

How to Build Divorce Proof Marriages **Matthew 5:31-32**

Definition of marriage is changing in our society.

Today we are seeing a profound loss of the sanctity and importance of marriage.

1. Marriage and Divorce in Jesus' Day

- a. People had a misunderstanding of Genesis 24:7-8.
- b. Jews had the highest view of marriage in the first century.
- c. Jews in Jesus' day were divided and confused about divorce.
- d. Easy divorce makes the other person a victim.
- e. God offers hope for those who are broken through divorce.

2. Marriage in God's eyes

Marriage is precious to God and part of God's plan for humanity (Genesis 2:18).

- Marriage brings c _____
- Marriage enables m _____ (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
- Marriage is a u _____ created by God.

God takes marriage seriously (Malachi 2:13-16; Mark 10:2-9).

3. Divorce can be devastating, but God can bring healing.

Two reasons the Bible gives that can lead to divorce:

- 1) An unequally yoked marriage (1 Corinthians 7:12-16)
- 2) Marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 5:21-32)

When divorce threatens . . .

- 1) Identify the problem areas
- 2) Seek reconciliation and forgiveness
- 3) Resolve your differences
- 4) Give each other some time and space
- 5) Find a trusted person or spiritual mentor to guide you and hold you accountable.

When divorce has happened . . .

- 1) Forgive the other person and forgive yourself.
- 2) Let the blame go.
- 3) Accept the new life God gives you.

4. How to maintain a strong marriage

- a. Clear C _____
- b. I _____
- c. Self-g _____
- d. Being part of the c _____ of believers
- e. Seeking r _____
- f. G _____-centered

RENEWING COMMITMENTS

"Once before, I have stood with you before family and friends; once again, I take your hand as my partner. (Name), I take you this day, and for all days, as my (husband/wife)."

"I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. (Name), it is with joy born of experience and trust that I commit myself once again to be your (husband/wife)."

Today, after (number) years of marriage, I ask you to continue to take me as your husband (wife). You have stood by my side through sorrow and joy, triumph and defeat, sickness and health, and for this I am so grateful. I thank God for the gift of you. I thank you. My promise to you is perhaps best spoken through the words of Wilferd Arlan Peterson: "Across the years I'll walk with you, in deep green forest, on shores of sand, and when our time on earth is through in heaven too, you will have my hand." I love you, (name).

(Name), I have always loved you and will always love you. You are part of me, the best part of me. With you by my side, I have grown so much. We have evolved and transformed together. We have endured together, laughed and cried together. We raised a beautiful family together. Beloved, please take my hand. With you as my partner, the best is yet to be. For this I pray.

(Name), the best thing I ever did was to marry you. I didn't always deserve you, but I always loved you. My vow to you, before God, is to do better, be better. I want to be the best husband (wife) I can be for you, for me, for us. I will do my best. This is my promise to you for the rest of my life.