

Divorce As God Tells It

Our civil courts once upheld moral responsibility in marriage. Divorces were primarily granted for adultery. Today however, with the erosion of a moral standard in society, a married couple can obtain a divorce for many reasons. But under what conditions does God permit a divorce?

Jesus commanded, “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery” (Matt 19:9). Notice that God does not allow divorce for just any reason, but—as Christ stated—only for adultery.

Malachi warned Israel saying, “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously” (Mal 2:16).

You may ask, “What do I do if I have divorced for reasons other than the one God allows?” God’s answer is as follows, “A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife” (1 Cor 7:10-11). The English word “depart” is from the same Greek word Jesus used to describe divorce (separate, put asunder) when He said, “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matt 19:6). If a wife has divorced her husband when he has not committed adultery, then she must remain unmarried or be reconciled to him. The principles of marriage, divorce and remarriage apply equally to wives and husbands—as God tells it (Mark 10:11-12).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.