

I Corinthians 7:10-16

And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband:

¹¹ But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

¹² But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

¹³ And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*: but God hath called us to peace.

¹⁶ For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife?

I. Toss it Aside Society

In 1920, there was 1 divorce for every 7 marriages.

In 1940, there was 1 divorce for every 6 marriages.

In 1960, there was 1 divorce for every 4 marriages.

In 1972, there was 1 divorce for every 3 marriages.

In 1977, there was 1 divorce for every 2 marriages.

US Census Bureau

50% of first marriages, 67% of second and 74% of third marriages end in divorce.

Jennifer Baker – Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri.

Genesis 2:23-24

And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

II. Divorce in the Bible

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

III. Three Grounds for Divorce

A. Adultery

Matthew 19:3-9

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

⁴ And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,

⁵ And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

⁶ Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

⁷ They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

⁸ He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

⁹ And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

B. Abandonment

I Corinthians 7:11a & 15a

But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried... But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*:

C. Abuse

I Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

I Peter 3:1-4

Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

² While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear.

³ Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

⁴ But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.