

# Divorce

## RESOURCES FOR BIBLICAL LIVING

# Divorce

*Before You Say “I Don’t”*

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Marriage is a very difficult thing to get out of without sinning. And the fact is, sin has its consequence—misery.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. (Gal. 6:7–9)

The purpose of this booklet is twofold: first, to help inform you of the misery associated with initiating an unbiblical divorce; and second, to persuade you not to “lose heart in doing” what is “good” for your family (and what will most glorify God).

Now, perhaps your mind is made up, and there is little I can do to persuade you to reevaluate your course of action. But please, at least be willing to hear me out so that before you squeeze the trigger, you will be certain of what you are in for. Besides, it will take me only a few short pages to make my case. Your future happiness is certainly worth a small investment of your time.

Now, I know that my manner of writing is very direct. All right, it’s downright “in your face.” But you see, as a biblical counselor with over twenty-three years’ experience in trying to save marriages, I know all too well the misery you will be facing if you pursue a divorce on less than biblical grounds. In all my years of counseling, I do not recall even one Christian who has not suffered tremendously for making the decision you are contemplating. Most of them have come back in one way or another and acknowledged that the suffering they

experienced was much greater than they had initially thought it would be. More significantly, they invariably told me that if they had to do it over again, they wouldn't. So please be tolerant of my desperate plea to keep you from falling off a very high cliff.

If you haven't yet closed the book (or thrown it against the wall), thank you.

"You're welcome. But what of all this misery you promised me?"

I can't cover in this booklet *all* the consequences you are likely to experience, but I will do what I can in the allotted time. Let's be clear about one thing, though: I'm not the one promising the consequences—God is!

To begin with, if you initiate an unbiblical divorce, *you will be confirming to all your brothers and sisters in Christ that you have a hard heart.*

Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?" He said to them, "*Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.*" (Matt. 19:3–9)

When a Christian initiates an unbiblical divorce, it's *always* because he has hardened his heart against God.<sup>1</sup>

1. And I daresay that it is *always* because someone is influencing him to do so. Chances are excellent that someone in your life is influencing your thinking in this