

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Marriage and Our Maker
Feb 19, 2025 | “Divorce and Remarriage – Part 1”

1) God expects marriage to be _____ (Matt 19:1–6)

2) God expects divorce to be _____ (Matt 19:7–9)

Why does God expect divorce to be prevented?

1. Divorce is _____
2. Divorce hurts _____
3. Divorce breaks two _____
4. Divorce is often fueled by _____
5. Divorce creates hardships especially for _____

So what do I do now?

If you are married, _____

If you are single, _____

If you are widowed, _____

If you are divorced with a scriptural exception, _____

If you are divorced without a scriptural exception, _____

If you are divorced without a scriptural exception and remarried,

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Matthew 19:1–9. Why were the Pharisees pressing Jesus on the issue of divorce and remarriage? How were Jesus’s words countercultural to that society? How are they countercultural to our society?

Why does God expect divorce to be prevented? How is it prevented? Review the statements above and add a few statements of your own on this matter. Give scriptural support where you can.

The Bible offers two exceptions for divorce and remarriage. What are those? Should a couple seek divorce every time those exceptions exist? For help with these questions, see the following statement by Grace Community Church: <https://www.gracechurch.org/about/distinctives/divorce-and-remarriage>.

GET PERSONAL

How should a single man or woman communicate desire for lifelong marriage to a potential spouse? How do married people reiterate a commitment to this during the marriage?

How does a church reinforce the importance of a healthy marriage? How should they address divorce and remarriage in their context? How does grace and pastoral care apply for those who have gone through a divorce, maybe even an undesired or unscriptural divorce?

Humans are often tempted to believe that the grass is greener elsewhere. But it’s better to realize that the grass is green where you water it. How can you, metaphorically speaking, water your own grass to make it healthy again?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

If you have been divorced and remarried, how should you handle your situation? Should you divorce your current spouse and return to your previous spouse? For help with this, see the following Ask Pastor John podcast: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/sermon/divorce-and-remarriage/>

ADVANCED QUESTION

What is πορνεία (*porneia*) referencing in Matthew 19:9 (see also Matt 5:32)? Why does Matthew include this statement (the exception clause) whereas Mark and Luke do not (Mark 10:11–12; Luke 16:18)?

There are three views presented by Gordon Wenham, William Heth, and Craig Keener in the book *Remarriage after Divorce in Today's Church*. Access the preview of the book and assess the Biblical evidence for the three views: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gPZqy-vKqE>