

Dealing With Divorce

What you need to know about divorce.

- Not all divorce is the same, but all divorce is life-changing.
- “Divorce is a life transforming experience. After divorce, childhood is different. Adolescence is different. Adulthood-with the decision to marry or not and have children or not –is different. Whether the final outcome is good or bad, the whole trajectory of an individual’s life is profoundly altered by the divorce experience”

What does Scripture say about divorce?

- “And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴ But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”.

Malachi 2:13-16

What does Scripture say about divorce?

- And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”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’?⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”⁸ 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.⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:3-9

What you need to know about divorce.

- ⦿ Be aware of pain, anger, resentment, and bitterness.
- ⦿ Children from divorce tend to feel unable to trust, exposed, overwhelmed, betrayed, caught in the middle, fear of loneliness, and fear of loss.

What you need to know about divorce.

- ◎ You are not your parents' :
 - Councilor
 - Mediator
 - Friend
 - Confidant
 - Weapon
 - SAVIOR
- ◎ Your parents' happiness is not your responsibility.

A warning for children of divorce.

- ⦿ Your parents' divorce does not give you a license to rebel.
- ⦿ If you try to deal with the pain, hurt, and anger on your own it will consume you.
- ⦿ Statistics suggest that you are more likely to either never marry or to also have a failed marriage.

Hope for children of divorce.

- ◉ Jesus is our redeemer.
- ◉ God uses what was meant for evil for good.
- ◉ “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

Hope for children of divorce.

- ① “Let marriage be held in honor among all and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulteress.”
Hebrews 13:4
- ① “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However let each one of you love his wife as himself and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:31-33

Hope for children of divorce.

- ① You are not destined to repeat your parents' sin.
- ① You can learn from both the good and the bad of your parents' marriage to strengthen your own marriage one day.

Your responsibility

● Honor your parents

- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Ephesians 6:1-3
- “The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.”
Proverbs 30:17
- “For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him” Leviticus 20:9

Your responsibility

- ① You need to find godly couples to emulate.
- ① You need to learn to forgive and release your parents in Christ for your own healing and as a testimony of the Gospel in your life.