

HAIL THE KING

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



BUT I SAY TO YOU THAT EVERYONE WHO DIVORCES HIS WIFE, EXCEPT ON THE GROUND OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY, MAKES HER COMMIT ADULTERY, AND WHOEVER MARRIES A DIVORCED WOMAN COMMITS ADULTERY.

MATTHEW 5:31-32

THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW

"I confess to a basic reluctance to attempt an exposition of these verses. This is partly because divorce is a controversial and complex subject, but even more because it is a subject which touches people's emotions at a deep level. There is almost no unhappiness so poignant as the unhappiness of an unhappy marriage, and almost no tragedy so great as the degeneration of what God meant for love and fulfilment into a non-relationship of bitterness, discord and despair.

John Stott



Although I believe that God's way in most cases is not divorce, I hope I shall write with sensitivity, for I know the pain which many suffer, and I have no wish to add to their distress. Yet it is because I am convinced that the teaching of Jesus on this and every subject is good—intrinsically good, good for individuals, good for society—that I take my courage in both hands and write on.”

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► **The divorce debate**



“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

Matthew 5:31



¹ “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, ² and if she goes and becomes another man’s wife, ³ and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce

Deuteronomy 24:1–4



and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, ⁴ then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the Lord. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 24:1–4



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THE GOSPEL OF
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And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

Matthew 19:3



- ▶ **The divorce debate**
- ▶ **Jesus' teaching on marriage**



⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

Matthew 19:4–5



So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27



So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24



MARRIAGE WAS CREATED TO BE



MARRIAGE WAS CREATED TO BE

EXCLUSIVE

So they are no longer
two but one flesh.

Matthew 19:6a



MARRIAGE WAS CREATED TO BE

EXCLUSIVE

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Matthew 19:6a

PERMANENT

What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

Matthew 19:6b



They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"

Matthew 19:7



He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

Matthew 19:8



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³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31–32



“I have made the rule never to speak with anybody about divorce, until I have first spoken with him (or her) about two other subjects, namely, marriage and reconciliation. Sometimes a discussion of these topics makes a discussion of the other unnecessary. At the very least, it is only when a person has understood and accepted God's view of marriage and God's culture reconciliation that a possible context has been created in which one may regretfully go on to to talk about divorce. This principle of pastoral priorities is, I believe, consistent with the teaching of Jesus.”

John Stott



- ▶ **The divorce debate**
- ▶ **Jesus' teaching on marriage**
- ▶ **Jesus' teaching on divorce**



But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:32

And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.

Matthew 19:9



1. Divorce is only permitted in cases of:

- ▶ Sexual immorality



1. Divorce is only permitted in cases of:

- ▶ Sexual immorality
- ▶ Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse



**Divorce is always the result of sin,
but is not always sinful.**



- 1. Divorce is only permitted in cases of:**
 - ▶ Sexual immorality
 - ▶ Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse
- 2. In these cases, divorce is permitted, not commanded.**



1. Divorce is only permitted in cases of:
 - Sexual immorality
 - Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse
2. In these cases, divorce is permitted, not commanded.
3. Outside of these exceptions, divorce is forbidden.



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2. In these cases, divorce is permitted, not commanded.
3. Outside of these exceptions, divorce is forbidden.
4. Remarriage is only permitted after a biblical divorce



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