

Deuteronomy 24.1 and 3: If a man marries a woman **who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her**, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house.... and her second husband **dislikes her**

Divorce for sexual immorality only – finds something indecent about her

Divorce for ‘any and every reason’ – dislikes her

Note – only husbands could initiate divorce

MATTHEW 19:1-12



Biblical understanding of marriage-

- **One man/one woman** – God created them male and female
- **Forming a new family** – for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united (glued) to his wife; commitment
- **As one** – the two shall become one flesh; intimacy
- **For life** - what God has joined together let no one separate

MATTHEW
19:1-12



Three Biblical grounds for divorce*

- **Adultery** – Mt 19.10 - I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.
- **Abandonment** – 1Cor 7.15 - But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.
- **Neglect/Abuse** - Ex 24.10 - If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights.

*Note – each violates either the 'leave/unite' or the 'one flesh' element of marriage

MATTHEW
19:1-12



Two categories of singleness-

Not by choice – born that way, made that way by others

- Haven't met right person
- Divorced by former spouse
- Widowed

By choice – for the sake of the Kingdom of the God (in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit)

MATTHEW
19:1-12



Developing healthy marriages-

Ask for grace in marriage –

- Growth in communication skills, problem solving, conflict resolution, etc.
- Investment in the relationship – spend quality and quantity time together
- Space to change – not the same people at 50 that we are at 30

Maintain a soft heart – cultivate receptivity to the voice of the Lord

- Repent of all known sin
- Seek healing for all known hurts

MATTHEW
19:1-12



Developing healthy singleness-

Ask for grace in singleness –

- Cultivate community – shared faith; shared interests
- Cultivate contentment (more difficult for those single not by choice) – assurance that God has given us all we need
- Submit desires to the Lord

Maintain a soft heart – cultivate receptivity to the voice of the Lord

- Repent of all known sin
- Seek healing for all known hurts

MATTHEW
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