



Say it in a sentence: The matter of divorce is a matter of the heart. Avoiding divorce has more to do with the condition of your heart than the behavior of your partner.

1. God designed marriage immune to divorce. (Gen. 3:24)

How have you been affected by divorce in your extended family or by living in a culture of divorce?

2. God hates divorce. (Malachi 2:13-16)

The nation of Israel was being ignored by God because husbands were “dealing treacherously” with their wives. Most people who have experienced a divorce hate divorce as much as God does. Why does God hate divorce? Why do you hate divorce?

What kinds of lingering emotions do those who have experienced a divorce live with?

How can you apply the gospel to someone who has been divorced to assure him or her there is redemption for any failure?

3. God models divorce. (Jeremiah 3:8)

We have all committed spiritual adultery against God. What hope do you find in Jeremiah 3:12-14 for those who have been divorced by God? What is the condition for being welcomed back by God?

4. God regulates divorce. (Deut. 24:1-4)

Although God designed marriage to last a lifetime, the affects of sin have contaminated every relationship. The Old Testament anticipates sin would cause marriages to die. Therefore God put rules in place to maintain stability in the community.

Why have governments in every culture regulated marriage and divorce for thousands of years? What would it be like to live in a community that had no laws governing marriage and divorce?

5. God gets at the heart of divorce. (Matthew 19:7-9)

What was your heart feeling when you were dating your spouse? How does it compare with what it feels now?

We think of love as a noun. How can you make love a verb in your marriage?

Are you looking to your marriage partner to provide something only God can provide? Do you get your need for being loved, treasured, accepted, and forgiven from your spouse or from God? Do you honestly believe you are given those things in Christ?





SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Have you identified the following emotions in your heart when you get “bumped” by your spouse? Have you verbalized them to your spouse?

- Embarrassed
- Unappreciated
- Ugly
- Old
- Stupid
- Unlovable
- Jealous
- Like a failure
- Lonely
- Scared
- Out of control
- Belittled
- Jealous
- Guilty
- Insecure
- Hopeless
- HARD-HEARTED

How would this template help you start a conversation with your spouse: “I (insert a feeling) when you (insert a fact).” How would you react if your spouse said that to you?

Right feelings follow right actions. Tell about a time when you experienced this.

Additional Scripture

Jeremiah 17:9
Proverbs 4:26
Ezekiel 36:26
Hebrews 3:12
Hebrews 4:12
Hebrews 10:22
Hebrews 13:9

