

God Hates Divorce

The Seriousness of Marriage

Malachi 2:13-16

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Of all the sacred things our world has come to disregard, marriage is clearly one of the most flagrant examples of abuse. Human sexuality, once seen as acceptable only within the context of marriage, now is considered allowable, even advantageous, in almost any imaginable form. Marriage is considered by many as but a quaint custom. Many of those who still accept the institution see it as subject to personal whims and moods rather than to God's will. Marriage, however, still matters. Scripture, not personal preferences, still sets its boundaries. And God still hates divorce!

But...

- God loves divorced people, just as He loves all people (cf. Jn. 3:16)
- Not all divorces are outside the provisions of God's will (cf. Matt. 19:9 and the exception clause)
- But God never sees divorce as a thing He loves, even when it is the only reasonable response to infidelity; God hates divorce!

WHY?

- God expects covenants to be kept (cf. Gen. 15:8-21)
- The stability of society is tied to whether or not biblical norms are respected regarding marriage (cf. Gen. 18-19 and Sodom)
- Sexuality is a sacred thing (Gen. 2:24-25; cf. Lev. 18)

Matthew 19:3-12

- A clear definition is given here of what God does not approve
- The seriousness of marriage is clearly affirmed!
- There is only one approved way to enact an acceptable divorce—fornication on the part of an unfaithful mate against a faithful mate

Anomalies and Security

- There are some things I do not understand about this subject (i.e. David, Abraham, and others' acceptance by God in light of Matt. 19:8b "... from the beginning it was not so.")
- However, there are things I do understand
- No one can offer safety in what God keeps to Himself; security can only be assured in harmony with what God has revealed (Deut. 29:29)

Solomon himself would have difficulties deciphering some of the complicated marriage situations encountered today. Yet, it remains clear, God hates divorce! In our world, every person needs to take sober reflection on the seriousness of marriage and respond according to what God reveals. The way God chooses to work mercy into justice is not always within our understanding. God's will, however, is clear regarding what He desires. God hates divorce!