

GOD'S WORD  
CURRENT EXCUSES  
FOR DIVORCE

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*Our Heavenly Father gives only ONE reason for divorce*

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**N**O-ONE likes the idea of divorce. Everyone starts life with the recognition that it's wrong. Life's experiences, however, often change our Theology, changing our beliefs. We see things differently. Then, to align our beliefs with what we are doing, or want to do, we find explanations that ease our discomfort with the idea of divorce.

The following are some of the more common, "justifications," used today to justify one's desire to divorce. In this message we address these excuses with the hope and prayer that the Words of our Saviour Are still able to impact the reader's actions, that our Lord's righteousness is still able to direct and move the reader. We pray that the reader's heart hasn't yet been hardened against the Words of the Lord to the point that Jesus Is no longer the actual **Lord** of their life. The Words of our Lord and Saviour, written in this message, will have no effect at all on the person who has never made Jesus their Lord, or on the person who has been hardened against their Lord. We are speaking, here, the Words of God; only the sincere Christian will overcome their emotions and take heed. But, nonetheless, the Word of God Is for all: christian and nonchristian alike.

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

**I Tim. 4:1 - 2 The BIBLE**

5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ Is in you, except ye be reprobates?

**II Corinthians 13:5 The BIBLE**

## SOME OF THE CURRENT EXCUSES BEING USED:

### 1) ***BUT THE PASTOR SAID I COULD!***

This was the very first excuse ever used to try to justify one's own actions: the claim that someone else said it was okay, **despite what GOD said**: it was the excuse used by both Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden!

12 And the man said, The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

**Genesis 3:12-13 The BIBLE**

When those who should know and speak the righteousness of God do not, it can be very tempting to use that as an excuse to do what's wrong. When an authority says it's alright to go against the Words of God, it's easy to claim that we were simply misdirected, even when our conscience and the Word of God tell us what actually is right, instead. We do what we want, using that person as a justification, either before or after our sin! But regardless of the identity or qualifications of the person justifying our sin, our sin is still sin! However, it is in this situation that our commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ can be shown to be most genuine: when we follow JESUS' Words, rather than the words of man! Because, "HE/SHE made me do it!" never justified anyone! If there's ever a conflict, if ever in doubt, "What does the Word of GOD say?!"

13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

14 They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

**Jeremiah 6:13-14 The BIBLE**

13 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in My Name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

**Jeremiah 14:13-14 The BIBLE**

23 Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words in My Name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and Am a witness, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 29:23 The BIBLE**

16 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.

17 They say still unto them that despise Me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

18 For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard His Word? who hath marked His Word, and heard It?

**Jeremiah 23:16-18 The BIBLE**

- when the word of the pastor/minister/priest/prophet/Bible teacher seeks to comfort the disobedient and sinful by giving them words of peace when they are defying the Word of God. When they say, “you shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place,” in other words, when they say, “divorce is okay in this place/situation; you’ll have peace with God.” When wondering what the Lord says about divorce, about your situation, (*18 “For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard His Word? who hath marked His Word, and heard It?”*) don’t go to man to find out what God says; read your Bible! Given the chance, a person will give their personal, variable, and arbitrary opinion. But the Word of God stands forever.

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together:  
for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.  
6 The voice said, Cry.  
And he said, What shall I cry?  
All flesh is grass,  
and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field:  
7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
because the Spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it:  
surely the people is grass.  
8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.  
**Isaiah 40:5-8 The BIBLE**

When the word of the pastor/minister/priest/prophet/Bible teacher is different than the Word of God, their word is NOT the Word of God, but just the same as anyone else’s words: their own opinion, interpretation, and biases. When it defies the Word of God, following the word of such a person is sin.

8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.  
9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;  
10 And come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My Name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?  
**Jeremiah 7:8-10 The BIBLE**

## 2) **SICKNESS**

A tendency very disturbing to witness is the abandonment of one’s spouse in time of sickness – usually the spouse’s sickness.

Marriage is made and sealed in heaven, regardless of our opinions on the matter or lack of respect for it. A spouse’s inability to live up to our expectations of them is in no way an excuse to leave them! Their body and their sickness are in God’s Hands; our leaving them is an affront to what God Himself has willed for our life, for better or for worse, til death do us part!

