

CouplesInBloom.com – We Need To Divorce

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Divorce is disunion. The word *divorce* is often associated with physical- (*a mensa et thoro*) and / or legal- (*a vinculo matrimonii*) separation of a couple who were married. Couples divorce over contrary ideas which they consider to be irreconcilable differences.

Matthew 19:3-9 ⇒ is where Jesus discusses marital divorce: where what **GOD JOINS** is what matters (*not contrary ideas*); how fornication therefore violates (God's definition of) marriage, and how hardheartedness falsely justifies divorce in a deceived person's mind, believing that contrary ideas make divorce okay... not understanding covenant.

Divorce divides instead of solves, often assuming that no solution exists.

Example: fornication in marriage **sometimes** has a solution. Jesus conditionally allows divorce in this situation... perhaps because **GOD JOINED** man and wife in **holy covenant** and will heal them **if both** repent, returning to His ways. This may not happen.

Example: contrary ideas in marriage **always** have a solution. Jesus said it reveals the condition of the couples' hearts... whether **THEY JOIN** or not. God wants to be **their** Counselor ⇒ Isaiah 9:6, including solving differences that are **not** holy covenant related. Some differences are irreconcilable by **God's design**, having positive marriage purposes.

Example: right and wrong never have a solution because righteousness **is** what **GOD** is **JOINED** to. **Sin** is what **we NEED to divorce**: physical- **and** legal- separation of what we used to be united to. It is not enough to tolerate it or ignore it. The blood of Jesus accomplishes our **legal divorce** from sin ⇒ Romans 3:25. Our lifestyle response to Jesus accomplishes our **physical divorce** from sin ⇒ Romans 12:1-2. We always need both.

This **legal divorce is a one-time event**; this **physical divorce is a life-long event** because sin is a stalker ⇒ 1 Peter 5:8 until we get to Heaven. There is work to be done.

What are examples of things we need to divorce? How do we divorce them?

Soul ties: Biblically improper close relationships. James 4:4 ⇒ “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whoever, then, purposes to be a friend of the world is put down as hostile to God.” Jesus **was** called a friend of sinners ⇒ Matthew 11:19, which **also** says, “Wisdom was justified by her children.” That is: He **clearly evangelized** them, **not merely hung out** with them.

Soul food: Biblically improper stimulation: thinking about evil ⇒ 1 Corinthians 13:5; using evil as entertainment ⇒ Proverbs 2:14; we become what we think ⇒ Proverbs 23:7. **Entertainment replaces servanthood in many Christians today.** Few people love you more than their fear of offending you to tell you this fact. Consider the human hours that go into entertainment **that used to go** into personal relationships: **staggering!** The world preaches replacing the front porch with a back deck: *Feed Your Selfish Soul* is its sermon.

Sole devotion: Biblically improper time investment: 1 Timothy 5:8 ⇒ compare time spent with friends or entertainment to time spent with spouse and children. Realize God gave family to **you** to minister to first, and that your ministry to them is ministry to **Him**.

Divorce these distractions today: stop them and replace them with right relationships which will bless **all of you more** than **YOUR EX-sin** anyway! ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone