

Biblical Reasoning and Sound Doctrine For Divorce and Remarriage

By: Theodore and Lenae Valentine

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Introduction:

If you are contemplating divorce, this is the book for you. I wrote this book with the best of my knowledge and to the best of my understanding of marriage, divorce and remarriage. It is not meant to discourage—but to encourage. I want you to become more like how Christ Jesus would want you to be. This book is not meant to condemn—but to help you live a godly life.

There are many deceivers and false prophets out there who are very good at telling you what you *want* to hear—but not what you *need* to hear. My goal is to tell you the truth to the best of how I know it to be. This is why much of this book is straight forward and clear cut. It is not meant to confuse. Jesus, please help me in this endeavor. Okay, now we may begin.

As you read, I encourage you to always remember to look at the Bible as a whole when you read particular verses from it. This is because the Bible is full of checks and balances that allow its reader to understand a certain subject thoroughly. You cannot pick and choose what you want to believe or not believe. Untainted truth comes from understanding the Bible as a whole.

I use the King James Version of the Bible and encourage you to do the same.

Chapter 1: What is divorce?

There are several different definitions of divorce, but we will only talk about two of these in this book: legal divorce and biblical divorce.

First let's discuss *legal* divorce. After a quick search on the internet I found this definition. According to google.com divorce is defined as:

- 1.** the legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines divorce as “the action or an instance of legally dissolving a marriage” or contract between (2016).

Finally, Webster's Dictionary of 1828: American Dictionary of English Language held the following definitions of divorce:

- 1.** A legal dissolution of the bonds of matrimony, or the separation of husband and wife by a judicial sentence. This is properly called a *divorce* and called technically, *divorce a vinculo matrimonii*.

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2. The separation of a married woman from the bed and board of her husband, a mensa et thoro.
3. Separation; disunion of things closely united.
4. The sentence or writing by which marriage is dissolved.
5. The cause of any penal separation.

Please notice that none of the above definitions contain the word God. However, the word “legal” is used in all three of the dictionaries’ top definitions for divorce.

A *legal* divorce is recognized and allowed according to a legal system. In other words, it is permitted by law and/or the judicial authority of the land.

However, legal divorce is not the same as *biblical* divorce. We will talk about biblical divorce in the following chapter.

Chapter 2: Divorce in the Beginning

Divorce did not exist in the beginning. In the beginning God created the Heavens, the earth, man, woman, the union between man and woman and so forth. And not only did He make them, but He made them good. Not bad, but good. In the beginning, there was only one thing that was not good.

Genesis 1:31a - And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was **very good**.

Genesis 2:18 - And the LORD God said, [It is] **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:21-24 – 24 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:29-31 - 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

The only thing that was *not* good before the first sin—was that man was alone. God does not tell us why it was not good for man to be alone—He just tells us that it was not good for man to be alone. So God made Eve to be with Adam. The union between the first man and woman was a good thing—not a curse.

Genesis 1:27-28 - 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:31 - And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was **very good**. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God meant the union between man and woman to be until death. One reason we can assume this is because God created the first woman out of a rib that came from Adam's rib cage. God made Adam out of the dust from the ground. God could have made Eve from the dust in the ground—but He didn't. Did God make a mistake? No. He did this for a reason.

Genesis 2: 21-24 - 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

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23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

When a man is “cleaved” unto his wife, the two become one flesh. Not two fleshes—but one flesh. This is not literal—but symbolic. After the two make a covenant to be together forever before God—according to the will of God—the two are no longer considered two, but one in God’s eyes. The vow to God is the spiritual union. Sexual intercourse is the physical union. This vow is never to be broken.

Ephesians 5:4-6 - 4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for [he hath] no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better [is it] that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it [was] an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

The physical union and the spiritual union should complement each other—go hand in hand. A “married” couple therefore should complement each other in the way they live: live together, cry together, sleep together, ect. for the rest of their lives.

Colossians 3:12-19 - 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

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16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Flesh is not to be torn from flesh. If flesh were torn from flesh in the literal sense, the result would be a gaping wound—or worse—a destroyed body. Likewise, when a couple is torn apart, the result can be disastrous: emotional turmoil for the two individuals and their children, fighting, heartbreak, loneliness, ect. Divorce is NEVER a good thing.

Mark 10:9 - What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Divorce is a result of sin in the world. God did not create divorce in the beginning because He never intended it to be in existence. God does not like divorce, therefore you should not like divorce, nor want a divorce, nor seek out a divorce.