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:  
16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

...

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

**I Pet. 2:15-16, 19-21 The BIBLE**

1 LORD, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle?  
who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?

...

... He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

*(He that swears a [marriage] oath, and even if it harms him/her, doesn't break it.)*

**Psalms 15:1-4 The BIBLE**

There is nothing quite like the steadiness of a faithful Christian with a sick spouse to glorify God (and the Christian!), and nothing quite like an unfaithful, "Christian," spouse to bring God (and the, "Christian") shame!

### **3) PERSONAL PROBLEMS / UNPOPULARITY / LEGAL TROUBLE / PRISON**

Our spouse's personal problems always involve the entire family, and often it is their own fault, that their family is suffering because of them! But nevertheless this is not that only reason for divorce given by Jesus: sexual intercourse with another. Marriage is made in heaven, by God Himself, and, "what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder," Jesus said: Matthew 19:6.

You were married, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance." (Regardless of whether or not your marriage oath made all these guarantees, it is these guarantees that our Heavenly Father has established and expects of us in marriage.) And it is partly because of the possibility of PERSONAL PROBLEMS / UNPOPULARITY / LEGAL TROUBLE / PRISON that we made our marriage vows: to guarantee our spouse our faithfulness in their possible time of trouble, and to be guaranteed our spouse's faithfulness in time of our trouble! It is during such trials that a spouse's faithfulness and heartfelt support are most needed! And, as quoted above, in Psalm 15:1-4, our faithfulness to our spouse in their time of trouble even determines our relationship with God! Even if, "it's their own fault," our marriage is signed, sealed, and recorded in heaven. "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" - Jesus. Show mercy. Be loving, and faithful. Reflect your Saviour. He knew this was going to happen before you were even born or married; He has prepared you for this, and given you exactly what you need to endure it. Now fulfill the task He has given you so far in advance, and be faithful to Him, your God!

### **4) ABUSE / DANGER**

Nowadays anything and everything is termed, "abuse," and is considered legitimate cause for litigation or drastic action on the part of the, "victim." This is the age of, "personal empowerment;" the age of the victim. Nothing unpleasant from someone else today is tolerated; the individual must be accommodated in every way and at all costs.

For six thousand years husband and wife have lived together in patience and a determination to, "make it work." They have endured EVERY conceivable difficulty, and respected their marriages, "till death us do part." Yet, today, when difficulty arises, "divorce do us part; I'll just claim abuse!"

7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

**I Cor. 6:7 The BIBLE**

Jesus endured. For us. The worst death of all. And yet, when He asks us to endure for the sake of righteousness (for His sake), we proclaim that we, “can’t take it any more.”

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

23 Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:

**I Pet. 2:21 - 23 The BIBLE**

There may be occasion for a spouse to seek safety outside the home. Safety. (Even this is not mentioned in Scripture, so should be sought rarely and with extreme reservation, such is the sanctity of marriage.) Yet this is in no way to be seen as a reason for divorce!

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**I Cor. 7:10, 11 The BIBLE**

Marriage is made, literally, in heaven; man’s acceptance or ending of it has absolutely nothing to do with that. Marriage is performed only, “in bed,” and nothing less can destroy it, regardless of anything said, done, thought, or otherwise, by anyone. Abuse has nothing to do with it; marriage is a sacred contract made with God Himself, something that no man can put asunder. Except by the other’s adultery. Therefore any actual abuse must be dealt with separately, in itself, not as an excuse for committing another great sin: Divorce!

So if a couple does separate temporarily or divorce permanently for the sake of safety, their marriage is in no way terminated. They are to maintain their integrity, toward: God, each other, the Church, the world. They are to remain sexually celibate because, barring adultery, in God’s eyes their marriage remains, “on the books,” til death do them part.

## **5) LUSTING IN ONE'S HEART AFTER A WOMAN**

### **a) *The Difference Between the Desires of the Heart and of the Body: SEXUAL INTERCOURSE***

The woman who uses this excuse to leave her husband (this author has yet to encounter a man using this excuse) quotes the following verses:

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

**Matt. 5:27 - 28 The BIBLE**

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

**Matt. 19:9 The BIBLE**

Because her husband has at least once lusted after another woman, and has consequently committed adultery in his heart, as Jesus said, the suggestion made by this person is that she is justified in:

*i)* leaving him, *ii)* divorcing him, *iii)* marrying someone else.

