

# **Answers on Divorce**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 7.

B. In our day, marriage is becoming more and more expendable.

## II. Marriage is intended to be for life.

A. Paul brings both his apostolic authority and the Lord's word to bear on this.

B. There is no difference in level between the Apostolic teaching and the Lord's word—the contrast is what the Lord uttered directly and what the Apostle said indirectly. Both are under the Lord's authority.

C. God hates divorce but allows it in our society by being permissive, just as with the rest of sin.

1. A stubbornness of heart is a refusal to listen to God's way—this is why God permitted divorce.

2. There is a recognition that there is some circumstances for separation, but in God's eyes the marriage is not null—a woman who separates is to remain single and celibate while her mate lives because there is always the possibility that a marriage can be restored.

3. Sexual infidelity does end a marriage, but a marriage can be restored after this if it is repented of and not a repeated pattern—this frees a person to marry again.

4. God recognizes no other grounds for divorce.

5. The word of the Apostle is to work out problems within marriage or be single if it is irreconcilable.

## III. Mixed marriages.

A. The believer is to stay with an unbeliever in marriage

B. This marriage sets the believer apart for a strong witness in marriage.

C. If the believer wants to leave let him go.

## IV. How to handle difficult situations: let everyone live the life to which God has assigned to him.

A. God has called you unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ—this is our calling.

B. This inner fellowship is the means by which we can gain strength to handle difficult situations.

C. Paul is not talking about a change in occupation, but a change in relationship.

D. You can be free in Christ in a most beautiful and effective way.

E. In whatever state you are, remain with God.

**Application questions:**

1. Can a marriage be nullified in God's sight? Explain.

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2. What should the goal of the believer be who is married to a nonbeliever?

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3. How can the Apostle Paul say that it is better to remain in the situation you are in, and what does this mean?

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