

# The Gospel According to Luke

## CONCERNING DIVORCE

## PART 8

### *The Heart of God*

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

## INTRODUCTION

The subject of divorce and remarriage is a sensitive topic for many. The whole situation can be uncomfortable and can be something that we avoid in order to not have to speak of difficult topics. This is not what we see from Jesus or Paul when they talk about divorce. In this passage of 1 Corinthians, Paul looks at the marriage relationship and gives some very practical advice. The first direction he gives is that neither the wife, nor the husband, should get divorced. This is then gone into in further detail in the following verses. God does not like divorce. In fact, God hates it. (Mal. 2:16)

This should clue us into something concerning how important marriage is to God and also, we should be aware of the heart of God when considering such things as divorce. God's desire is not for us to run away from our circumstances as easily as some people do. In an ideal world, divorce would not exist at all. We would all live perfect lives and not have to deal with sin in any capacity. As we all are aware, we do not live in that idyllic world. Sin is real and, in the context of marriage, two sinners coming together to try and do something holy, can get very messy and difficult. It is also important to note that God understands that we do not live in perfection while on this earth. He is caring and gracious but there is a response that we are to have in the face of a world that demands we live for ourselves more than anything or anyone: God's ultimate desire is restoration and reconciliation in every circumstance.

There are many situations that require more counsel than can be given here but, we can be confident that Scripture consistently points us to restored relationship with Jesus as well as each other. This means that whatever the situation is, God's desire is not that people would get divorced but that they would remain married in hopes of restoring the marriage to a position of glorification of Christ. Paul even goes so far as to say that staying in the marriage has the hope of leading the other spouse into a relationship with Christ. That is an eternal swing towards the glory of God. These are the things we are to pursue as followers of Christ. The hard truth is, sometimes relationships cannot be restored and the sin runs deep enough that, in God's grace, He allows for a divorce to take place. This is not the requirement though. There may be allowances for a divorce to happen (few though they may be) but, there is never a mandate to divorce a spouse.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. What makes divorce such a hard topic for many people? How can we come alongside one another and weep with those who are weeping in this?
2. How do you view divorce? What influence does Scripture take on your opinion of it? (Use Malachi 2:16, Luke 16:18 and 1 Corinthians 7 to help)
3. How does aligning my heart with God change how I should view divorce? What cultural opinions have you experienced surrounding divorce? Are those Biblical or strictly opinion?
4. What does it mean to glorify God through marriage? How can we better practice this with our spouses and, how can we encourage others to do the same?
5. How can a restored marriage honor the Lord? Do reconciliation in our marriages line up with our personal reconciliation to Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

### *WRAP UP*

Jesus Christ has shown us much forgiveness in our lives. His grace and mercy really know no bounds. His example on how to live should be our roadmap to what it looks like to honor and glorify Him in everything that we do. This does not exclude our marriages. They should be glorifying to God in the same way as our worship life at church. It is not easy sometimes because sin is very real. Christ's love for us is very real as well and when we desire to follow after Him, He gives us the wisdom in how to be restored in our relationship to one another and how we can honor Him in everything that we do.