However:

Jesus states in Matt. 19:

8 He saith unto them, **Moses BECAUSE OF THE HARDNESS OF YOUR HEARTS suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.**

**9 And I SAY UNTO YOU, Whosoever shall put away his wife, EXCEPT IT BE FOR FORNICATION, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.**

So, just as much as Jesus condemns the heart's desire to commit adultery, so also, Jesus condemns the heart that would commit divorce! Jesus said that *neither* of these examples of a hard heart justifies committing the sin: neither adultery, nor divorce!

Jesus thus states that it is only in the Old Testament, the days before Him and salvation, that one's heart-attitude could justify a divorce. God, "winked at" (turned a blind eye) to that sin, otherwise He would have had to destroy everyone, as He did in Noah's day!

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

**Genesis 6:5-7 The BIBLE**

Those days, Jesus says, ended with His arrival. Now that He has delivered His children (Christians) from having a hard heart, He **can** destroy in hell all those with a hard heart! In the New Testament, a sinful heart (a heart's desire for adultery or for divorce) isn't sufficient to justify divorce because the Holy Spirit can now cleanse our heart of adulterous or divorcing thoughts. And can enable us to forgive those who have those thoughts, which is what He wishes. For that reason, it is only, "**fornication**," a, 'sin of the body, not merely the heart,' that in the New Testament is sufficient for divorce. And even that is the absolute the last resort, the Bible says. Our Heavenly Father now won't destroy every sinner on earth until He returns, but He requires us all to repent of our 'sins of the heart,' rather than letting them turn into 'sins of the body.'

Moses said in **Deuteronomy 12:**

8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes

9 For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

For which reason:

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

**Acts 17:30 The BIBLE**

Jesus says that it is the *physical union* of two people that unites them in marriage; their marriage is *not* determined by their *heart condition* toward each other, not merely by their vows, nor by their public statement of intent. God makes this distinction:

15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

**I Cor. 6:15 - 17 The BIBLE**

Our Heavenly Father states here, through Paul, that it is *physical* union (sexual intercourse) that makes, "one body" (marriage). In other words, only our physical union unites our bodies into one, into marriage (the law courts, themselves, recognize the fact, in that only after a marriage is consummated, is it legally binding). Aligning two peoples' minds and hearts is a separate work from the actual marriage act (sexual intercourse). That is why our Heavenly Father commands husbands, in two places<sup>1</sup> to love their wives. However, a lack of love in no way implies a reason for divorce, but an encouragement to solidify the existing marriage with a correction of attitude. Emotion isn't enough to destroy what God has put together!

Jesus states that when two people are physically joined *God (not man)* unites them! And He states that this union is not to be destroyed by man, either - the progression in logic being that a later union with another person (adultery) would be the only act that would destroy the first union.

#### b) ***The Similarity Between ADULTERY OF THE HEART and MURDER OF THE HEART***

If one is to use Christ's comparison of lust with adultery as an excuse to divorce one's spouse, one must similarly employ the *whole* of Scripture: Jesus also compared HATE with MURDER!

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

**James 2:10 The BIBLE**

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

**I John 3: 15 The BIBLE**

If 'adultery of the heart' were sufficient reason for divorce, 'murder of the heart' would be sufficient reason for execution or prison! And, surely, the person wishing to find an excuse and opportunity to

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<sup>1</sup> Eph . 5:25, Col. 3:1

divorce their spouse doesn't wish to be sent to either prison, nor to hell for murder, murder committed by hating one's spouse enough to wish to divorce them! Rather, this person would want God's mercy and forgiveness for their 'murder of the heart!' They should be similarly ready to forgive and continue with their spouse despite their spouse's 'adultery of the heart!'

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

**James 2:12 The BIBLE**

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

**Prov. 10:12 The BIBLE**

## 6) PORNOGRAPHY

- is indeed a sin approaching very close to fornication or adultery.

