

THE SPLITTING OF THE ATOM
Sermon Outline
Sermon Series: Truth — How Do You Know It When You Hear It?
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What Does God Have To Say About Marriage?

1. **Marriage was _____.**
 - † *Genesis 2:22-24*, "Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and He brought her to the man. ²³"At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" ²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one" (NLT).
 - Marriage is a relationship in which we put our spouse ahead of all other _____ and _____.
 - † *Matthew 19:3-6*, "Some Pharisees came and tried to trap Him with this question: 'Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?' ⁴"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'" ⁵And 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.' ⁶Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together" (NLT).
2. **Marriage is a _____.**
 - † *Matthew 19:5*, "Jesus said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'" (NIV).
 - † *Ephesians 5:31-33*, "As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³²This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband" (NLT).
 - Marriage is a picture of _____ and the _____. Human marriage is temporary (see Matthew 22:30), whereas the relationship, the covenant between Christ and the church is eternal and the most sacred of all relationships.
3. **Marriage is _____.**
 - † *Genesis 1:27*, "So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them" (NLT).
 - † *Genesis 2:24*, "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one" (NLT).
4. **Marriage is a _____.**
 - † *Matthew 19:6*, "Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together" (NLT).

Two Different First Century Schools Of Thought On Divorce

1. **The School of _____ — (_____ school) —** a man could divorce his wife for any reason she displeased him. Examples: if a wife burned her husband's meal; too much salt in the food; did not wear what he wanted; did not like her attitude.
2. **The School of _____ (_____ school) —** a husband could only divorce his wife for _____ or any other _____.

When Does God Tolerate Divorce?

1. **When a spouse _____ to someone other than one's spouse.**
 - † *Deuteronomy 24:1*, "If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house . . ." (NIV).
 - The Hebrew word translated as "indecent" is [עֲרֻבָה, errata] and it comes from the root that means "to be _____, to _____." This word refers to some kind of sexually indecent behavior. It can refer to dressing immodestly or provocatively so as to create lust.
 - † *Matthew 19:6*, "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" (NIV).
 - † *Matthew 19:3*, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" (NIV).
 - † *Matthew 19:7-9*, "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away? ⁸Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery" (NIV).
 - The word Jesus uses for "sexual immorality" is the Greek New Testament word [πορνεία; porneia]. It is where we get our English words porn and pornography. This word is a broad term that includes premarital sex, fondling, petting, bestiality, homosexuality and sexual flirtation or acts with someone other than your spouse. If you are single, all of these are forbidden.
 - † *1 Corinthians 6:18-20*, "Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body" (NLT).
 - † *Matthew 19:10*, "The disciples said to Him, 'If that is the only reason a man can use to divorce his wife, it's better not to get married'" (GWT).
2. **When a spouse _____.**
 - † *Exodus 20:14*, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (KJV).

Why Is Adultery and Divorce Wrong?

- a. _____ breaks the _____.

- † Matthew 5:32, “I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except on grounds of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who has been divorced commits adultery” (AMP).
- b. _____ breaks the _____.
- † Malachi 2:14-15a “You fill the place of worship with your whining and sniveling because you don’t get what you want from God. Do you know why? Simple. ¹⁵Because God was there as a witness when you spoke your marriage vows to your young bride, and now you’ve broken those vows, broken the faith-bond with your vowed companion, your covenant wife. God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage” (MSG).
- c. _____ breaks the covenant of _____ between _____ and _____.
- † Malachi 2:15b-16 “God made husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit for His purpose—so they would have children who give their life to the Lord and become godly. So be careful, and do not break your marriage promise to God, your spouse or your children. ¹⁶The Lord God says, “I hate divorce. And I hate the violent dismembering of the “one flesh” of marriage for any and every reason.” So watch yourselves. Don’t let your guard down” (PAR).
- † Matthew 19:6, “Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” (NIV).
- † See also Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; and Romans 7:2-3.

3. When an _____ divorces a _____.

- † 2 Corinthians 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (NKJV).
- † 1 Corinthians 7:12-16, “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. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴For the believing wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the believing husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy. ¹⁵But 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.) ¹⁶Don’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?” (NLT).
- † Ephesians 5:31-32, “As _____ the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”³²This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one” (NLT).

What About Abuse? — The Top Five Recognized Abuses

- a. _____ abuse occurs when a person attempts to control another person through criticism, put downs, shame, embarrassment, blame and bullying.
- b. _____ abuse occurs when there is scratching or biting, pushing or shoving, slapping, kicking, choking or strangling, throwing things, force feeding or denying you food, using weapons or objects that could hurt you, physically restraining you (such as pinning you against a wall, floor, bed, etc.), reckless driving other acts that hurt or threaten you.
- c. _____ abuse occurs when someone calls you degrading names; they use words to shame you; they make jokes at your expense; they humiliate you in public; a person yells, screams and swears (uses profanity) at you to put you down; they make threats against you; they use sarcasm to cut you or o insult you.
- d. _____ abuse occurs when a person seeks to control and manipulate you by attacking your confidence and your character. Examples are, “You’re lazy,” “you’re good for nothing,” you’re stupid or an idiot or a dumb.” Psychological abuse is usually associated with obscenities, negative voice tones, exploitation, encouraging corruption and delinquent behavior, excessive teasing, harmful threats, ridicule, or derogatory statements about the victim or people whom the victim likes.
- e. _____ abuse occurs when a sexual act is forced upon an adult without their permission (ex. rape, unsolicited touching). Sexual abuse occurs when a minor is molested for sexual gratification. Types of sex abuse are offensive sexual statements made, rape, sodomy, attempted rape, gang rape, serial rape, sexting, and incest.

Three Things Up Front About Abuse

1. No abuse of any kind is ever _____ in marriage or any other relationship.
2. If you are in an abusive relationship, do these 3 things now:
(a) Call the _____. (b) _____ ASAP; (c) Get _____.
3. Although Scripture does not give _____ in the case of abuse, all agree you should separate from the abuser and put your safety and the safety of your children first.

How Can You Avoid Divorce?

1. **Focus** _____.
- † Philippians 2:3. “When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves” (NCV)
2. **Focus more on** _____.
- † Matthew 1:19. “Because Mary’s husband, Joseph, was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly” (NCV).
3. **Focus more on** _____, **not** _____ **in your marriage.**
- † Revelation 2:4-5 “I have this against you: you have abandoned the passionate love you had for Me at the beginning. ⁵Think about how far you have fallen! It’s a Lucifer fall. Repent and do the works of love you did at first. Or I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place of influence if you do not repent” (TPT).