

GOD HATES DIVORCE

Today homes are wrecked because of poor choices, unwise choices, ungodly choices. Marriage is a union of choice. Divorce is a choice, too – a choice which almost 50% of first married couples make today. One out of two marriages ends in divorce. In spite of the pain and often irreparable damages it causes, we live in a time and place where the majority sees nothing wrong with divorce. Having entered marriage lightly, couples view it as an acceptable option when things become difficult and unpleasant. Many in our society see divorce as an acceptable choice to solve marital problems. Many times divorce is a selfish choice to pursue one's own wishes and desires.

The lawful marital union between one man and one woman is a God-ordained and a God-regulated relationship. Its purpose is to provide life-long intimate companionship. “The woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.” (Romans 7:2) Severing what God joined together always involves sin. Consider His rebuke to Israelites: “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence” (Malachi 2:16).

God never intended for man to unlovingly break the marriage bond. Legal, civil papers do not make a wrong action right, nor approved of God. Divorce is wrong first of all because this action separates what God joined. “What God has joined together, let not man separate” (Mark 10:9). Stubborn disobedience is rebellion against God. Secondly, to break the marriage covenant makes a spouse a liar. Covenant-breaking or being untrustworthy is sin (Romans 1:31). Third, unlawful divorce treats a spouse treacherously and harms others. “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.” (Matthew 5:32). Lastly, unlawfully putting away your spouse is a failure to love. “Owe no one anything except to love one another,... For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’... are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm...” (Romans 13:8-10). The Lord specifically addresses a husband's role regarding properly loving. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25). Every time divorce occurs, sin is committed. God hates it.