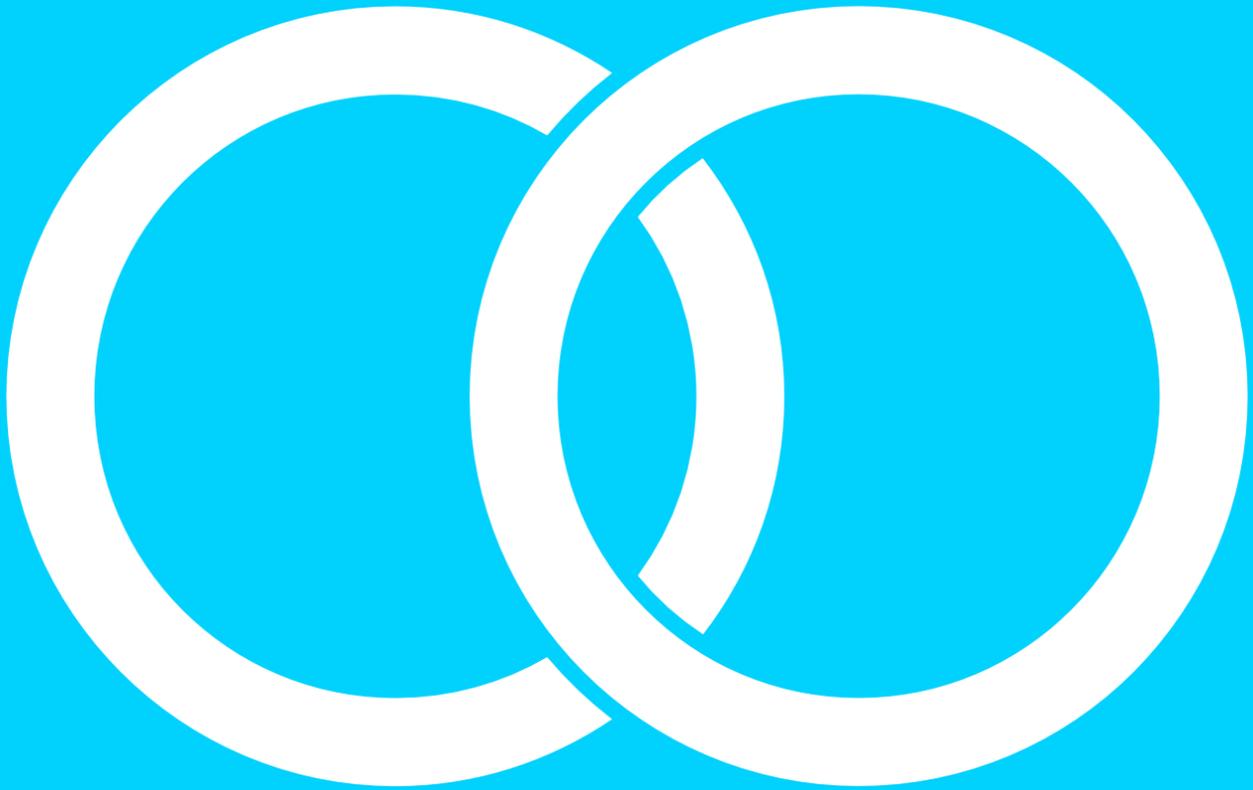


Marriage & Divorce



Marriage and Divorce

I'm curious about Marriage and Divorce. You have the right piece of paper in your hands. We have taken the time to put this together so you can understand what God thinks about Marriage and Divorce. You'll also have a chance to dig into the Bible for yourself!

What are Marriage and Divorce?

Marriage is the coming together of a man and a woman with the commitment to share life together for the remainder of their lives. God created marriage (more on this in a moment).

Divorce is an agreement between a married couple to break their commitment to one another. Divorce falls short of God's design for us, much like bitterness, gossip, or acting out in anger.

What's the Bible Say about Marriage?

When God created the Heavens and the Earth, he saw that Adam was alone and incomplete. God made Eve, and the two were a perfect compliment to one another. God's design for marriage: it ought to be between a man and a woman, it ought to last an entire lifetime, and it ought to be the only place for sex.

None of these are particularly popular in our world today. The truth is that it's in ALL of our natures (yours and mine) to believe what we want to believe even when it contradicts God's teachings.

What's the Bible Say about Divorce?

There are a few different Christian views about divorce that are based on scripture. Everyone agrees that God's best design is that a marriage ought to last a lifetime. God does permit divorce in some situations, in cases of sexual

immorality (and some believe emotional abandonment). God hates divorce: it's a breaking of faith between (a) us and God, (b) husband and wife, and (c) parents and children. Some religious leaders once asked Jesus if divorce was "OK," they were trying to trap him with his answer. Jesus said that this was the wrong question, the right question is, "Why does God permit divorce?" The answer: because people have hard hearts.

A believer in Christ may have to divorce. A believer in Christ should never seek divorce.

My parents are getting a divorce, so now what?

Divorce is incredibly tough and we know it hurts! Our encouragement is that you wouldn't carry this burden on your own. Share your struggles with a safe friend or a leader from CSM. A discipleship group is also another great place to find the support you need.

It's common for some kids of divorcing parents to feel like their parents' problems are their fault. This is not the case! Their issues don't exist because of their kids, and in most cases, their problems existed before they ever had kids. It's important for ALL kids to honor their parents, even when they are getting a divorce, but this doesn't mean you can fix their problems.

Divorce is ugly, and it hurts. Sharing the burden with others, and learning to rely more on God are the best things to do the middle of this difficult season.

Going Deeper

Read and reflect on Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 19:3-10, 1 Corinthians 7:10-1