

“GOD... HATES DIVORCE”

INTRODUCTION

A. Malachi 2:16

Make no mistake about it: “*God... hates divorce*”.

B. Matthew 19:3-6

God hates divorce because it takes apart what He put together.

C. Despite His disapproval, many will offer excuses to justify their actions.

I. WE’VE FALLEN OUT OF LOVE

Whoever decided that love is something to fall into or out of, like it was some kind of pit? Wives who no longer love their husbands, and husbands who no longer love their wives must repent, period.

A. Ephesians 5:25-29

Husbands are commanded to love their wives – not encouraged, not suggested – commanded.

B. Titus 2:1-5

It is “*proper for sound doctrine*” that “*older women... admonish the young women to love their husbands*”. Love can be taught; therefore it can be learned. Feelings come and go, but love should be more than that.

C. Genesis 24:1-4, 67

In ancient times, marriages were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom. Even so, love was possible.

D. Romans 5:6-8; 1st John 4:10-11, 19

If God loves us enough to let His Son die for us when we were His enemies, and His love for us is what teaches us to love, then we can certainly choose to continue to love even those who seem unlovable.

II. I DESERVE TO BE HAPPY

A. 2nd Timothy 3:1-5

It is perilous to love oneself or to love pleasure more than to love God. Personal happiness can be offered to justify any number of sins, including homosexuality, so it's a pretty flimsy excuse.

B. Ecclesiastes 2:1-2; 12:13-14

Pleasure is not the purpose of our lives; doing God's will is.

C. Hebrews 11:24-25

Sometimes, pleasure must be forsaken in order to best serve God.

D. Psalm 40:8; 119:143

God does want us to be happy, but such happiness should be derived from doing His will.

E. Proverbs 18:22

When we regard marriage as the blessing God intends, we can be happy.

III. I LOVE MY WIFE, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD HER MEDICAL DEBT

Believe it or not, there are men who care for their wives, but in the face of staggering medical debt, they will divorce in order to sever themselves from financial liability.

A. 1st Timothy 5:8

Providing for one's household is a basic responsibility.

B. Genesis 2:24

In marriage two become one. Everything is shared, including medical debt.

C. James 5:12

When we say, "for better or for worse; in sickness and in health" we had better mean it.

IV. MY HUSBAND BEATS ME

A. 1st Peter 4:12-16

It should not surprise us when we suffer for doing right.

B. 1st Peter 2:19-20

We must endure grief, even when we know we don't deserve it.

C. Proverbs 6:30-31

It is only natural to sympathize with those who sin under duress, but that never justifies the behavior.

V. MY SPOUSE IS NOT A CHRISTIAN

A. 1st Corinthians 7:12-16

Paul addressed this concern very, very specifically.

1. If marriage to an unbeliever ought to be dissolved due to religious difference that would suggest the relationship is somehow illegitimate which would make the children produced from that relationship bastards, but Paul says that is not so (14).
2. If marriage to an unbeliever ends, it ought to be because the unbeliever abandoned the believer, not the other way around (12-13, 15).
3. Divorcing the unbeliever pretty much undercuts any opportunity to convert that person(16).

B. 1st Peter 3:1-6

The answer for a believer married to an unbeliever is to be a better spouse.

CONCLUSION

A. Matthew 19:9-12

The only reason provided by the Lord to justify divorce is fornication. Those who cannot accept the lifelong commitment that requires would be better served by never marrying.

B. Matthew 5:32

By divorcing without just cause, the other party is tempted to sin.

C. 1st Corinthians 7:10-11

There is a plain command not to divorce. Those who defy this command are left with two options. Reconciliation is advised in consideration of the damage done to what God brought together. Otherwise, celibacy is required; remarriage is not an option.