

## Does Divorce Solve The Problem?

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One of the greatest problems that we have in the world today is divorce. In the United States we are rapidly reaching the point where almost fifty, percent of the marriages are ending in divorce. In the area where I live, we have seen many marriages of long duration end in divorce in the past two or three years.

Why are so many marriages breaking up? I am sure there are many reasons that could be given, but I would like to condense it down and just save that most marriages are dissolved because a problem arises that the parties seem not to be able to solve. Just here let me ask another question, does divorce solve the problem? In answer to this I suggest the following:

We have spent much time in argument concerning the grounds for divorce and remarriage. We have scriptural laws and arguments to support our views. I wonder if we have not tried to teach our people that divorce, even when justified scripturally, is not always the answer nor does it always solve the problems. Of course, there are tensions and problems in marriage, but have we considered the tensions and problems in divorce?

Any divorce, regardless of the fault or circumstances, is an admission of failure. Someone has failed; maybe both always one. Even the innocent victim is faced with the problem of facing society alone. An attempt is usually made to cover up or hide the sense of failure. Sometimes this is done by condemning the other party. by self-justification, or by other means. The rending apart of "one" brings about severe damage emotionally, psychologically, as well as spiritually.

Divorce usually carries with it a measure of hate. The love of two has been turned into hate and this turns into divorce. Now the divorcee finds time to suffer the hurt and shame of this tarnished and broken love. The hate that has destroyed the home burns within. How difficult for the one to truly be Christian during this time of trial! Pride has been wounded. Conflicts and rebellion within self must be handled, new relationships in society must be made.

Though things have changed a great deal in recent years, society still does not readily accept the divorcee in many cases. Happy friendships with other couples are now more difficult. Old friends hesitate to take sides and thus find the easiest solution is that of avoiding both parties. Social engagements are now limited and even suspicion is now found in social engagements that were once accepted. The clean loneliness that death can leave is not found in divorce. This is loneliness of failure, of hate, and of shame.

From the foregoing things, we can see that divorce does not solve the problem, but only complicates it. What then is the solution when problems arise in marriage as surely they will?

When two people love each other enough to pledge themselves to each other in marriage, they must work to make this love grow each day. Only in this way can they hope to be able to solve problems that will arise. Also, they must spend a great deal of time in prayer about problems as they come. Prayer will always cause us to view the problem from a very different perspective. We must also have a great respect for God's Word and what it has to say about marriage and divorce.

The Bible teaches that marriage is until death (Romans 7:3). God's Word also teaches that fornication is the only thing, other than death, that can sever the marriage relationship (Matthew 19:9: 5:32). However, the Bible does not teach that the guilty party must be put away, but can and should be forgiven if they truly repent of the sin that they have committed. The only solution to the problem of divorce is abiding by the Word of God.