

Weekly Summary:

What does God say about divorce? Can a Christian be divorced? Can divorced people go to heaven? What about remarriage? Didn't Jesus forbid that? This message digs into one of the toughest sections of Scripture and shares God's plan for those who've been to the courthouse and back.

Happily Ever After

Week 5: God's Word On Divorce

❖ Question 1: What does God think about divorce?

- ◆ Matthew 19:6 - "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

- ◆ Malachi 2:16 - "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

- ◆ Divorce is the **fruit** of a rotten **root**.

❖ Question 2: What are godly reasons to divorce?

- ◆ 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,...

- ◆ Matthew 19:3-9 - Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and 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'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was

not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

◆ Reason #1 - **Sexual Immorality**

- ◆ 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 15 - To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. ... But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

◆ Reason #2 - **Desertion**

❖ Question 3: What about life after divorce?

- ◆ Options for the “Innocent Spouse”
1. **Remarry** (1 Corinthians 7:15)
 2. **Remain single** (1 Corinthians 7:40)
 3. **Reconcile** (Hosea)
- ◆ Options for the “Guilty Spouse”
1. **Repent** (Hebrews 10:26)
 2. **Repair** (Matthew 3:8)
 3. (Possibly) **Reconcile** (Matthew 3:8)
 4. (Possibly) **Remarry** (1 Corinthians 7:9)

- ◆ Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

❖ Video: Broken Together (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhxELo-uD3c>)

❖ Question 4: What does God think about the divorced?



- ◆ John 4:4 - Now he had to go through Samaria.
- ◆ John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- ◆ Isaiah 62:5 - As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

❖ Video: The Hosea Love Story - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXvW6qywIP0>)

Points to Ponder

1. Reread Matthew 19:1-12. Find three additional points Jesus made that we did not cover in today's message.
2. Interested in more details about marriage, divorce, and remarriage? Google "WELS Divorce and Remarriage" and read the 20-page Bible study recently released by our denomination.
3. Think of three divorced people you know. How is God calling you to show them love after hearing this message? Make a plan this week to share truth and show love to someone whose marriage has ended.

Homework For Next Week: John 8:31-47

*"Do not be afraid or terrified...for the Lord your God goes with you,
he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

~ Deuteronomy 31:6

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. "You Never Let Go" - by Jeremy Camp
2. "I Am Not Alone" - by Kari Jobe
3. "Not For A Moment" - by Vertical Church Band