

# Why Does God Hate Divorce?

In the holy Scriptures, God made it clear that He is opposed to divorce. Indeed, He made an extremely strong statement against it, saying, “**I hate divorce, says the Lord**” (Malachi 2:16). But why does God hate it? What is there to hate about divorce? Why doesn't He like it? Why can't He tolerate it?

## 1. It Leads to the Sin of Adultery

First and foremost, God hates divorce because He said that it leads to the sin of adultery. For example, Jesus specifically warned **husbands** and **men** against divorce and remarriage, saying, “**And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery**” (Mt 19:9). “**I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery**” (Mt 5:32). So, for example, when a husband divorces his wife for “**irreconcilable differences**”, because they do not get along very well, when he marries another woman, he is committing the sin of adultery against his first wife. And when his divorced wife marries another man, she is committing adultery as well (even though her first husband forced it to happen). Furthermore, when a man marries a divorced woman, he (and she) are committing the sin of adultery against her first husband. So Jesus warned husbands against divorce because it leads to the sin of adultery, not only for himself, a husband, but also for his wife if anyone marries her. It's not holy marriage. It is adultery.

Jesus also specifically warned **wives** and **women** against divorce and remarriage, saying, “**If she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery**” (Mark 10:12). So Jesus taught against divorce because He said that it leads to the sin of adultery. For this reason, obviously, many second marriages are simply adulterous in the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why John the Baptist-- God's great prophet, the Elijah to come, the prophet of The Most High, the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah, the relative of Jesus--opposed the marriage of King Herod to a woman named Herodias. She was separated or divorced from her first husband (SEE Mark 6:17-28). Unfortunately, John lost his life over proclaiming this truth to them (even though they were Gentiles and not a part of the covenant people of God, they were still sinning in adultery). We know Jesus also died for proclaiming many truths to the Jews, teachings which included instructions against divorce and remarriage. It simply is not holy. It is not “holy matrimony”, it is adultery!

## 2. God Condemns Adultery (He Hates It)

Men and women who continue in the sin of adultery (either in an affair or by marrying into it like King Herod), will not be saved. They will not inherit the kingdom of God, meaning heaven. They will not go to heaven. Instead they will be thrown into the lake of fire, hell. For example: “**Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God**” (1 Cor 6:9, 10). Again God said, “**immoral persons... their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death**” (Rev 21:8). Here “immoral persons” means sexually immoral persons. This includes adulterers, adulteresses, perverts, effeminate, lesbians, fornicators, homosexuals, and other forms of sexual immorality, including promiscuous, sensual conduct and behaviors.

## 3. It Can Make One an Adulterer or Adulteress

A person who refuses to remain committed for life to his first spouse can put himself into the condition of being an adulterer (a husband) or an adulteress (a wife). For example, Paul said, “**If while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress**” (Ro 7:3). So now you know why the phrase “until death do us part” has been included in certain wedding vows. It is because a woman will become an “adulteress” if she joins another man, in marriage or in an affair, while her first husband is still living. Likewise if a man commits adultery against his wife he will become an adulterer. As the word of God says, “**A wife is bound [in marriage] as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord [meaning a Christian]**” (1 Cor 7:39). In the sight of the Lord Jesus Christ, your first marriage is a most binding agreement which is not to be broken, except by the death of your spouse. Marriage is a covenant. Covenants are not to be broken.

## Conclusion

There are many reasons why God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). For example, it is a stumbling block to children. And we are commanded to not cause children to stumble or else we will be severely judged by God (Mt 18:6). It truly hurts children in many, many ways. It is divisive to them.