Matthew 19:3-8 – 3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,**

5 And said, **For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?**

6 **Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

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8 He saith unto them, **Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.**

Seeking divorce for any reason is not good or godly. Are you married, but spend more time looking for reasons to divorce than you do trying to mend the relationship with your spouse? Not good. Do you spend more time fantasizing about single life or the man you could have married than you do about trying to make the marriage work? Not good. Are you married and thinking sexual thoughts about another man/woman? VERY BAD. Not good at all.

Chapter 3: Three Reasons for Divorce

For several years now there has been a high rate of divorce worldwide. However, most people in the world that seek divorce do not have grounds for divorce.

Again, God does not like divorce. However, He *does* allow it in a very select number of circumstances. Truthfully, there are only three that the Bible speaks of. These include the following:

1. Death
2. Adultery or fornication
3. If the **unbeliever** departs

The *biblical* definition of divorce is the dissolution or dismissal of a marriage—permitted by God—in which there is no divine penalty or judgment as a result of the divorce. Many definitions on the Internet also use the word separation. However, be aware that divorce is not merely separation in itself—it is a disunion of things closely united (Websters Dictionary, 1828).

Again, biblical divorce and legal divorce are NOT the same thing. Divorce may be allowed *legally* but not *biblically*. Government may permit you to divorce for a certain reason, but God may not permit you to divorce your spouse for that same reason.

It is possible to be divorced AND married at the same time. I mean to say that it is possible to be considered “divorced” *legally*, but still “married” in the eyes of God. For example, government may allow its citizens to divorce and remarry for many reasons, but God’s commands and laws concerning divorce and remarriage may be much stricter.

Now, this does not mean that we should not obey human law. God tells us to respect our authorities:

Romans 13:1-7 – 1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore [ye] must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Titus 3:1-2 - Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

Having Earthly authorities is not a bad thing. God tells us to obey them. But Jesus also tells us to live according to God's word, commandments, and character. Those who fear or respect God and His word will live according to Earthly laws—but only if they are in accordance with who God is. If by chance human law and God's law contradict, you should always choose to follow God's law. Why? It is because He is the God and Creator of all. God created man and therefore God's law trumps man's law. But, we should always strive to follow man's law AND God's law to best of our ability.

John 14:15 - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

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Luke 11:28 - But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Acts 5:29 - Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Matthew 7:21- Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Psalms 119:1 - ALEPH. Blessed [are] the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

God's word tells you how to live by earthly law, but in a godly way.

For those who are saved—the Holy Spirit will be their moral and ethical guide:

Psalms 119:105 - NUN. Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

1 Corinthians 6:19 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

John 14:26 - But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.

Romans 8:1-39 - [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Now, let's return to the three circumstances in which God has given us as biblical grounds for divorce.

The Only 3 Reasons for Biblical Divorce

Reason #1 - Physical death is one way a marriage can be dissolved biblically. This would make sense since the husband and wife would be physically separated after one spouse dies. What happens after death is another subject that we will talk about another day.

Romans 7:2 - For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [her] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [her] husband.

However, this does not make it permissible for you or anyone else to kill your husband. That is not a joke.

Exodus 20:13 - Thou shalt not kill.

1 John 3:15 - Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Revelation 21:8 - But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Matthew 5:21 - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Reason #2 - Unfaithfulness is another way a marriage can be dissolved biblically. Fornication and adultery are considered unfaithfulness.

Matthew 5:32a - But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery:

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Here is a verse concerning *lust of the flesh* and *emotional adultery*:

Matthew 5:27-28 - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever **looketh** on a woman to **lust after** her hath **committed adultery** with her already **in** his **heart**.

Emotional adultery (lust of the flesh) is considered adultery. Intentionally fantasizing or thinking of someone or something other than your spouse—in a sexual way—is considered emotional adultery. Emotional adultery is a sin. God made marriage to be between one man and one woman.

Proverbs 5:18-19 - 18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 [Let her be as] the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

If your spouse has committed emotional adultery you are biblically permitted to divorce your spouse. But remember that this does not mean that you HAVE to divorce your spouse. God only allowed divorce because of the hardness of our hearts. It should always be the last option.

Matthew 19:8 - He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

God is the God of forgiveness. I repeat, divorce should ALWAYS be the last option. For example, if your spouse makes a mistake, but sincerely repents and asks for forgiveness, is there some reason why you should not forgive them and give them a second chance?

2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Acts 3:19 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

If your spouse truly repents, they will confess their sin and turn away from adultery.

Proverbs 28:13 - He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [them] shall have mercy.

