



“Divorce and Remarriage”

Matthew 5:31-32

02-5-2012

→ Warm up...

1. Facebook IPO will make over 1000 employees of Facebook instant millionaires. What would you do if you became a millionaire overnight?
2. What young woman was sacrificed by her father because of a rash vow he made?

→ **Introduction...** Initially the Jewish people had the highest ideal of marriage in history. By the time of Jesus there was a huge gap between their ideals and their practice; marriage was at an all-time low. It wasn't too different from what it must sound like today.

→ Explore it... Read Matt 5:31-32

1. What is God's view of marriage and what is our response to His view?
 - a. Mark 10:2-12 (This passage has several key principles. Spend enough time to get them all.)
 - b. Mal 2:13-16
 - c. 1 Cor 7:39
 - d. 1 Cor 7:12-16
2. What are biblically justifiable reasons for divorce? How long should a Christian couple work on reconciling before taking this step?
3. Discuss what should be done in a marriage when the following things are taking place. Assume both are Christians. For each, address the following: Is there biblical grounds for a divorce? What should the victim do? Is it always one person's fault? Is there hope for the marriage? What would you do if you were in these circumstances?
 - a. Emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse or abandonment
 - b. Financial abuse with unrestrained spending or gambling
 - c. Financial abuse by refusing to support or provide financially
 - d. Alcoholism or drug addiction
 - e. Abandonment – spouse leaves or disappears

- f. Spiritual abuse – antagonism over differing beliefs
 - g. Threats of physical abuse to spouse or children
 - h. Physical abuse of spouse or children
 - i. A spouse finds her or his “soul mate” or “true love” outside of the marriage but doesn’t engage in sex
 - j. Unhappiness in the marriage or they feeling made a mistake
 - k. There is no love anymore
4. Sue unbiblically divorces Steve then Sue marries Sam.
 - a. Who has committed adultery?
 - b. Is Steve now free to marry without committing adultery?
 - c. If Sue and Sam repent, what should they do?
 - d. If Sue and Sam committed adultery before she divorced Steve, does this change any of your answers?
 5. Paul and Pam are married but he commits adultery. They then divorce.
 - a. Is either of them free to remarry?
 - b. If both are Christians, how would you counsel them?

➔ **Apply it...** As you think back on this lesson – answer these questions personally with I, me, and my ...

1. Are you in a marriage that has problems like any of those above? If so, have you contemplated divorce? What do you think God wants you to do?
2. If your marriage is good, what areas could you improve? What can you do to make sure none of the things above enter into it?
3. If you aren’t married but would like to be some day, what things are you doing to make sure that your future marriage will be biblical and safeguarded?

➔ **Pray it...** Father, there are so many marriages that are in trouble because few people know your heart. Help us as individuals and as a church to uphold the sanctity of marriage in our own marriages and by encouraging and giving godly counsel to others.