

divorcees should remain unmarried or be reconciled to one another.

7. Husband and wife are joined together for life, and only when God puts them asunder by the death of one is the other at liberty to remarry.

These truths should lead us to the firm conviction that divorce is not an acceptable alternative. Especially is it not a Christian alternative.

You may be thinking, "That's too cold, hard, and narrow. Why, if that's true, it would be better not to marry at all!" That's what the 12 disciples first said when they finally understood the Lord's teaching (Mat. 19:10). But the Lord had to tell them, "No, that's not true. Few men could remain single." The words that our God spoke in the garden of Eden are still true today, "*It is not good that the man should be alone*" (Gen. 2:18).

Some who read this may in anger or despair now be thinking, "Then there's no hope for me. I'm already divorced and remarried." Let me assure you that there is hope, for "*where sin abounded, grace did much more abound*" (Rom. 5:20). Your sins of divorce and remarriage is like every other sin. Honestly confess it to God, and you will be forgiven, and the relationship will be cleansed of all unrighteousness. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 Jn. 1:9) Through God's forgiving grace you may be restored to full fellowship with Him. Then that second marriage can no longer be considered adulterous, for it is forgiven and cleansed.

Although marriage is a blessed

institution, problems are sure to come. To you that have not yet experienced the heartbreak and bitterness of divorce and remarriage let me say, every problem **can** be resolved. If divorce is resorted to, that is evidence of hardness of heart (Mat. 19:8). Such a condition need never be found in a child of God, for his stony heart has been changed to a heart of flesh (Ez. 36:26). God's grace is sufficient through the greatest trial or problem imaginable (II Cor. 12:9; Luke 18:27).

Be not deceived by the humanistic psychologists that stand in many pulpits today. They may try many different tactics to deny the true Bible doctrine of divorce. But they do so in direct conflict with Jesus Christ, who dealt with divorce and remarriage on the basis of God's moral law which is eternal, and applicable to believer and unbeliever alike. Woe to the unfaithful shepherds who would lead their flocks into sin.

The main purpose of this study has been to proclaim Bible truth so that the break-up of another home might be averted. Is your home facing failure and disaster? If so, look up unto God and you will find that recovery lies ahead. Begin with personal confession (1 Jn. 1:9), prayer (Jn. 16:23), and forgiveness (Eph. 4:32), and determine absolutely that divorce is not an acceptable alternative.

Bible Baptist Church Bulletin

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set (Prov. 22:28).

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Divorce – The Unacceptable Alternative

By: Dan Roten

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...that exception in those books, since those Gentiles did not commonly practice the betrothal custom. Therefore those words would not pertain to them at all. Just as in the United States, they could simply cancel the wedding plans, and "putting away" would never be involved at all.



It is also notable that Paul failed to mention the fornication exception to the Corinthians. Corinth was a city of the lowest moral standards imaginable. It was a large port city, the Mediterranean center of trade and vice. The slum areas were full of professional prostitutes. Also Gnosticism was prominent there. The adherents to this doctrine were given to rash libertinism, knowing no bounds in this world, since truth and reality were found only in the spirit world. And even worse was the traditional religion of Corinth which was temple prostitution. There were over 1,000 temple prostitutes who served in the temple to Venus. Demosthenes said, "The professional prostitutes we have for our pleasure, the concubines for the daily care of our bodies, and our wives so that we can have legitimate children and a true guardian of the house."

You can see that all forms of sexual immorality, both fornication and adultery would be commonly accepted in Corinthian life. This was a battle for Paul in the Corinthian church. This word group (fornication, porneo and derivatives) is used only 55 times in the entire New Testament, yet 14 of those are in 1 Corinthians alone. At the end of 2 Corinthians, you can see that it was still a problem (2 Cor. 12:21).