But, God will punish those who continue to willingly participate in sin (adultery/fornication) even when they know that it is wrong:

Galatians 6:7 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

James 1:15 - Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad.

Reason #3 - Unbeliever departs from a believer is one way a marriage can be dissolved biblically. Biblical divorce is allowed if the *unbeliever departs*. Now, pay close attention.

*This exception does NOT apply to two believers in Christ who are married.

If your spouse is a believer and they depart—you are still married according to God. If they depart, you are not allowed to divorce that spouse. If your believing spouse divorces you *legally*—but neither one of you has committed adultery or fornication—you and your spouse continue to be *biblically* married in God's eyes.

If you are legally divorced but biblically married, do not commit adultery. Save yourself in the hopes that your spouse might come back. Remember—even though you and your spouse are physically separated, you are both still spiritually married. This means you are not to go on dates, look or think anything sexual about anyone/anything other than your spouse, ect. Until one or the other commits adultery, both believers are tied together spiritually as husband and wife. Do not be the first one to compromise. Furthermore, do not hope that your spouse will compromise. Pray for God's guidance.

Beware. There are some people that teach that “abandonment” or “dissertation” by a believing spouse is biblical grounds for divorce. This is wrong. This is false doctrine.

Anyone that promotes this idea is NOT teaching biblically sound doctrine. Read the following carefully:

1 Corinthians 7:10-16 – 10 And unto the married I command, [yet] not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from [her] husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to [her] husband: and let not the husband put away [his] wife.

12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

15 But if the **unbelieving depart**, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such [cases]: but God hath called us to peace.

16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save [thy] husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save [thy] wife?

Do all you can to stay with your spouse—whether they are a believer or unbeliever. But, do not force them to stay. If your spouse leaves you, let them leave—but also give them a chance to come back.

An example of this situation is Hosea. He was married to a prostitute. Time after time she would leave him, but he never gave up. He would accept her back...time and time again. Here is a great example of dedication to one's wife. Even after she defiled the wedding bed; he was willing to make the marriage work. He refused to break his marriage vow. It probably was not easy for him, but he feared the Lord and acted in a godly manner by trying to win his wife back. It is a story of love and forgiveness.

Take note however that Hosea did not force his wife to do anything. He did all he could to sway and allure her—sometimes even hinder her way—but he *never* physically forced

her to stay. Hosea never abused his wife. He gave her the right to choose, but he always gave her the option to come back.

Hosea 2:7 - And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find *them*: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then *was it* better with me than now.

Hosea 2:14 - Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Hosea 2:19 - And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

Note: God is a God of forgiveness and love, but He also hates sin and will punish those according to their knowledge of their sin (We will talk about this in Chapter 5).

The book of Hosea incorporates two love stories that parallel and are symbolic of each other. The first demonstrates Hosea's love and commitment to his wife. The second involves Christ's love and commitment for his people. They are two stories that both mirror and represent each other. Keep this in mind as you read the following verses:

Hosea 1:2-3 - 2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD. So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

Hosea 2:5-9 – 5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.

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8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.

9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness.

Hosea 2:14 - Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Divorce should always be the *last* option—not the easy way out. Do not let yourself be lied to by people that twist the truth—whether they do it purposefully or accidentally.

Also, please understand that just because the unbeliever departs, does not mean that you should give up on them. Who knows, they may come back to you. Wait for them and keep yourself pure for them...this gives them and yourself an opportunity for reconciliation, but only if that person remains unmarried.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 - 10 And unto the married I command, [yet] not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from [her] husband:

11 But and if she depart, **let her remain unmarried**, or be reconciled to [her] husband: and let not the husband put away [his] wife

1 Corinthians 7:16 - For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife?

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 – 1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;

4 Her former husband, which sent her away, **may not take her again to be his wife**, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

If the unbeliever does not come back—the unbelieving spouse remarries someone else, they commit adultery/fornication, or they die—the believing spouse is then free to remarry another.

1 Corinthians 7:15 - But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

As believers, we should do our best to forgive and to give our spouse a second chance if it is appropriate to do so. Please read this passage again:

1 Corinthians 7:10-15 - 10 And unto the married I command, [yet] not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from [her] husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to [her] husband: and let not the husband put away [his] wife.

12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such [cases]: but God hath called us to peace.

Chapter 4: Excuses for Divorce

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There are several *unbiblical* reasons people give for divorce. These reasons are not listed in the Bible—they are unbiblical. Here are a few of these reasons:

1. Abuse (physical, psychological, emotional)
2. Unmet expectations (unhappiness, boredom, fall out of love, my spouse snores)
3. Feeling of Deception (my spouse isn't who I thought they were, my spouse changed after we got married)

Let's talk about abuse. If you are in an abusive relationship—whether it be physical, psychological, or emotional—the best thing for you to do is to escape the abusive environment.

