

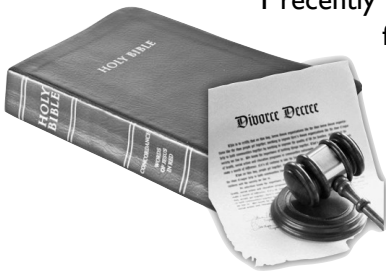
Lifting Up The STANDARD



“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

Jumping To Conclusions

Divorce And Remarriage



I recently received our monthly report concerning the messages that are being downloaded from our website at sermonaudio.com. Our message concerning divorce and remarriage was very high on the list of messages people are listening to. Obviously this subject is a concern to many.

At the beginning of the article concerning divorce I wrote, “It has been said that the only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions. Please do not jump to conclusions about what I believe about this subject.”

My Position On Marriage And Divorce

Lest some should jump to the wrong conclusions I feel it necessary to clearly state my position on divorce and remarriage.

In the Book of Ruth there is a portion of Scripture that is often used in wedding ceremonies. It reads as follows,

Ruth 1:16,17,

“Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.”

I will not marry any couple who will not include Ruth 1:16,17 as a part of their wedding vows. If a couple will not vow not to divorce for any reason, I will not marry them. If you read our article on divorce or listened to our audio message on the subject you will notice that I have concluded I believe that there is an exception clause; however, that exception clause can be a way out of a marriage for people who just want out of a marriage rather than being willing to forgive and rebuild. Marriage is not a contract, it is a covenant with each other and with God. This is very serious!

In **Malachi 2:8-17**, we see that Malachi strongly reveals that divorce violates God’s original plan for marriage. Divorce violates the sacred marriage covenant to which the Lord Himself is a witness.

Divorce creates more problems than it solves. Perhaps that is why 60% of second marriages end in divorce.

Consider Forgiveness And Reconciliation.

Ephesians 4:32,

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

The verse preceding **Ephesians 4:32** says, “*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.*”

Six Things The Christian Is Commanded To “Put Off”

1. **Bitterness**

Bitterness is a feeling of resentment because of being treated unfairly. It is at the root of most problems in the homes and in the local church family as well.

2. **Wrath**

Proverbs 14:29, “*He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*”

3. **Anger**

Proverbs 15:1, “*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*”

4. **Clamour**

The dictionary meaning of clamour is “*loud and confused shouting*;” however, the Greek word clamour has been translated “*strong crying and tears*” in Hebrews 5:7.

5. **Evil Speaking**

In **First Timothy 6:4** this word has been translated “*railings*,” and has to do with injuring the name of someone.

6. **Malice**

Malice has been translated “*maliciousness*” in two places in the Scripture, and has to do with intending to do harm.

“Forbearing One Another, And Forgiving One Another”

Colossians 3:13,

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

In verse one we read the Christian is to “*Seek those things which are above.*” Divorce is not from above it is from below. Verse 14 continues, “*And above all these things put on charity.*” The Greek word translated “*charity*” here is referring to a Christ-like love. Peter put it this way in **First Peter 4:8**, “*And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*”

“Love As I Have Loved You”

John 13:34,

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

There is nothing that we can do that will cause Christ to stop loving us. Let us learn to love like Christ loves.

Jesus Did Say There Is An Exception For Divorce

Matthew 5:32,

“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

This does not change the fact that God hates divorce and we should hate it too.

Let us remember the Word of God says, “*If any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye*” (Colossians 3:13).