

The law of God concerning divorce is rather simple. It is man that complicates it when he ignores it. Before anyone considers divorcing their spouse, they ought to remember the following four things...

Remember...God Joined You!

So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. - Matthew 19:6. *Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant...Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 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.* - Malachi 2:14-16). God has to be considered when contemplating divorce. When Jesus was asked about the subject His response appeals to marriage

being a holy ordinance of God and not to be dissolved by man without God's approval. In the Old Testament He uses the same logic to discourage divorce. He says He hates divorce and it hurts so many. His law supersedes civil laws that might be more permissive. A commitment to God is needed to discourage divorce and needs to be remembered when contemplating such a drastic step.

Remember...Your Life-long Promise! *For 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. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.* - Romans 7:1-3. No divorce, under any circumstance, is the general rule. Read Mark 10:2-12 and I Corinthians 7:10-16. Only death

should end it, as even the wedding vows often reflect, when the two say, "I do" until death do ye part. So anyone considering divorce ought to think back on the vow they took; a solemn promise before God and witnesses, and keep their word. A life-long commitment to the relationship is needed to discourage divorce.

Remember...Not To Hurt Your Spouse *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 5:31-32. Do not make your spouse stumble. If there is any ounce of love for the other, consider how you might be contributing to their downfall both physically and spiritually. One might feel himself secure and with no plans of remarrying, but what of the spouse? They might sin and it be at least partially the ex-spouse's fault. A commitment to your spouse is needed to discourage divorce.

Remember...God's One Exception
(Matthew 19:3-12). Sexual infidelity is the only grounds given for divorce. This is not the rule, but the exception, but one which God permits. Should the innocent party then remarry, they would not be sinning. Even when sexual unfaithfulness has occurred, it is not required though. Read Matthew 1:18-20 and Hosea 3:1-3. The marriage might still be kept together.

Should divorce be for other reasons, then they should either be reconciled at some future time or remain unmarried. *Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: 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.* - I Corinthians 7:10-11.

Avoiding divorce is not accomplished by just marrying the right person or even being the right person, but by two being committed to God, the

relationship and each other.

Appleton church of Christ

3601 E. Newberry St.
Appleton, WI 54915

Telephone

(920) 733-5009

E-mail

wsasser@tds.net

Internet

www.appletonchurchofchrist.org

Regular Assembly Times

Sundays

9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes (all ages)

10:30 a.m. - General Worship Hour

6:00 p.m. - Evening Services

Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. - Bible Studies

*Seeking to be a pillar and
ground of the truth*

(I Timothy 3:15)

What Does God Say About Divorce?