***Important Note:**

If you are being abused in your marriage. Call 911 immediately with out your spouses knowledge. Get a restraining order if need be. Call a local shelter, or Church, explain your situation and escape. It is biblical for you to defend yourself against abuse.

Separation from your spouse does not mean divorce from your spouse—but physical separation is a very good idea if you are being abused. God loves you and wants the best for you. Both man and woman are made in the image of God and therefore neither one of them should be abused nor harmed in a malicious way.

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 - 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ephesians 5:33 - Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

Genesis 2:23 - And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

1 Corinthians 7:3 - Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

1 Peter 3:7-12 - 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

If you are being abused, please read the following carefully: God does not want you to be abused—He loves you. If you are being abused—find safety. This may mean that you will have to hide from your spouse for years, you may have to seek protection from the authorities, your spouse might even have to go to jail, you both might need counseling (separately), etc etc ect.

You will need time to heal—this may take months or even years. Once the circumstances become appropriate and safe, the two of you will be allowed to come back together physically. Remember however that during this time of separation both you and your spouse are still considered married in the sight of God. Therefore, the two of you are called to keep yourselves pure physically, mentally, and emotionally. Sexual relations—both physical and emotional with someone or something other than your spouse is adultery.

If—during the time of separation—one or the other spouse commits adultery, the spouse who has not committed adultery, is no longer held under the ties of marriage. The spouse who has not committed emotional or physical adultery/fornication may biblically choose

to stay married or divorce the spouse who has committed adultery/fornication (refer to chapter 3).

If—during the time of separation—the **unbelieving** spouse departs — please refer to chapter 3.

Unmet expectations and feeling of deception are two of the most popular excuses people use as a reason to divorce their spouse. These reasons are not biblical. If you are married and are bored with your spouse...do something to spice it up—go on a trip, be creative in the bedroom, do something new. Divorce is not an option.

But doing something unbiblical in the hopes to spice things up in marriage is not an option. Never ask your spouse to do something unbiblical. To know what is and is not pleasing to God, read you Bible or get sound biblical advice.

1 Corinthians 6:20 - For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Timothy 2:19 - Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2: 21-22 - 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

If you consider yourself unhappily married, ask yourself why you are unhappily married. Do you even know why? Take some time right now to think. When you can, go find a quiet place to pray and ask God to show you why you are unhappy. Is it because of something at work? Does your acquaintances, friends, or family annoy you? Does your spouse do something to annoy you? Do you do something to annoy your spouse?

I am not going to ask you to change the core of who you are, but I am going to ask you to ask yourself one question: Am I doing all I can to honor God in the way I act, talk, and think? If the answer is no, you have some work to do. Unhappiness alone is not grounds for a biblical divorce.

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1 Corinthians 10:31 - Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:11-13 - 13 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

1 Samuel 2:30 - Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed [that] thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

If you let Him, God will be the source of your joy.

John 16:24 - Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Romans 15:13 - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Another very popular excuse people give for divorce is that they have fallen out of love. I will again ask you to examine yourself. Is there something in your heart that may need to change? First give your resentment or anger over to God and then ask Him to show you what to do.

Galatians 5:24-26 - 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Sometimes spouses need time apart to reflect and to pray. In which case, both parties should agree to the temporary separation:

1 Corinthians 7:5 - Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

While you pray and fast, ask God for the solution. God is good and will give you the solution. God will give you the solution to your problems if your heart is right and willing to take the steps necessary to solve the problem. Falling out of love or annoyance of your spouse's habits or behaviors are not biblical grounds for divorce. Now, if your spouse is doing something unbiblical refer back to chapter 3.

1 John 5:14-15 - And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

James 4:3 - Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts

John 15:7 - If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Now, the world is full of manipulators, liars, and pretenders. This is why—as a believer—it is very important to be very careful about who you decide to marry. It is a very good idea to get to know a person very well before you marry them. This will save you a lot of heartache.

By their fruit ye shall know them. Watch very carefully how someone behaves before giving in to marriage.

Matthew 7:20-23 - 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Sometimes a liar is so good at keeping secrets that it will take much investigating to find out who they are. Talk to friends, family and acquaintances. If someone isn't hiding anything they will welcome you to speak to everyone around them and not make you feel guilty for doing so.

Psalms 27:14 - Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.

