



Desired Application

By God's grace:-

- Married – I commit to marriage
- Divorced – I will forgive; and reconcile if possible
- Remarried – I will commit to marriage
- Onlooker – I will love my brethren and not judge when I don't know facts

More getting divorced, fewer getting married in Singapore: CNA; 13 July 2016

More couples ended their marriages while fewer tied the knot in 2015, according to Department of Statistics (Singstat) data released on Wednesday (Jul 13).

- Divorces and annulments rose 2.9 per cent = 7,522
- Marriages: 28,322 couples

The Problem

- Man's fallen view of marriage and divorce

Mark 10:2 / Matthew 19:3

And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, 'Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?' tempting him.

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Hillel school of thought on divorce

- Divorce may be for any reason, even as trivial as burning a meal

Mark 10:3-4

And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

Deuteronomy 24: 1-4

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

Deuteronomy 24: 1-4

And *if* the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her *to be* his wife; her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD:...

Mark 10:5-9

And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Mark 10:11-12

And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her (i.e. *first wife*). And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Divorce & Remarriage

- Man's fallen view of marriage and divorce

God's view:

Marriage is commitment for life!

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1 Corinthians 7:11

And unto the married I command, *yet not I, but the Lord*, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband; but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband; and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

Command to forgive ~ Luke 17:3-4

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

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The Protection

- God extends mercy to the innocent party

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Matthew 19:9

And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication (*porneia* - sexual immorality), and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

The Protection

- God extends mercy to the innocent
 - sexual immorality
 - unbelieving spouse abandons

1 Corinthians 7

- Believer is not to initiate the breaking of marriage covenant

"let him not put her away" (v.12)

"let her not leave him" (v.13)

1 Corinthians 7

- If unbelieving spouse chooses to depart (desert) the family (v.15)

Believer NOT BOUND

= Not IN BONDAGE

= Not ENSLAVED to marriage
that unbeliever wants to end

Divorce & Remarriage

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 - *Commit to marriage for life*
- Extend the Protection
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PPCC by-law on divorce

If anyone intends to divorce or remarry, please consult the church council.

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