



God Hates Divorce

- ▶ "... *The Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by **covenant** ... and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. **For I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel**" (Malachi 2:14-16 NASU).*

Why Do Marriages Succeed?

- ▶ Each is alert to the needs of the other.
 - Proverbs 31:10-12, 27
 - Ephesians 5:21-33 Love and respect.
- ▶ Neither will deny the other normal sexual pleasure. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4
- ▶ Each provides emotional security for the other. Colossians 3:19; Titus 2:3-4

Why Do Marriages Succeed?

- ▶ Parenthood is made a reality where it is possible. Psalms 127:3-5
- ▶ Both partners make wise and unselfish use of their resources. Proverbs 31:13-34; 1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11

Why So Many Broken Homes?

- ▶ Don't believe in God. cf. Hebrews 3:12
- ▶ Don't believe what God says. Hebrews 1:1-2

God's Basic Rule

- Matthew 19:1-9 Jesus explains this basic rule.**
Jesus reaffirmed Genesis 2:24 and explained its implications.
- a. **REQUIRES** one man for one woman
"a man," "his wife."
 - b. **EXCLUDES** all immorality - **"a man," "his wife," "one flesh"** = no fornication, adultery, polygamy, concubines, homosexuals, bestiality.

God's Basic Rule

c. *"EXCEPT"* - The general rule when one divorces and remarries.

- This cause, only this cause, no other cause.
- When our hearts are filled with a respect for the authority of Christ, then that is the surest guarantee I know against divorce.

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