



**Jesus and Divorce**  
**1 Corinthians 7:10-11**  
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**Pastor Juan Sanchez**

I. Introduction

- A. How do we approach the subject of divorce and remarriage?
  - 1. Influenced by religious/cultural traditions; cultural conditions; personal experience.
    - a. Some want to justify divorce (past divorce, or perhaps someone in a bad marriage).
    - b. Some want to condemn it (they have been the victims)
  
- B. We must guard against the temptation to interpret Scripture based on personal experience or preference.

II. Proposition

- A. While the Pharisees looked to the Law for permissive divorce, Jesus rooted His teaching in creation, which clarified that marriage was a priority, permanent relationship instituted by God; therefore, man should not separated it.

III. Exposition

- A. Paul applied Jesus' teaching on divorce (7:10-11).
  
- B. Jewish authority on divorce was Law (Deut. 24:1-4) and ALL saw it as permissible (Matt 19:3; cf. Mark 10:2).
  - 1. Deut. 24:1-4, did not permit or command divorce; it regulated it to protect the woman.
  - 2. Two interpretations: Shammai vs. Hillel
  
- C. Jesus reaches back before the Law into creation (Matt. 19:4-6).
  - 1. **Marriage is a creation ordinance instituted/established by God (Matt. 19:4; cf. Gen. 1:27).**
  - 2. **Marriage is a priority relationship (Matt. 19:5; Gen. 2:24).**
  - 3. **Marriage is a permanent relationship (Matt. 19:5-6; Gen. 2:24)**
  - 4. **THEREFORE, what God has joined, let no MAN separate – for this is God's design (Matt. 19:6).**
    - a. Divorce is an evil that exists because of willful rebellion (Matt. 19:7-8).
    - b. Exception: sexual immorality-evidently ruptures the one flesh union (Matt. 19:9).
      - 1). However, divorce is NOT commanded or encouraged; reconciliation is (1 Cor. 7:10-11).

D. God and divorce

1. God took a young bride (Jeremiah 2:1-3).
2. The young bride committed adultery against God (Jeremiah 3:1-2).
3. God threatened to divorce the adulterous bride (Jeremiah 3:6-10).
4. Instead, God call the adulterous bride to return to Him (Jeremiah 3:11-13).
5. And God promised to renew His marriage vows to her in a new covenant (Jeremiah 3:14-18).
  - a. See also Hosea 2:14-3:5.
  - b. This is how God views marriage and divorce!

IV. How should we view and approach divorce?

A. We must view it as God does: a permanent, priority relationship b/w 1 man and 1 woman established by God.

1. Therefore, any attempt to separate what God has joined is evil!
  - a. Divorce is ALWAYS evil, always sinful and occurs in direct rebellion (hard heart) to God's will!
2. Instead, we should always pursue reconciliation (1 Cor. 7:10-11)!

B. Those who have been divorced and are overwhelmed with guilt over what you have done to someone else. . .

1. Look to Christ and His gospel – find forgiveness in Christ!
  - a. If either spouse is not remarried, pursue reconciliation.
  - b. If one/both are remarried, ask forgiveness, make appropriate restitution and love your spouse!

C. Those who have been divorced and are tempted toward anger and bitterness over what's been done to you . . .

1. Look to Christ and His gospel for grace and forgive (Romans 12:14-21).

D. Those who are in a difficult marriage (1 Corinthians 7:10-11; more next week).

E. Those who have grown cold toward their spouse (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).

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Website: <http://www.hpbcglobal.org> Email: [info@hpbcglobal.org](mailto:info@hpbcglobal.org) Phone: 512.837.7725.