Director of Timothy Two Project, Intl. and Regional Director in S.E. Asia
steve@timothytwo.org

Tajikistan
Largest religion: Islam
Population: 10,094,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.7%

Martin & Vanya McCrory
Evangeline, Guinevere
Serving with Timothy Two Project, Intl. in South Africa
martin@timothytwo.org

Brett & Taylor Rayl
Paton, Lily, Ry
Serving with Christ Bible Institute in Nagoya, Japan
brett.rayl@gmail.com

Japan
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 123,218,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.57%

Laurel Brunsink
Serving with YWAM Mercy Ships in Papua New Guinea
Lgbrunsink@gmail.com

Job Lal Nei Sum &
Eunice San San Lin
Bethany, Jeremy, Timothy
National Pastor serving in Myanmar
Connect on facebook

Myanmar
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 54,370,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 4%

Lauren Jaski
Serving with Pioneers in the Basque region of Spain
ljaski29@gmail.com

Spain
Largest religion: Irreligious Catholic
Population: 47,434,000 people
% Evangelical Christian: 1.6%

Missionaries that GCT Supports

LOCAL MISSIONS

Ratio Christi UNCW
John & Kim Zing
johnfzing@gmail.com

RATIO CHRISTI

Ratio Christi (Latin for "The Reason of Christ") is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical, and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ.

GCT Baby Pantry
Mary Copeland
GCTBabyPantry@gmail.com

BELOVED

Lifeline Pregnancy Center
Sandra Holdstein
info@lifelinewilmington.org

Center For Christian Thought
Bill & Jenny Morrison
bill@cfctwilmington.org

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
WILMINGTON

KidzAtHeart
Becca Hess
bhess@kidzatheart.org

KidZ at Heart

"Equipping indigenous churches across the world to evangelize and disciple children."

Arbor Landing Tuesday Bible Study
Denise Graddon, Gina Brohaugh, Cheri Standish, Lynn Norwood, Cynthia Manion
dgraddon@gmail.com

ARBOR LANDING at HAMPSTEAD

Journey to Heal Ministries
Emily Parker
emily@journeytohealministries.org

Journey to Heal MINISTRIES

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Malachi 3:16 Prayer Group

Meets Fridays @ 10am

Hampstead Baptist Church, Room 208

Resumes on Friday, January 9th

GRACE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

OF TOPSAIL

LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU!
Fill out a Connect Card and
place in the donation box.

Grace Community Church of Topsail

98 members • 24 followers