

Devoting Ourselves To Strong Families

#7 & #8– *When The Vow Breaks – pts. 1 & 2* ***(a study of adultery and divorce)***

June 26, 2005

Introduction to this study:

1. Reasons for studying divorce in a series on marriage

- a. To emphasize the importance of Godly marriage
- b. Divorce is much more common in society and in the church
- c. We want to prevent divorces
- d. We need a scriptural answer for those affected by divorce
- e. There is much misunderstanding about what the Bible says

FACT: DIVORCE IS ALWAYS THE RESULT OF SIN

2. A discussion of sin

- a. God hates all sin
- b. God loves sinners
- c. God can forgive all sins (except one)
- d. All sin is sin – but some have more serious consequences

FACT: GOD HATES DIVORCE

3. Why God hates divorce

- a. the personal consequences
- b. the disruption of relationships
- c. the effect on children
- d. the complications for parenting
- e. the heritage for future generations
- f. the spiritual consequences

FACT: DIVORCE HAPPENS

4. Definitions

- a. marriage = a covenant between two people
- b. adultery = covenant breaking
- c. divorce = the formal/legal breaking of a marriage

FACT: MARRIAGE IS RIGHT, DIVORCE IS WRONG

5. What the Bible says

Moses protected women in the event of divorce
Deut. 24:1-4

Jesus simply referred people to the original plan
Matt. 5:31-32
Matt. 19:1-10
Mark 10:1-12
Luke 16:18

Paul answered questions about divorce and remarriage in 1 Cor. 7.
(We do not know details of the questions or the situations addressed.) He advised:
Christians who separate should stay unmarried
If an unbeliever leaves, the Christian is not bound
Those previously divorced could marry

FACT: SIN COMPLICATES LIFE

6. How do we apply all of this?

- a. There is no clear 1,2,3 answer for all situations
- b. We endorse the original plan: stay married for life
- c. When the original plan is threatened in a marriage, we help in every way possible, including church discipline
- d. When the original plan is violated by divorce
 1. We counsel and give the best advice we can
 2. Hard hearts may not follow our advice
 3. God can forgive a truly penitent person of anything
- e. The sin of covenant-breaking creates one of the hardest situations for spiritual leaders