

MARRIAGE MATTERS PART 3
“DEALING WITH THE DEVASTATION OF DIVORCE”
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INTRODUCTION

- What do you do if your relationships fail?
- How do we handle failure?
- 75% of those who divorce cited a lack of commitment.

I. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF DIVORCE

- Malachi 2:13-16 NLT, “...the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made to each other on your wedding day when you were young. But you have been disloyal to her, though she remained your faithful companion, the wife of your marriage vows. ¹⁵didn’t the lord make you one with your wife?...And what does He want? Godly children from your union. So guard yourself; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶“For I hate divorce!”...“So guard yourself; always remain loyal to your wife.”
- Marriage by its nature was intended to be permanent.
- Jesus said in Matthew 19:8, “...because of your hardness of heart...” - things changed.
- Divorce is allowed for 3 reasons:
 - ^{1st} - Man now dies a physical death (Genesis 3:19).
 - In 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 the widow is said to be free to marry.
 - ^{2nd} - Adultery - Jesus teaches in Matthew 5 and 19 adultery severs the bond.
 - ^{3rd} - Desertion found in 1 Corinthians 7:10-15.
- Divorce is the hardest thing I deal with as a pastor.

- The tearing apart of two lives.
- Why is it we have chosen to neglect those who have gone through divorce?
- Romans 5:20, “...where sin increased grace abounded all the more.”

II. THE DESTRUCTION OF DIVORCE

- Why would God say He hates divorce?
- God hates divorce because of its destructive nature.
- Why does God hate divorce? Because divorce destroys:
 - ^{1st} - A personal bond is torn apart. Malachi 2:15
 - It tears people apart; the spirit of rejection is strong in divorce.
 - ^{2nd} - A Godly lineage can be destroyed.
 - Children of divorce suffer tremendously.

III. HEALING THE WOUNDS OF DIVORCE

- The loss is great, it takes somewhere in the ballpark of 5 years to heal these deep wounds.
- There are deep levels of rejection and depression.
- Financially they suffer, many women must reenter the workplace after years of taking care of their families.
- Their average income is 1/3 of a couples.
- Divorce is a horrible experience, but it is not their permanent identity.
- They need healing from anger, rejection, depression.
- We are supposed to be here to heal and help.