

Counter Culture

“What About Divorce And Remarriage?” - Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 5:31-32 - “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.”

What do you do when your heart is breaking from a divorce?

1. Get Help.

Ecclesiastes 4:10; 12 - “If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble . . . A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”

2. Accept Reality.

2 Samuel 12:16-23 - notice how David handled his pain after a heartbreaking time in his life.

3. Cry Out to God.

Psalms 142:1-3 - “I cry out to the Lord. I plead for His mercy. I pour out my complaints before Him and tell Him all my troubles for I am overwhelmed and You, God, alone, know the way that I should turn.”

4. Listen to God’s Word.

Psalms 142:1-3 - “You, God, alone, know the way that I should turn.”

Psalms 119:25 - “I lie in the dust, completely discouraged; Revive me by Your Word.”

5. Ask For and Offer Forgiveness.

Psalms 38:4; 18 - “My guilt overwhelms me. It is a burden too heavy to bear. . . But I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I have done.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 - “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

6. You Must Keep Hoping, Growing and Focusing on God’s Plan for Your Life.

Philippians 1:6 - “God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

Paul is very honest and forthright in 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 where he talks about the advantages of being a single adult. He says there are less distractions, there's more freedom and you're able to spend more time focusing on what God wants you to do in your life.

What about getting married again someday, after I have healed and drawn closer to God?

There are four main texts in the N.T. that deal with the issue of divorce and remarriage.

Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 19:1-12

Luke 16:18

1 Corinthians 7:10-40

Matthew 19:1-12 - “When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went down to the region of Judea east of the Jordan River. Large crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick. Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: **‘Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?’** ‘Haven't you read the Scriptures?’ Jesus replied. ‘They record that from the beginning [God made them male and female.]’ And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.’ **‘Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?’ they asked.** Jesus replied, ‘Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery - unless his wife has been unfaithful.’ **Jesus’ disciples then said to him, ‘If this is the case, it is better not to marry!’** ‘Not everyone can accept this statement,’ Jesus said. ‘Only those whom God helps. Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.’”

In our fallen world, sometimes we find ourselves with less than ideal choices. It is not always a choice between good and bad. Sometimes we are faced with choices between the lesser of two evils. This is the case with remarriage.

Perhaps the question should not be “which would make me happier, staying single or getting remarried?” But instead, “which would make me more effective for God?” Many single people today are treated as an unfortunate anomaly. Great attempts are made to “fix them up” with someone as if they were broken. This is not a biblical or healthy attitude toward singleness. To some God gives the gift of singleness.

1 Corinthians 7:35 - “I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.”