

ISAAC

a message series BY GREGG MATTE & JOHN BISAGNO

May 2, 2010 • PASTOR GREGG MATTE

DIVORCE: AN EXCHANGE OF PROBLEMS

MATTHEW 19:1-9 & 1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-15 (P.696 & 809)

FIFTY YEARS AGO PARENTS WERE APT TO HAVE A LOT OF KIDS.

NOWADAYS KIDS ARE APT TO HAVE A LOT OF PARENTS. - E. LAWSON



• *DIVORCE IS AN EXCHANGE OF PROBLEMS NOT A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS.*

• FAMILY Viewpoint

MALACHI 2:16

- ADULTS

Guilt

Life is increasingly HARD TO BALANCE

Wounded

- CHILDREN

Massive CHANGE: ROLES, SCHEDULES, PEOPLE

SUPPRESSED FEELINGS AND QUESTIONS

Wonder WHAT WILL GO WRONG NEXT

• BIBLICAL Viewpoint

DEUTERONOMY 24:1-4, MATTHEW 5:31-32, MALACHI 2:16

- ~~ADULTERY~~: GREEK "PORNEIA"

MATTHEW 19:1-9

- ~~ABANDONMENT~~ BY UNBELIEVER

1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-15

DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE

Without question the Bible clearly teaches God has a high standard for marriage and we should hold it in such regard.

- Marriage is to be permanent. (Matthew 19: 6 & 1 Corinthians 7:27)
- Marriage is between one man and one woman. (Matthew 19:4-5 & Genesis 2:18-25)
- Same sex relationships/marriage/unions are forbidden. (Romans 1:24-27 & 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- Marriage is to be a picture of Christ and His Bride, the Church. (Ephesians 5:25-30)
- Marriage is God's tool for husband and wife to grow in holiness. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Regretfully some marriages end in divorce. The issue of divorce and remarriage from a biblical perspective has been long debated by theologians, scholars, and Christians throughout the centuries. The true questions about divorce usually center on the aspect of remarriage.

Biblical grounds for remarriage:

- Divorce and remarriage to the same person.
 - When the marriage and divorce occurred prior to conversion. (2 Corinthians 5:17 & Ephesians 2:1-9)
 - Divorced and the former spouse has died. (1 Corinthians 7:9 & 39)
 - Divorce occurred due to adultery by the former spouse. (Matthew 5:31-32)
 - Divorced and the former spouse has remarried. The former spouse's new marriage would then constitute adultery releasing the other spouse. (Matthew 5:32 & Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
 - Divorce occurred due to the abandonment by an unbelieving spouse. (1 Corinthians 7:12-15)
- (I would also consider a pattern of physical abuse that endangers the spouse or children in the home to be an abandonment of the role of the spouse.)

Advice to those single *without* scriptural basis listed above:

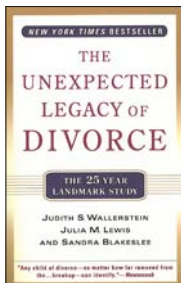
- Trust God with your singleness and serve Him with all of your heart. (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)
- Stay single until former spouse dies, remarries, or reconciles with you.

Advice to those who are remarried after a divorce *without* scriptural basis listed above:

- Confess to the Lord and others who would be appropriate.
- Allow God to be the center of your marriage, following Him closely. Truly commit for this marriage to be 'until death do us part'.

Advice to divorced parents:

- Be proactive in allowing children to ask questions for the rest of their lives. The door you and your spouse closed will be open for the rest of your children's lives.
- Don't bash the other but be honest (as appropriate to their age) as to the problems.
- Keep them in places of spiritual growth and good friendship circles.
- As appropriate to the child's age, ask for their forgiveness.



The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce

by Wallerstein, Lewis & Blakeslee

Available in *CornerBooks*

*I read this book and found it impactful in my life as a child of divorce.
I'm not recommending this as helpful theologically but sociologically.*

- Pastor Gregg