

"When I am afraid, I will put my confidence in you. Yes, I will trust the promises of God."

PSALM 56:3

Answers to Related Questions

Will divorced persons be allowed to participate in service opportunities in the church?

Spiritual, psychological, and relational maturity are primary qualifications for service opportunities. Divorce would be considered only one part of a much broader evaluation of a person's suitability for service. Divorce would not necessarily preclude serving. A primary consideration must be the reputation the individual has in the Body of Christ and the community (1 Timothy 3:2, 7; Titus 1:6).

What if there has been no sexual unfaithfulness in a Christian marriage, but two Christians decide to dissolve their marriage because they are incompatible?

The Bible does not recognize incompatibility as grounds for divorce. Reconciliation must be achieved, and every means possible should be considered, including individual and/or marriage counseling. If Christ is on the throne of two human hearts, conflict will cease. He does not fight with Himself.

A frequent reason given for seeking a divorce is that the original marriage was a mistake. The couple believes that they got married for the wrong reasons and are asking why they should perpetuate a mistake.

God's promise is that He is able to cause all things to work together for good, even our human mistakes (Romans 8:28). The Bible does not recognize a "mistake" as grounds for divorce. A deliberate knowledgeable violation of God's revealed will for marriage is never an appropriate response to a mistake made earlier in life. Two wrongs do not make a right.



CANYON HILLS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

info@chccbw.org
canyonhillscommunitychurch.com

22027 17th Ave SE
Bothell, WA 98021
425-488-4121

What God's Word says about Divorce & Remarriage



*Making More and Better
Disciples of Jesus Christ*

Discovering God’s Grace in Divorce and Remarriage

Other than the loss of a loved one, divorce is a leading source of grief, loneliness, and despair. Divorce is also a leading contributor to depression, stress, juvenile delinquency, and even poverty. It is the death of a family.

God’s View of Divorce

Malachi 2:16 “I hate divorce, says the Lord God of Israel... so guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.”

God’s Provision for Divorce

Divorce was never an original provision of God. Matthew 19:7 “Jesus replied, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.”

- Marital unfaithfulness. Matthew 19:9 “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”
- The unbelieving spouse leaves the marriage. 1 Corinthians 7:15 “But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.”

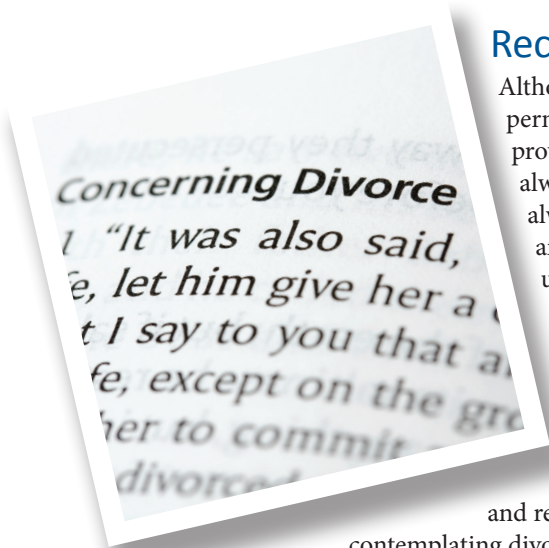
The Causes of Divorce

There are many reasons given for divorce, but there is one common denominator at the root of every divorce—selfishness. A self-centered person is a sinful person (Romans 12:3). According to Jesus in Matthew 19:4-8 divorce happens because selfish people...

1. Deal destructively rather than constructively with their differences. (v. 4) “In the beginning the Creator made them male and female.”
2. Give priority to other things and other persons, rather than their mate. (v. 5) “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife.”



3. Seek sexual expression and fulfillment outside of marriage. (v. 5) Fail to develop and build intimacy. (v. 6) “So they are no longer two, but one.”
4. See the marriage as theirs, rather than God’s. (v. 6) “Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”



Reconciliation

Although divorce is Biblically permissible under God’s provision (see above), it is always a last recourse and always has complications and consequences that are undesirable. Every possible opportunity for God to heal the marriage should be given before a divorce is ever filed.

Canyon Hills believes that God heals, helps, and restores hope for those

contemplating divorce.

This happens when people...

RECOGNIZE their part in the failure of the marriage. (See the above list of reasons for divorce) Matthew 7:3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

REPENT—ask God’s forgiveness for your part. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

RECONCILIATION—find personal healing and wholeness in Christ. Ask your spouse for forgiveness. James 5:16 “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

REBUILD—seek the possibility of a restored marriage through Godly counseling and encouragement. Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

REACH for a hopeful future in Christ. Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”



People going through divorce are:

- Welcomed at Canyon Hills Community Church.
- Encouraged to be involved in small groups and in ministry.
- Challenged to deal with the above process of recognition, repentance, reconciliation, rebuilding and reaching before considering divorce.

Re-Marriage

People experiencing divorce are encouraged to postpone consideration of another serious relationship or remarriage until these five “R’s” are dealt with. Canyon Hills recommends a minimum of two years for the healing process. The Bible provides clear guidelines for remarriage:

1. When former spouse is deceased. Romans 7:23; 1 Corinthians 7:39
2. When divorce occurred prior to conversion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Romans 8:1
3. When a biblical divorce has occurred, the offended spouse can remarry. 1 Corinthians 7:15; Matthew 19:9
4. When former spouse remarries and there is no possible opportunity for reconciliation.

Conclusion

Divorce and remarriage are very emotionally, physically, and spiritually charged decisions. They should be approached with an uncompromising commitment to God’s guidelines found in the Bible. It should be noted that divorce is not the unpardonable sin and divorced people should be cared for and ministered to as part of the Body of Christ, not as second class citizens of the Kingdom of God.