

God Said He Hates Divorce

by Bill Crews

Any Israelite man, under the law of Moses, was permitted to divorce his wife if he *"found some unseemly (unclean) thing (indecent) in her."* Both could marry again, but the man could never take back the woman he had divorced. See Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

By the time of Jesus some Jewish teachers had decided that this meant that a man could divorce his wife only if she were guilty of adultery and others had decided that it could be for any cause. When some Pharisees tried to get Jesus in on this controversy (Matt. 19:3-9 and Mk. 10:2-12), Jesus made it clear that God through Moses permitted Israelite men to divorce their wives because of *"the hardness of your hearts."* He also declared: (1) *"But from the beginning (of man and marriage - BC) it hath not been so,"* (Matt. 19:8,4-5), and (2) *"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"* (Matt. 19:6), and *"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication (the word in the N. T. includes adultery, referring to any sexual immorality - BC), and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery"* (Matt. 19:9). Mark 10:11-12 shows that the same principles apply to the wife who does the putting away or divorcing.

Getting married is a serious matter. God's will is that every marriage last as long as both mates live. Divorce is allowed for only one cause. Even when this law of Moses was God's binding law for the Israelites, God said to His people, "Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For I hate putting away (or divorce, **NKJV, NASB, NIV**), saith Jehovah the God of Israel" (Mal. 2:15-16).

Only God Himself knows all of the far-reaching adverse consequences caused by a divorce. Parents of a son or daughter involved in a divorce will tell you that it is an event worse than death. A husband or wife who is the cause of a divorce will answer to God for the deed and must live with the consequences. If both were Christians before the divorce, one or both will cease to be Christians after. Children of divorced couples are the greatest victims. Many will in silence blame themselves and try to live with that guilt. There will be years of tears, of sorrow, of shame, of regret, of bitterness. Older children may become angry and give in to hatred and refuse to see or speak with a father or a mother. Some who would have, will now never become Christians. There will be custody battles, visitation rights conflicts, and a constant tug of war with the children like pawns in between. One's example and influence and self-respect will be affected for the rest of his or her life. Who knows how many souls will be lost eventually in eternity as the result of any divorce? There are many reasons why God hates divorce. Try to avoid it in your life.

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