

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

CCC is committed to the sanctity and permanence of marriage. Marriage is designed to be a life-long commitment of a man and woman to each other to enrich one another's lives. They are to be one flesh, partners together in all the ups and downs of life. This partnership is designed to be the catalyst to bring fulfillment to both husbands and wives, spiritually, emotionally and physically.

The basis of this relationship is love (1 Corinthians 13), mutual submission to one another (Ephesians 5:21) and a commitment to the other's well being. The Bible presumes that both spouses are committed to the relationship, and are equally responsible for making it work. When a marriage enriches each member of the partnership and the love of God permeates the home it is a beautiful monument to God's grace.

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In a fallen world sometimes life does not follow God's intended design. Divorce and remarriage are not part of God's original plan. (Matthew 19:3-5; Malachi 2:16; 1 Corinthians 7:39) In fact, God hates divorce. However, God in His grace has provided a concession, not because it is His desire, but because of the sinfulness of the human heart.

Accordingly the Scriptures regulate the practice so that guidelines and Godly wisdom can be a vehicle for recovery and rehabilitation. We therefore see God's mandates related to divorce and remarriage as being a product of His grace with a view to restoring people to effective and joyful ministry again. The general guidelines are as follows:

1. Sexual immorality. Deuteronomy 24:14 uses the term "something indecent" (NIV); Matthew 19:9 uses the term "marital unfaithfulness. (NIV) Divorce is permitted, though not encouraged, under such circumstances.
2. Desertion. The desertion of a spouse who chooses to leave the marriage relationship because the other spouse is a believer, allows the deserted spouse to rebuild their lives by formalizing such desertion by divorcing and remarrying another partner (1 Corinthians 7:15) Again divorce is not encouraged. In fact, remaining single is seen as a viable alternative.

It is to be noted that being married to a spouse who is not a believer does not preclude the marriage from being enjoyable and vibrant. In fact the instruction is

to stay together and for the believer to turn the marriage into a ministry where the Christian spouse becomes an instrument of God's grace to reach the other.