



Body Building wk3: Difficult Marriages & Divorce

Introduction: Divorce has impacted all of us in one way or another. Either we've experienced it personally or a close friend or family member has gone through it. If we are going to build the entire church body, we have to minister well to those who are struggling or have gone through what is often an incredibly painful experience.

Discussion Questions

1. Most of us have heard that God hates divorce. Look at different translations of Malachi 2:16. What is the most likely meaning of that passage? What are some reasons that God may hate divorce? How does God feel about divorced people?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 7:10-16** Why does Paul give a distinction about the commands being from the Lord and the ones from him? What does he mean that an unbelieving spouse is sanctified by a believing one? Have you seen where a lone family member has been a faithful believer for a long time before anyone in the household chose to follow Jesus? Is there a tension between that idea and not marrying an un-believer?
3. Read **Matthew 19:3-9** Why does Jesus say Moses allowed for divorce? What's the difference between a command and a concession? Why is adultery so difficult to recover from? If adultery has occurred in a marriage do they have to get divorced?
4. Paul gives another "exception" for divorce here (one partner leaving). Are there other times when that's an acceptable response?
5. What helpful advice can you give to someone in a difficult marriage? Why is the "perfect person" myth so harmful?
6. How can the church be a place of encouragement for those who have gone through divorce?

Shaping Your Mind – *What God has joined together, let no one separate. Matthew 19:6b*

Moving Forward – Marriage is a covenant, not a consumer relationship.