

The High Cost of Divorce

Introduction: It is foolish to make a decision without weighing the consequences.

- A. Satan tries to have you look at the immediate and forget about the future.
 - 1. Many make foolish decisions like Esau, who for the immediate hunger gave up much. (**Heb 12:16-17**)
 - 2. Because of carnality, many are making decisions to obtain relief from the present "stress" that will haunt them the rest of their lives.
- B. We must never think we know more than God. (**Gen 2:18-24**)
 - 1. Marriage is a perfect relationship as God designed it. We cannot improve upon His plan.
 - 2. Since it is a relationship, it must be maintained.
 - 3. When people depart from God, there will be trouble in the marriage.
- C. Some consider divorce a reasonable alternative. (**Mt 19:4-6; 5:32**)
 - 1. This is a direct violation of God's commands.
 - 2. God's commands are for our good. There are many more things that follow the sin of divorce. (**Deut 6:24**)
 - 3. Even when there is an innocent party, there still are consequences from the ungodly actions of another. God will be with those who draw close to Him.
 - 4. We will examine the consequences in a backwards manner. We will start at the judgment day and work back to the marriage.

I. What are the consequences of divorce?

- A. **An eternity in hell (**Rev 22:14-15; 5:32**)**
 - 1. When one breaks a command of God they have a heart that is not right with God.
 - 2. Often repentance never comes and the heart is hardened. (**Eph 4:18-19**)
 - 3. Can we ignore God's word and still follow Jesus? (**Jn 12:48**)
 - 4. One who is divorced and has no right to remarry will likely form an adulterous marriage. This is called "living in adultery." (**Col 3:5-7**)

B. More Divorce

- 1. A very high percentage of second marriages fail. Why?
- 2. Many have never overcome the selfishness and shortsightedness that brought on divorce in the first place. You cannot escape from the honest and hard work a marriage demands.
- 3. If a person can brazenly break one covenant, then why not two? (**Mal 2:16, 14**)
- 4. It is not uncommon for an adulterer who destroyed the marriage to have several live-ins.

C. A Scarred life

- 1. Divorce is worse than death. The pain and the scars are hard to overcome.
- 2. The memory is always there.

D. Consequences with the children

- 1. There are great scars with the children. They often blame themselves.
- 2. There is constant trouble. Who are they to visit? They are pressed to choose sides. Discipline in the home may not be there.

3. There are powerful lessons taught by example. (**Prov 22:6**)
 - a. Where do children learn about marriage?
 - b. What do they learn about: honesty, violence, relationships, trust, forgiveness?
 - c. Often we see how a divorce may affect generations. (**Num 14:18**)

E. It affects the church.

1. There is great pain and discouragement shared by brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. The influence of those who sinned are harmed. (Remember, there are some who are innocent and should not be blamed.)
3. When things are not right in a marriage it affects ones spiritual life. This in turn weakens the church. (**1 Pt 3:7**)
4. One should not leave the church over their sin but rather repent and find the comfort provided by God. This will involve other Christians. (**2 Cor 1:3-5**)
5. No wonder God said that: "He hates divorce." (**Mal 2:16**)

II. How can one avoid divorce?

A. Do not be satisfied with just staying together.

1. There are times that this is all you can do. Let this be short lived.
2. Do not settle for anything less than a great marriage.
3. Weakened marriages are accidents looking for a place to happen. Do not let this condition persist.

B. Eliminate pride (Prov 16:18**)**

1. Never start thinking: "Oh the brethren must never know!"
2. Often couples fail to seek spiritual help early. Put away this false sense of pride and understand that we all need help from time to time.
3. Good council from spiritual men will do much good. (**Prov 11:14; 24:3-6**)
4. On the other hand, pride is blind, it refuses to see and if forced it hates to see. Before the finger pointing stops and communication begins, pride must cease!

C. Learn to communicate

1. It s possible to be married 40 years and then drift apart. When this happens you must learn anew how to communicate!
2. Does the word "learn" bother you? If so it is likely pride at work.
3. There must be absolute honesty. (**Col 3:9**)
4. Be receptive to communication. Major on hearing. (**Jas 1:19-20**)
5. Also learn how to praise!

D. Dedicate yourselves to meeting your mates needs.

1. Ask and listen. Do not assume but let them tell you.
2. Husbands, give you wife your love. (**Eph 5:25,28-29**)
3. Wives, be sure to respect your husband. (**Eph 5:22-23,33**)
4. Will you not sit down and talk about these things?

III. Let God be the foundation of your Life.

A. Make yourself a strong Christian. (Mt 6:33; Mt 19:3-19**)**

B. Consider your marriage as being heirs of life together" (1 Pt 3:7**)**

Conclusion: Your faithfulness to Christ will be a pattern for your marriage. (**Rom 6:3-5**)