Most of the time, if you pray and wait long enough, God will bring your perfect husband/wife. It will be in HIS timing and not yours. If you surrender your life decisions to God, He will give you the desires of your heart—but it will always be in accordance to His will.

Psalms 37:5 - Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass

Psalms 37:4 - Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

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Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Believers are without excuse if they choose to marry someone without waiting for God's confirmation. He will lead you to who you should marry.

Now if you were an unbeliever before you were married but became a believer afterwards, this is a different story. You may not be at fault for not listening to God about who you should marry, but you are still responsible for honoring the sacredness of marriage. You are held to honor your marriage vow before God. As a current believer, you are to abide by His laws.

Chapter 5: Accountability—Understanding is Responsibility

Please pay close attention. You will be held accountable for what you know and understand about the Truth. You will be held accountable for the truth that you read and understand in this book.

James 4:17 - Therefore to him that **knoweth** to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

The more you understand—the more accountable you are to God. The more you know—the more responsibility you have to live by what you know. Therefore, not everyone will be judged by God in the same way or to the same degree.

James 3:1 - My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

The more a person knows and understands the Word of God, the more strictly they will be judged. Although you may be able to deceive men, you CANNOT deceive God. God knows how much you know and understand of His word. Beware.

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1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1 John 3:20 - For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Isaiah 40:28 - Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, [that] the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? [there is] no searching of his understanding.

Jeremiah 23:24 - Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Hebrews 4:13 - Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things [are] naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Chapter 6: Remarriage

Remarriage after divorce is one of the most difficult things for me to write about. The following is what I understand about remarriage. Lord God, help me as I write.

Remarriage is permitted after divorce, but only under certain circumstances. Let's first talk about who can remarry. Then we will discuss *to whom* the divorced individual is/is not allowed to marry.

A **widow or widower** is permitted to remarry according to scripture:

Romans 7:2-3 - For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [her] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [her] husband.

So then if, while [her] husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be

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dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

If your former spouse had committed **adultery or fornication**, but you have not—then you are allowed to remarry. However, you are NOT allowed to remarry if you are the one that has committed fornication or adultery. Furthermore, no one is permitted to marry an adulterer/adulteress:

Matthew 19:9 - And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and **whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.**

Matthew 5:32 - But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and **whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.**

Finally, if your *unbelieving spouse departs* you are not allowed to remarry another person unless your departed spouse dies or commits fornication or adultery. It is best to stay single in hopes that your spouse will one day come back.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 - And unto the married I command, [yet] not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from [her] husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to [her] husband: and let not the husband put away [his] wife.

If you are allowed to remarry, but decide not to remarry, there is nothing wrong with that. However, it is important to remember to honor God in whichever of the two choices you choose. We are to serve God in all that we do. Now, if you are divorced and decide to be stay single, please keep a few things in mind.

Number one: If your biblically divorced spouse remarries, you are no longer allowed to remarry that person ever again.

Deuteronomy Chapter 24:1-4 - 1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give [it] in her hand, and send her out of his house.

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2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's [wife].

3 And [if] the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth [it] in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her [to be] his wife;

4 Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that [is] abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance.

Number two: Heed the advice of the apostle Paul...

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 - 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Proverbs 18:22 - [Whoso] findeth a wife findeth a good [thing], and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Highlights:

- If your spouse **dies** physically, you are allowed to remarry.
- If you are a believer that is married to a believer, the only way you are allowed to remarry is if your spouse **dies** or **commits adultery**. Note: always seek reconciliation first.
- If you are a believer who is married to an unbeliever you are not allowed to remarry if the **unbeliever departs**. However, if your unbelieving spouse **dies** or

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commits adultery, you are allowed to remarry. Note: always seek reconciliation first.

- You are allowed to remarry your divorced spouse until they become remarried. Once your divorced spouse has been married to someone else you are no longer allowed to remarry your divorced spouse.

Chapter 7: Hope

If this is the first time that you are learning about the things written in this book take heart. It is not too late for you. Start doing what is pleasing to God right now. Ask God for forgiveness and do what he wants you to do.

Read the scripture for yourself (King James Version). Seek truth from godly people and places. Do not be deceived by false teachers and prophets (many of whom preach to tickle ears for filthy lucre's sake). Pray continually. Love God with all of your heart and you will be just fine.

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee.

1 Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 Peter 5:6-7 - Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all.

End Notes: This book is a collection of ideas and information that were taken from many different experiences, people, and sources. I give them credit for their hard work and studies. I pray this book will help its readers in some beneficial way. God Bless!