

Sermon Notes – March 1, 2020

God's Word on the Painful Discussion of Divorce and Remarriage

1 Corinthians 7:10–15; Matthew 19:9

Pastor Jeff Hinds

Our Mission:

Helping people take the next step in one's relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Vision Statement:

Connect: *Connect through authentic community with other Christ-followers;* **Grow:** *Grow in one's personal relationship with Jesus;*

Go: *Go and serve others sharing love and the gospel.*

1. God's desire is for all of us to stay in the marriage that we are in—as far as it depends upon us (Matthew 19:6).
2. God calls “divorce” a thing which He hates and a violent act (Malachi 2:16).
3. God permissively allows divorce, without the taint of sin, to innocent spouses who are victims of adulterous spouses (porneia) (Matthew 5:31–32, 19:9).
4. God permissively allows divorce, without the taint of sin, to innocent spouses who are victims of desertion (chorizetai) (1 Corinthians 7:15).

★I believe that “separating” or “leaving” (chorizetai) also includes spousal abuse (which ought to be reported to legal authorities). If one is being abused, one should get out of the house and immediately contact the authorities. One should not return until, or unless, the following are fully met:

- a. Mandatory separation until safety can be assured
- b. Mandatory, professional counseling for the abuser (and the victim)
- c. Return only if a professional counselor is convinced that it is safe to return
- d. The victim feels willing to return and feels safe returning.