

Matt 19:1-9

19:1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;

2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.

3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

KJV

Have you ever considered divorce? Nope, not an option. Makes you want to stand up in cheer. Moral conviction with regards to marriage is difficult to find in the 21st century.

Those of us who are moralists are a minority. Almost every moral law is negotiable. Who would have thought that our highest court would support the shedding of innocent blood and that our tax dollars would be used to support abortion mills. Talk about taxation without representation.

I wonder what Patrick Henry would do?

It appears that laws become negotiable when someone is suffering what most would consider an unjust situation. Even murder is acceptable when someone breaks into your home. Most moralists would not condemn me for shooting someone who was about to injure my family. So divorce has become acceptable for the same reason.

When being married is causing people to suffer, divorce has become the socially acceptable way to stop the suffering.

Those of us who are moralists can be perceived as insensitive and compassionless to those who are suffering injustices due to their marriage. Contrary to popular opinion you can be a moralist and be compassionate.

Jesus found a way with a woman caught in adultery!

D is married to M. M has his own life and loves it. He works very hard and greatly enjoys his time to himself. He neglects D and frequently verbally abuses her for being high maintenance among other things. M constantly ridicules D in front of their 3 children and with anyone else who is willing to listen. D has had enough after 25 years of marriage and has filed for a divorce.

R is married to L. L has emotional problems and has turned to prescription drugs. He frequently abuses R both verbally and physically. R is concerned about her physical safety and the safety of their 10 year old daughter. R has filed for divorce.

H is married to J. J was addicted to pornography and his own means of self-gratification before they married. Because of her age and because she has put on a few pounds, J no longer finds H to be attractive. H constantly feels rejected by J physically and emotionally. H has had enough and does not feel that she can continue to endure the rejection she feels.

M is married to C. C has emotional problems. She has a chemical imbalance. If she does not take her prescription medication she totally loses control and becomes physically abusive. C has physically injured M on more than one occasion. M has fears for his life and the lives of their three children. M is a moralist and divorce is not an option but his professional counselor also fears for his life and the lives of his children. Staying married could cause greater pain for the children than divorce.

It is amazing that what created to be such a blessing has become such a curse to so many people!

Because of their marriage, people are suffering in ways that I have never suffered except when I was a child. We need to be compassionate as Christians or we will be irrelevant. We can be a moralist and be compassionate.

Separation is not always morally wrong.

1 Cor 7:10-11

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

KJV

Separation is not divorce. Separation can be the right and responsible moral choice under certain conditions. Physical and sexual abuses are two of those conditions. Verbal and emotional abuses are also acceptable reasons for separation if they are creating the threat of physical abuse to oneself or to others.

Separation is temporarily suspending some of the responsibilities of marriage in an effort to protect your spouse, your self, or your children.

But any separation should be done under the authority of the family, the church, or the government. This is for the protection of the one who initiates the separation and to bring into the light the problems in the marriage.

Divorce is the deliberate putting away of another for the purpose of permanently ending the marriage relationship. Divorce is legally putting away another in order to be free to move on with your life and possibly marry another.

Separation has its own set of risks. It is not a solution. The one who is inflicting the most pain in the marriage can use the separation as a justification for marital unfaithfulness and divorce. Their hardened hearts can become harder because of the separation. They may choose not to provide any financial assistance to the one who has left them. Separation does not protect either party from financial liabilities incurred by the other. Separation is anything but an easy road.

Divorce is the easy road because of the promise of freedom to move on with your life and the legal protect that it affords. It is the reason that most people choose it rather than separation. Divorce has its own consequences that will affect those who initiate it and those who are offended by it. God's mercy is available with the hope of redemption when there is repentance for divorce and the actions that caused it.

As Christians, we can be compassionate and offer people the option of separation to relieve them of some of their suffering. We can stand with them and support them as they stand for their marriage. We can help ease their pain and encourage them to trust God in the midst of a very difficult trial. We can give them wise counsel about when it is time to reassume the marital responsibilities. We can be moralist and be compassionate.

I am sorry that people's dreams are not always fulfilled. I am sorry that what created to be such a blessing has become such a curse to so many people. I am also sorry that so few people who profess to know Christ really know Christ.

[Knowing Christ is the way you remain moral when your dreams are crushed by the unexpected circumstances of life!](#)

To live like a Christian and to be true to Christ and His ways, you have to have more than strong convictions about right and wrong. You have to know Christ. Otherwise, your pain will eventually become a justification for what is immoral.

Do you know Him? Is He your all and all? Is He your life? Can you say with Paul, His power is made perfect in my weakness?

2 Cor 12:9-10

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. KJV