

## God's Views on Marriage and Divorce

Series: "Building Up God's Family," Part 17 of 36

1 Corinthians 7:10-17; Matthew 19:1-9

In August of 1997, I experienced one of the most difficult moments in my life . . . \_\_\_\_\_

Recently, I spent time in a room filled with many people who had been divorced . . . \_\_\_\_\_

### GOD'S RULES ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

1. **To the Unmarried: Christians Should \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(2 Cor 6:14-18 NIV) *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

2. **To the Married: Uphold the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(1 Cor 7:10-11 NIV) *To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. . . . And a husband must not divorce his wife.  
(Mat 19:4-6 NIV) *"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' {5} 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'? {6} So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."**

An Illustration from the Garden \_\_\_\_\_

A Special Case: A Believer and an Unbeliever  
(1 Cor 7:12-14 NIV) *To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. {13} And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. {14} For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.*

3. **To the Divorced: Seek \_\_\_\_\_**  
(1 Cor 7:10-11 NIV) . . . *A wife must not separate from her husband. {11} But if she does, she must . . . be reconciled to her husband.*

A Letter to Pastor Mike Andrus . . .

*Pastor Mike, I wanted to drop you a note and let you know that I have really enjoyed the messages on the family the last couple of weeks. . .*

*Having been through a divorce I see the destruction that it does--not only to the two married individuals, but the children, the in-laws, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, friends, associates--it seems to be a never ending "ripple" effect that touches so many people. It is a devastating move that cripples the families emotionally, spiritually, financially, educationally, etc. I have seen the effects on my 3 1/2 year old son; it is so sad to see him grieve for our past mistakes.*

*My wife and I are still moving in the direction of reconciliation. We both feel very comfortable with each other and have worked through a lot of garbage and hope to put our family back together the way God intended it to be. Our counseling has gone very well and we really enjoy each other. There have been some arguments, etc., but we have actually been able to work through the situations very well. It has been work but it has been fun--we are making it fun!! I look forward to getting our family whole and healed!*

#### God's Allowance for Divorce and Remarriage:

\_\_\_\_\_ by an \_\_\_\_\_ spouse  
(1 Cor 7:15 NIV) *But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mat 19:9 NIV) *I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."*

#### God's Allowance for Divorce Without Remarriage:

\_\_\_\_\_ Circumstances  
(1 Cor 7:10-11 NIV) . . . *A wife must not separate from her husband. {11} But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband.*

#### Pastoral Wisdom for Divorcees ("Pastor Mark, not the Lord").

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Marital Breakup
2. Allow \_\_\_\_\_ Before Remarriage
3. Accept God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

(Col 3:13 NIV) *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*