

MARRIAGE/DIVORCE/REMARRIAGE

Xenos Christian Fellowship - Position Paper

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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MARRIAGE

1. The Bible presents marriage as a divine institution, ordained and regulated by God's Word. The relationship between husband and wife was intended to be a "shared nature (:23), created in the Image of God. Gen. 2:18-25
2. The Bible views marriage as an intimate, committed relationship between a man and a woman (:24). This means faithfulness regardless of circumstances or feelings. Marriage is called a "covenant (or contract) in Malachi 2:14, and was intended by God to be a lifelong union within which two people love one another and enrich one another's lives.
3. Since God originated and ordained marriage, it stands to reason that it would be regulated by His standards. Ephesians 5:22-32. 1 Cor. 7:3-5.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DIVORCE

1. God says he "hates divorce" in Malachi 2:15,16, and divorce is the result of sin, and a concession by God in a fallen world in order to prevent further damage.
2. There are two conditions where divorce is biblically justifiable, i.e., adultery and desertion; other conditions where divorce is permissible. (1 Cor. 7, Matthew 19:4-9).
3. Because we are marred by sin, sometimes marriage does not achieve God's ideal. In some cases, hard-heartedness (Matthew 19:8) may so distort the marriage relationship that a divorce is the best one can do. Hard-heartedness may be displayed in a variety of ways, including mental and physical abuse, sexual abuse, adultery. Issues like emotional and spiritual abandonment of the relationship, should be first dealt with by Christian counseling. However, there are unfortunate times when, even with Christian counseling, the marriage covenant may be abandoned by one or both parties, and divorce takes place.
4. While divorce is justifiable or permissible, forgiveness and reconciliation are always possibilities to consider. (Matt. 18).
5. It is the responsibility of the husband and/or wife to determine whether or not the marriage is really over and time for divorce. The responsibility of spiritual leaders in the Body of Christ is to explain alternatives and to enable those willing to keep on trying to live with their spouses in a Godly way. The final decision, however, has to be made by the husband and/or wife involved.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT REMARRIAGE

1. Christians who divorce for Biblical reasons do have the right to remarry. Others may as well, depending on the interpretation of 1 Cor. 7:28. Spiritual leaders in the Body of Christ are responsible to lead such persons to accept responsibility for the failure of the marriage, to confess any sin to God, and to enter another marriage only upon the clear and definite leading of the Lord. It is the individual's responsibility, based on their relationship with the Lord (Rom. 14:12), to make sure the issues of the failed marriage are resolved and forgiven on their part before entering into another marriage.
2. Remarried Christians are called by God to become involved in ministry, to fulfill their spiritual gifting, and to serve in sacrificial ways as God calls them to do.
3. It is the responsibility of the Church to do all that it can to help those with marriage problems. This is done through Bible teachings at C.T., classes, home groups, Christian relationships, and counseling.

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1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country. It is followed by a detailed analysis of the economic situation, which shows that the country is in a state of economic crisis. The main reasons for this are the high rate of inflation, the large foreign debt, and the low level of investment in the economy.

2. The second part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the economic situation. It is followed by a detailed analysis of the social situation, which shows that the country is in a state of social crisis. The main reasons for this are the high level of unemployment, the low level of income, and the high level of inequality.

3. The third part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the political situation, which shows that the country is in a state of political crisis. The main reasons for this are the high level of corruption, the low level of democracy, and the high level of authoritarianism.