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:  
28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

**Matt. 5:27 - 28 The BIBLE**

*But, again, it does not involve the physical union of two people!* It is only sexual intercourse, which constitutes marriage, *according to God, (and the law courts)* and, for that reason, the *only* thing that can *destroy* a marriage! Indeed, were pornography a legitimate reason for divorce, anybody's watching any one of many different movies or videos today would immediately be just grounds for divorce!

## 7) ABANDONMENT / NEGLECT

Neglect of one's family is indeed a great sin:

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

**I Tim. 5:8 The BIBLE**

Neglect is not, however, sexual intercourse with a person other than one's spouse; it is not adultery, and, consequently, it is not a reason for divorce. It is fully possible to live apart from one's spouse (a terrible sin, because of what it does to both spouses, and to the family), without divorcing. Again, marriage is a sacred covenant; Jesus tells us it is not able to be dissolved by anything other than sexual intercourse outside of one's marriage. Or by death.

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**I Cor. 7:10, 11 The BIBLE**

8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

10 And in the house His disciples asked Him again of the same matter.



11 And He saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

**Mark 10:8-12 The BIBLE**

### **8) THE UNBELIEVER'S DEPARTURE**

Some have attempted to claim that I Corinthians 7:11 says that if the unbelieving depart, a brother or sister 'is not under bondage to consider themselves still married!'

15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

**1 Corinthians 7:15 The BIBLE**

But such an improper interpretation would be a contradiction of other passages of Scripture which say directly the opposite, such as, "I Cor. 7:11a "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband ... ." And Scripture doesn't contradict itself, so we know that their claim is not the correct meaning of this verse. For this reason we understand that this verse does not mean that an unbelieving spouse's departure frees us from our marriage to them. The passage says, simply, exactly what it says! That the believing spouse has been given peace. Personally, and in the home, and should feel an inner peace that they've hopefully done everything within their power, and more, to hold the family together. In this case they should not feel any condemnation, as though it is their fault! No feeling of guilt! They don't need to listen to any attempts by others to bring them under condemnation for what isn't their fault!

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**Romans 8:1 The BIBLE**

While the departure will be an extremely wrenching and hurtful time, it will at the same time perhaps be somewhat of a relief, bringing peace into the heart and home! But, without adultery on the unbeliever's part, one's spouse's departure in no way implies permission from God for divorce! On the contrary! Scripture says:

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**I Cor. 7:10, 11 The BIBLE**

There is nothing like a divorce, especially a, "messy," one contending with a believer, to forever turn an unbelieving spouse from the Gospel of Christ! Remain single; maintain your integrity before: God, your spouse, the Church, and the world. You will honour God and God will honour you for it! And because of your faithfulness to your spouse and to God, with a soft heart of love and forgiveness, you may see your spouse's salvation. After all, isn't that what it's all about?

16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

**I Cor. 7:16 The BIBLE**

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

**I Pet. 2:12 The BIBLE**

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IN FACT, we are told by the Apostle Paul, who wrote this Book of the Bible by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that the short passage of verses 12-24 is not actually inspired by the Holy Spirit: these few verses, he says, are merely *his own opinions!*

12 But to the rest<sup>2</sup> **speaks I, not the Lord . . .**

**I Corinthians 7:12 The BIBLE**

So this short passage, Paul says, isn't presented as, nor can be taken as God's inspired Word nor commandments. So, if one suggests that verse 15 says that we need no longer consider ourselves married if our unbelieving spouse leaves, they cannot claim that it's a directive of our Heavenly Father! Paul says that the verse is only his personal opinion!

( The believer's attention is drawn, once again, to verses 11 and 12, a few verses previous, verses that Paul assures us are indeed inspired, and therefore commands of our Lord:

10 And unto the married **I command, yet not I, but the Lord**, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**I Cor. 7: 10-11 The BIBLE )**

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## 9) **III JUST DO IT THEN ASK FOR FORGIVENESS**

### **Stomping Jesus Into the Dirt**

There is no greater disregard for the sacrifice of the life of Christ, no greater slapping of the Face of God, than to say, "I'll just sin, then repent, and I'll get God's forgiveness." And, except for blaspheming the Holy Spirit, no surer way to fail to gain God's forgiveness!

