



# Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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## Divorce

God's plan is for a married couple to remain together for life. Because of sin, however, our relationships do not always follow God's perfect plan. Though divorce is more socially acceptable in today's world. God's view of divorce has not changed: *"For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously"* (Malachi 2:16).

Divorce leads to feelings of alienation, rejection, bitterness, and confusion. Those who don't follow God's plan for marriage find out that divorce is a shattering experience, and its wounds heal slowly.

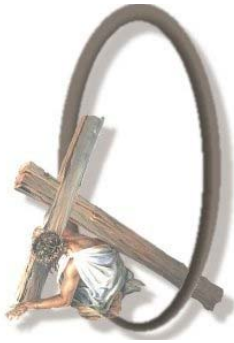
- The Causes Of Divorce

*Matthew 19:8*    *He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."*

People choose to divorce for many reasons. Sometimes a spouse is unfaithful. In other situations, the partners cannot reconcile disagreements, and they become hostile or bitter toward each other. Many times one marriage partner feels that the other does not meet his or her emotional or physical needs, even though the partner is "faithful" to the relationship. Sin can damage relationships between people, and unforgiveness will destroy a marriage relationship. Regardless of the reason for the divorce, both partners suffer from the broken relationship.

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- Allowances For Divorce

*1 Corinthians 7:12-15* <sup>12</sup>But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. <sup>13</sup>And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. <sup>14</sup>For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. <sup>15</sup>But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

The Bible makes allowance for divorce when an unbelieving spouse deserts the other willfully and permanently. In addition, *Matthew 19:9* says, “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” Many interpret this to mean that a spouse may ask for a divorce when his or her partner is guilty of sexual immorality.

Many people divorce for other reasons, and God continues to love and care for you even when you make choices that go against His plan. If you have divorced for other reasons, it probably indicates that there are attitudes and behaviors you need to confess before God – ask His forgiveness, and then follow His direction for moving forward with you life.

- The Cure For Divorce

*Philippians 2:3, 4* <sup>3</sup>Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

No marital problems are so great that God cannot solve them. The Lord can forgive and heal all hurts and restore our souls (Psalm 23:3). Knowing Christ is the foundation on which we can begin to rebuild torn relationships. With Christ in control of your life, you can have a new perspective to help you forgive others and reconcile with them.

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The best way to avoid divorce is for both partners to desire a relationship built on God's love and forgiveness. Once this foundation is established, then individual behaviors and issues can be addressed with love, grace, and forgiveness. This is not an easy process, but it is possible with God.

If you desire reconciliation in your marriage relationship, God will help with the rebuilding process. His Holy Spirit lives within you when you are His child. He will give you direction, convict you of sin, and comfort you. Spend time daily in Bible study, confession and repentance, and prayer. Find a mature Christian for accountability and counsel.

When choosing a counselor, make sure that the person is a Christian with a biblical perspective on divorce and with training to deal with the deep emotional issues of a broken relationship.

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