



Till Death Do Us Part

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Matthew 5:31-32 NLT

"You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.' But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery."

False Narrative #1

The best way to know if we should get married is if we live together first

For marital love to endure, it must not be sourced in the feelings of the husband and wife which wax and wane and differ - not just year to year, but day to day. Love must be seeded in the eternal purposes of God. A covenantal marriage is God's handiwork.

Matt Chandler

The National Survey of Families & Households

- Those who have lived together before marriage have 46% greater likelihood of separating once married as compared to those who do not live together.
- Those who live together outside of marriage are 3 times more likely to experience depression, They have lower levels of happiness, lower levels of sexual exclusivity and sexual satisfaction.
- A national US survey of high school seniors 66% of boys and 61% of girls agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. "It is usually a good idea for a couple to live together before getting married in order to find out whether they really get along."

Dr. Gary & Barbara Rosberg - Divorce Proof your Marriage

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Matthew 19:3-9 NLT

Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?”

“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, “‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’

Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

“Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?” they asked.

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”

“The impression one gains from ancient Jewish sources is that divorce is relatively easy and not considered a grave misdeed”

Dave Allison

False Narrative #2

Divorce is only accepted due to adultery

False Narrative #3

Anyone who has remarried is committing adultery

How Do We Respond?

1. We are to be a faith family to come alongside divorced people, to stand by them helping them to find joy, forgiveness, strength and healing in Christ.
2. To come alongside each other in martial difficulties so that when someone is contemplating divorce we don’t isolate them or ignore their issues. Instead we weep with them, and serve them and point them to the ever constant presence of God and the ever faithful word of God.

Spiritual Practice: Dating Marriage

Life gets busy and often what gets pushed to the backburner is an intentional commitment to our marriages. For many couples, good intentions quickly get put off to some future time, when life is not so busy or there’s more money. Pretty soon the kids are grown and couples find they’ve grown apart.

To guard against relational drift that happens so easily we need to make decisions today, so that in five or ten years we don’t look back and wonder, “How did we end up here?” One of the best practices that we can encourage is to include a weekly date night into your calendars. Making an intentional commitment does not take a lot of money, it does not even mean that you have to go out somewhere. What it does require is that time will be carved out for you to connect with your spouse on a consistent basis. It is often said that failing to plan is planning to fail. Your planning can be as simple as turning off the TV and your cell phone, so you can share a bowl of popcorn or your favorite treat with each other while talking about your day or week.

Some other ideas include:

- Going to a local coffee shop and creating a stack of 3x5 cards with a question written on each card:
 - What is something your spouse does very well but doesn't know they do well?
 - What is your favorite joke?
 - What's a childhood memory you'll never forget?
 - One of you pulls a card and reads the question. Then the other answers. (We took turns reading and answering until we were at the bottom of the stack.)
- Go to a mall together and give your spouse \$10, \$5, \$2, \$1. Each amount can only be spent in one store and on one item. Each item should be something that you can enjoy as part of your date.
- Once you put your kids to bed, pull out a board game to play together.
- Train together towards doing a local 5km run.

Committing to work on your marriage does not cost a lot, but the return will be significant. It requires us to make a choice, to be intentional, planning ways to help it grow and flourish.