

**WHAT DOES
GOD THINK
OF DIVORCE?**

All of us know someone who has been wrecked by the heartache of a fractured marriage.

Our parents, siblings, children, and friends have experienced the devastation of divorce. The church is not immune. Scripture tells us that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). Divorce grieves the heart of God. His original design and intent of creating one man and one woman in a permanent and exclusive relationship is at stake. So, why does God ache over and despise divorce?

Divorce represents a colossal breakdown of God's original purpose.

Marriage is God's idea and His creation. He intended for marriage to be permanent between one man and one woman, broken only by death. When sin entered the world in Genesis 2, through the temptation of Satan, all kinds of relationships were fractured. The relationship between God and ourselves, the relationship between one another, the relationship with ourselves, and the relationship we experience between ourselves and the rest of creation, all were broken by sin. Divorce is simply another example of the devastation of God's original design brought on by sin.

Divorce represents a spiritual failure.

Marriage, as a good and beautiful God-ordained-relationship, is never easy. Good marriages require work and faithfulness. Husbands and wives are instructed by Scripture to be thoughtful and considerate of one another (Ephesians 5:21-33). Men are instructed to love their wives as Christ does the church, while women are instructed to yield to their husbands as the church yields to Christ. God never intended for us to live in isolation from one another. Genesis 2:24 portrays God's original intent between a man and a woman, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." When that relationship breaks apart through divorce the ripple effects are devastating. Divorce was not included in God's original design. Divorce, regardless of the reasons, represents a spiritual breakdown.

Divorce represents a tearing apart of covenant love.

Marriage is a relationship of covenant love. It is designed to reflect the very nature of God. A selfless, self-giving, and immensely caring love surrounds God's relationship with each of us. "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). The relationship between a husband and wife is to mirror God's self-sacrificing love. When divorce happens, a severing of God's covenant love is evident. His original design did not include divorce, but became a reluctant concession to a broken and sin-filled world. God allows divorce in only two circumstances: sexual immorality and desertion by an unbelieving spouse (Matthew 5:31-32, 19:9, Mark 10:11-12, Luke 16:18, and 1 Corinthians 7:10-16).

Divorce represents the need for restoration.

Divorce is sin. It is not greater than other transgressions, but it is outside of God's will. When divorce occurs, regardless of the reasons, it is essential that a husband and wife acknowledge their part. Any rationalization must be rejected. Confess any and all sin that has led to the divorce and seek God's forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9). Divorce is not final. God has the ability and desire to restore all of His children to Himself.

EASTVIEW NEXT STEP

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