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace?

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<sup>2</sup> "But to the rest," - refers to the rest of the things concerning which the Corinthians wrote to Paul, asking for clarification, referred to in I Cor. 7:1:

1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me . . .

**1 Corinthians 7:1 The BIBLE**

30 For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

**Heb. 10:26-32 The BIBLE**

When one has blasphemed the Holy Spirit, He **cannot** receive God's forgiveness; but when one has *instead*, "trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace," by cavalierly committing sin, with the intent to just ask and receive God's forgiveness afterwards, he **will not** receive God's forgiveness. The difference is in one's *ability* to gain from God, but there is no distinction between the consequences of the two; *the results are the same*.

### **An Indication of Damnation**

There can be no greater indication of a person's hardness of heart against the righteousness and Gift of God, than to say, "I'll just commit my sin then quickly ask for forgiveness." Christ said,

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

**Luke 6:43-45 The BIBLE**

6 Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He Is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

**I John 3:6-9 The BIBLE**

Repentance from sin is the very basis of our salvation. Without repentance there is no salvation. Repentance is not merely lip-service, or even practical service; repentance is a *heart* condition, that produces a permanent change in one's actions and lifestyle. And you can tell whether that heart condition is present by whether or not sin is. Where there is no change in heart and actions there is no change in one's relationship with God.

21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father Which Is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

**Matt. 7:21-24 The BIBLE**

So, what Scripture says is, not so much that we *cannot*, or *should not* commit sin as a Christian, but that, as a Christian, we *will not!* And that, if we continue to do so, it is an indication that we *never repented in the first place!*

8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God Is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

**Matt. 3:8-10 The BIBLE**

Forgiveness comes only with true repentance. Repentance that's insincerely based upon taking advantage of God's offer of grace is not true repentance. God knows. Repentance is not a matter of the tongue... it's a matter of the heart. God looks at the heart, not at the tongue.

4 ...Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

**Acts 5:4 The BIBLE**

4 Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**Rom. 2:4 - 5 The BIBLE**

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Heb. 10:26 - 31 The BIBLE**

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**Rom. 6:1 - 2 The BIBLE**

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

**Matt. 5:8 The BIBLE**

**10) I NO LONGER LOVE THEM; IT WOULD BE WRONG TO STAY**

In our Heavenly Father's eyes, marriage isn't established by nor based upon emotional love; neither love or emotion has anything to do with the actual substance of marriage. Marriage is an institution, one made in heaven, just as a parent-child relationship is an institution made in heaven, established by God, regardless of emotion by either of them. Just as the parental relationship never ceases as long as the life of both continues, marriage, also, is a divinely established, irreversible contract between God and man&woman. Our Heavenly Father has established that not emotional love, but sexual intercourse between a man and a woman is what establishes marriage.<sup>3</sup> It is for this reason that a mere lack of love cannot erase a marriage. "What God has joined together let not man put asunder," Jesus said: Matthew 19:6. While marriage is established by sexual intercourse, it is maintained by commitment. Commitment will hold the marriage together and enable it to endure as the institution that God has established even if emotional love fades. And commitment will ensure that love exists and continues in the marriage as an action, even if love disappears as an emotion. Commitment is what holds a family together between everyone in the family: love as an action, even when emotional love is hard to find!

The husband is indeed required by God to love his wife.<sup>4</sup> The wife is to love her husband.<sup>5</sup> Emotion can't be legislated; this is a command to take the actions that characterize God's love: to give one's self totally to another person even when emotions dictate otherwise.<sup>6</sup> And because this is a command to take an action; it doesn't require an emotion, so a lack of love here would not be a mere *condition of the heart*, as much as a *disobedience, a sin!* What our Heavenly Father expects of His children is so often contrary to what our heart wishes! The carnal, fleshly person automatically follows the dictates of their emotions, an easy and natural path, and one of damnation. This is why our Saviour came to earth: to enable us to live a Godly life, a life of truth and righteousness established upon the foundation of the character of God Himself, and His righteousness. It is contrary to the fleshly 'Old Man,' of our old nature, that doomed us to a tortuous eternity.

