

Divorce

- 1. God rebuked the Israelites for the sin of divorce and commanded them to be faithful to their covenant vows.**
Mal. 2:13–16.
- 2. God hates divorce.**
Mal. 2:16. “For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the Lord of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.”
- 3. Jesus says: No divorce, except in the case of adultery.**
Matt. 5:31–32. “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”
Matt. 19:3–9.
Matt. 19:4–6. And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at 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 then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
- 4. Husband and wife are bound together until death separates them.**
Rom. 7:1–3. Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.
- 5. Mosaic law speaks of a bill of divorcement.**
Deut. 24:1–4.
- 6. A believer may not initiate a divorce from an unbelieving spouse.**
1 Cor. 7:10–16.
- 7. If the unbelieving spouse wants to depart, he or she may do so.**
1 Cor. 7:15. But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.
- 8. The believing spouse must seek reconciliation when trouble arises.**
Rom. 12:18. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
Matt. 5:23–24. “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”
Matt. 18:15–18. “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Assuredly, I say

to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”¹

¹ John G. Kruis, *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1994).