

How Does God View Divorce?

TEXT: Mal. 2:16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. HOW DO WE VIEW GOD? HAVE WE MADE GOD IN OUR IMAGE?
- B. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT GOD MADE THEM.
 - 1. They subject themselves to what **HE** thinks.
 - 2. His thoughts are expressed in the Bible.
 - 3. No room for opinion where God has expressed himself.
- C. GOD HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF CLEARLY & CONCISELY IN THE BIBLE.
 - 1. God has a low view of **aloneness**.
 - 2. God has a high view of **marriage**.
 - 3. God hates **divorce**.

I. FIRST CONSIDER ALONENESS(Gen. 2:18-24).

- A. PROBLEM: "It is not good for man to dwell alone."
- B. GOD'S SOLUTION: "I will make him an help meet for him."

II. GOD HIGHLY ESTEEMS MARRIAGE.

- A. GOD'S WISDOM REFLECTED(**Isa. 55:8-9; Gen. 2:18**).
- B. **Eph. 5:25-32**. COMPARISON - MARRIAGE/CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

III. GOD HATES DIVORCE(Mal. 2:16).

- A. CONTEXT:
 - 1. Spoken to priests who should have known better(**2:1**).
 - 2. People didn't take God seriously - **They mocked him(1:13)**.
 - 3. God's response(**2:1-3**). "And I shall take you away." **Why?**
 - a. High rate of divorce.
 - b. Idolatry.
 - c. Selective in what they taught of God's word.
 - d. Adultery.
 - e. Genuinely poor neglected and oppressed.
 - f. Priests said there was no real problem in evil done.
 - g. They robbed God in the tithes.
 - h. Priests insisted there was no real benefit in serving God.
 - 4. Of all these problems, it is **divorce** that God **hates!**
- B. WHY DOES HE **HATE** DIVORCE?
 - 1. Historical background:
 - a. Cultural difference between Gentile & Jewish women.
 - b. Jewish desire for sex object; priests taught divorce.
 - c. Child custody to man and Gentile step-mother.
 - d. Children raised by pagans.
 - 2. Result:
 - a. Fathers treated children with hate & indifference.
 - b. Children resented fathers taking them from mothers.
 - 3. God's reaction:
 - a. **4:5-6**. Repentance in language of the divorce problem.
 - b. Silence 400 years until **Luke 1:12-17**. First issue.
- C. GOD HASN'T CHANGED, **HE STILL HATES DIVORCE(Mat. 19:1-12)**.

1. **IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ANY OTHER POSITION THAN GOD HATES DIVORCE, YOU WILL NOT FIND IT IN THE SCRIPTURE!**
2. **God hasn't gone soft on divorce, why must we?**

CONCLUSION:

- A. WE THINK TOO MUCH IN TERMS OF "RIGHT TO REMARRY."
- B. WE NEED AS A PEOPLE TO **HATE DIVORCE.**