It confuses them. It grieves them. Also divorce is selfish in its nature. It does not follow this command of Christ: “**do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others**” (Philippians 2:4), like your spouse, your children, your relatives, society, etc. Breaking the marriage covenant with a divorce deeply hurts others. But first and foremost, divorce leads to the sin of adultery (Mt 5:32; 19:9; Mk 10:11, 12; Etc.). When husbands and wives divorce their spouses and marry another, they commit the unholy sin of adultery. They become adulterers and adulteresses. This is what the word of God calls them (Ro 7:3; Lev 20:10). This is what God calls them. This is what we ought to call them. God hates the sin of adultery. Indeed, He will condemn people to hell if they continue in it (1 Cor 6:9, 10; Re 21:8; Etc.). This is why husbands and wives must remain committed to their original marriage until death do they part (Ro 7:3; 1 Cor 7:39; Etc.).



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We should not divorce our spouse and remarry.



## Take Heed to Your Spirit

Now if you consider the context in which God said that He hates divorce (Malachi 2:16), you will see that He warned husbands to **“take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously with the wife of your youth”**, in divorcing them. It is a wicked thing to do. Likewise, it is an evil thing for a woman to divorce her husband. We know the reason why. It is because divorce leads to the sin of adultery. And God hates the sin of adultery. He condemns it. He warned us that anyone who continues in an adulterous union, whether it is an adulterous marriage union or an affair, will end up in the lake of fire and brimstone! So, brothers and sisters, in regards to marriage, we need to take heed to our spirit to see if it is a **“treacherous”** one. Are we full of betrayal? When it comes to marriage, are we a Judas Iscariot? Are you dealing treacherously with your rightful spouse? Are you encouraging others to deal treacherously with their original spouse? **Hurry! Limited Time Offer. No Obligation.**

spouse? Is our church (with the world) strengthening others in adulterous marriage unions? If so, we need to do what Jesus said to do. **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Mt 4:17).** Judgment Day is coming soon. Those who repent will be saved. We must separate from our adulterous relationships, unions, or affairs. We must repent of our false teaching about divorce and remarriage, and the unholy marriages which are a result of it.

Note: For further guidance on this or your situation, please get a free or donation based copy of my *Complete Bible Study on the Basics for Beginners and Christians*, specifically the lesson titled *Repent from Works Which Lead to Death*. In this lesson you will find an in depth Question and Answer session on marriage, divorce, remarriage, and adultery.

## Consider the Marriage Covenant

It is not about differences or similarities, happiness or unhappiness, difficulty or ease in our marriages, it is about commitment. Regardless of your similarities or differences, your satisfaction or dissatisfaction in your marriage, will you remain committed to it? Will you prove that marriage is not mainly about being alike or different, happy or sad, ease or difficulty, but about a covenant of commitment? Will you remain committed to your original marriage in spite of your differences? Today I challenge you to remain committed to your rightful spouse, above all others. Or, for those of us who have failed in this commitment, I challenge you to recommit to it. For those of you who have never married, when you do marry, will you both commit and agree to rule out divorce as an option? Before my wife and I were married we ruled out divorce as an option. As for me and my wife, we will remain committed to each other in spite of any difference or dissatisfaction until death do us part. This is the only marriage covenant or agreement which God blesses.

## Warning!

God warned **“all”** people to **“honor”** the very concept of His definition of a holy marriage or else He will judge them. For example, God said, **“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge”** (Hebrews 13:4), as well as homosexuals and lesbians, and anyone else who is sexually immoral. So if we do not honor and respect the holy concept of marriage, if we pervert it, God will not save us by His grace, His favor, but instead He will judge us with His wrath. This goes for all people, not just religious people (remember John the Baptist and King Herod). Now will you honor marriage or not? Do you seek God’s favor [grace] or do you seek His judgment [wrath]? When it comes to your true marriage, have a compassionate, long suffering heart. Don’t have a hard heart against your true spouse. Honor your wife. Honor your husband. Honor your marriage covenant. This is the will of God for us. Rick David, an Evangelist & Author of FreeBibleStudy.org

# “I Hate Divorce”

Says the Lord (Malachi 2:16)



By Rick David, an Evangelist,  
Author of FreeBibleStudy.org

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