

## This Week's Scripture

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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?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 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'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 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. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

**Matthew 19: 3-9**

## Putting It Into Practice

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Surely he has borne our griefs and carried out sorrows. **Isaiah 53: 4**

1. **Divorce is always the result of Sin BUT Divorce is not always sinful.**
2. **Divorce is permitted to create peace BUT it is not God's original design.**

But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. **1 Corinthians 7: 15**

3. **Sexual union seals the marriage covenant BUT sexual unfaithfulness violates that covenant.**

The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **1 Corinthians 7: 3-4**

4. **Sexual unfaithfulness is just cause for divorce BUT does not require divorce.**

Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. **Jeremiah 3:12-13**

5. **When divorce is not biblically permissible, any subsequent marriage results in adultery BUT biblically permissible divorce does allow for remarriage.**

### Questions to Consider

1. Tim talked on Sunday about the pain of divorce and sexual immorality. Jesus' teaching in Matthew leaves us with a message of both change and hope. What change in thinking and behavior did Jesus speak about? What hope and gospel grace is there for all of us in Jesus' teaching and Matthew's text (& John 4)? Try to be as specific as possible.

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