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Ministries

1. Bible Studies
2. Tract Drop
3. Door-Knocking
4. Personal Evangelism
5. Missions

Position

1. Independent
2. KJV 1611
3. Baptist
4. Old-Fashioned
5. Soulwinning
6. Premillennial
7. Non-Charismatic
8. Unaffiliated

Church Services

Sunday:

- 9:30 am — Sunday School
- 10:30 am — Worship Service
- 6:15 pm — Evening Service

Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

CHURCH TIMES

Sunday:

- 9:30 am** — Sunday School
10:30 am — Worship Service
6:15 pm — Evening Service

Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm** — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Saturday:

- 8:00 am** — Door-Knocking & Tract Distribution

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- This BBC Bulletin can be downloaded online on biblebaptist.net.au/bbcbulletin.html
- Tract-Drop and Door-knocking on Saturday.
- Sunday & Wednesday services in Bible Baptist Church, Kalgoorlie.
- Wisdom for Bro. Robert Javapro leading the Friday's Bible Study (6:30pm) for PNG folks in Kalgoorlie.

Church Bulletin

For those who have prayer requests, Christian articles, poems, or announcements for inclusion in the next issue of the Church Bulletin, please ring or email Ethel Macale.
 Deadline: Friday, 5:00 pm.
 Phone: (08) 9022 8323
 Email: ethel@macale.org

- Need for church car
- Pastor Eugene Macale's ministries' financial needs: Bible Baptist Mission (Liloan, Southern Leyte, Philippines).
- Dondoy (Pastor Macale's brother) from alcoholism.
- Edna, Pastor Eugene Macale's sister-in-law, for complete healing of her stage-4 cancer.
- Kylie Mell's (Chris' wife) healing from multiple sclerosis.
- Financial needs of Bible Baptist Church, Talisay, Cebu under Pastor Gemmo Suberano.
- Pray for Pastor Romy Macale's teaching job's security in KBCHS.
- Healing of Bro. Jerry Penie's illness, he's still in hospital.
- New Christians for baptism.
- Needs of Pastor Sherwin Ramos & his family — missionary to Paraguay.
- Pastor Romy Macale to be Missions Conference Guest/ Main Speaker in Bible Baptist Church, Talisay, Cebu City, Philippines on Dec. 20-23, 2009.

Websites worth visiting:

<http://www.biblebaptist.net.au>
<http://www.oldkjv.org>
<http://www.macale.org>
<http://www.av1611.info>
<http://www.biblebaptist.ph>

Divorce...

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...If anyone would need clear instructions in regard to these problems, it would be the Corinthian Christians. They wrote Paul specifically asking about marriage, divorce, and fornication. But nowhere does Paul mention that adultery would be grounds for divorce, even when he spoke about Christian women whose husbands were lost. And nowhere did he mention the exception of fornication, since betrothal would not be a common practice among the Corinthians. Apparently Paul and the Holy Spirit knew that Christ's exception of fornication did not pertain to the Corinthian situation.

Study Mal. 2:10-16. There you will find several sins that Judah and Israel committed. Among them were the sins of divorce and remarriage. There the Word declares in verse 16, "*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away.*" If He hates putting away, then divorce will never be acceptable to God. In verse 14 the Lord even went so far as to say "*Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.*" Even though men may divorce and remarry, God says that the first wife yet is their companion.

Some men have strangely sought to use Mat. 19:6 to prove that not all married couples are indeed joined by God. They say that a legal union is meaningless if there is no "true spiritual union." for such couples divorce is acceptable, even good. Paul definitely had in mind that sort of error when he wrote I Cor. 7:12-14. There he assured

some brethren in Christ that they were legitimately married before God, although no spiritual union existed in their marriage.

Who then is joined together by God? Observe again the last five words of Mal. 2:14. God Himself spoke saying that they were yet joined to "the wife of they covenant." It is through the marriage vows that God joins together a man and wife. It is with this in view that the preacher in a wedding ceremony, shortly after the repeating of the vows will state, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." We dare not belittle the marriage covenant, for God certainly does not do so. It is interesting to study Jeremiah 3 and Ezekiel 16 and see how that when Israel, the wife of Jehovah committed adultery, He did not leave her for another. He remembered His covenant with her, Ez. 16:8,60. Either God's judgment or His chastening is bound to come upon those covenant breakers who rebelliously follow the route of divorce (Rom. 1:31-32).

At this time let us summarize the main points that we established by Scripture.

1. The man who divorces his wife causes her to commit adultery.
2. The man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
3. The man who divorces his wife and remarries is committing adultery.
4. Man must discontinue putting asunder by divorce, that which God has joined by marriage.
5. The woman who divorces her husband and remarries is committing adultery.
6. If divorce should occur, the