And a disobedience can be changed. Nor is one's own disobedience, or a spouse's disobedience, in this regard, justification for leaving one's spouse. Marriage, like holiness or Christianity, is an institution, not an emotion. We continue living the Christian life even when we don't feel like it, just as Jesus went to

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<sup>3</sup> 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:16

<sup>4</sup> Eph. 5:25,28,33; Col. 3:19

<sup>5</sup> Titus 2:4

<sup>6</sup> 42 Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done.

43 And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

44 And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:42-44

8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love.

10 If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:8-14

the cross for us despite not feeling like it! And we continue in our marriage even when we don't feel like it. These are states established by decisions, not feelings. And breaking either one is characteristic, not of the Christian, but of someone unsaved. As divorce and remarriage without one's spouse's having committed adultery, is itself adultery, or because our divorce may cause our spouse to commit adultery, divorce itself may be considered adultery and is a sin unto death. Brother, sister, REPENT!

Obedience to God is a decision.  
 Rebellion against God is characteristic of the unsaved.  
 Loving obedience to God is what sends us to heaven.

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Matthew 7:13-14 The BIBLE**

### **AFTER AN ILLEGITIMATE, "DIVORCE"**

There is nothing a person can do if their spouse decides to commit divorce; our earthly laws now permit it, regardless of what the other spouse wants. So our Heavenly Father tells us to not feel under condemnation for the divorce: it is not our doing!

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

**1 Corinthians 7:10-16 The BIBLE**

But we read, in the same passage, "But and if *he*/she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband... ." v. 11. In other words, let them depart; you have not committed this sin, so don't be under condemnation. But our Heavenly Father tells us to remain unmarried!

Even if one's spouse divorces, the other is to continue to recognize their marriage in every way. Because God does. The marriage is not over, even after divorce, until their spouse commits physical adultery. If this is a matter of concern, the Christian spouse can also keep track of their rebellious spouse... to get an idea of whether/when the rebellious spouse commits adultery.)<sup>7</sup> But, either way, it will eventually be revealed.

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<sup>7</sup> If this is the case, the Christian spouse, desiring remarriage, and watching their rebellious spouse to this end,

22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

**Mark 4:22 The BIBLE**

2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

**Luke 12:2-3 The BIBLE**

***“Caused him/her to commit adultery”***

32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

**Matt. 5:32 The BIBLE**

1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other (*by refusing them sex*), except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your abstinence.

...

9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

**I Cor. 7:1-5, 9 The BIBLE**

It is extremely improper to one's spouse to deny them intimacy; that was one of the reasons they married in the first place. To be separated from one's spouse is therefore a deep responsibility that one

should remember the verse,

**I Cor. 13:6 The BIBLE**

(Love) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

God's love (and, therefore, the love expected of His children) does not, "rejoice in iniquity," or, "find delight in sin." In such a situation the Christian might indeed find himself wishing that their spouse would sin, to free them to marry again. But the sincere Christian will resist this desire for their sin! Prayer helps at such times. The Christian should pray for his/her spouse, and indeed pray for their restoration to God and to them. They should pray, indeed, that their rebellious spouse will *not* sin! God will honour such a prayer offered under such circumstances!

Indeed, Job found that when he prayed for his attackers, his, so-called, "friends," God heard also his prayer for his own deliverance. (The present author, also, can testify to the same experience in divorce!) Pray, from the heart, that your spouse WON'T sin! Pray for their blessing! God will honour you!

**Job 42:10 The BIBLE**

10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, **when he prayed for his "friends:"** also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before!

must bear, and take only very reluctantly; one's spouse acted honourably toward their beloved and toward God, by marrying in the first place! To be separate from them and to deny them the sexual intimacy for which they acted honourably places them into the position of potentially committing adultery. This sin would therefore be, at least partially, the fault and responsibility of the separating spouse! Let one's separation take place only under the greatest duress... and as temporarily as possible! For one's own sake!

### **Return!**

WE HAVE have seen that the Bible tells us that adultery committed by our spouse is the only legitimate reason for divorce.

Marriage is made in heaven, and is life-long; no divorce for any other reason is legitimate in God's eyes! And, whether we later regret it or not, our marriage is registered in heaven and sealed. If you have divorced your spouse for any reason (other than their adultery), and neither you nor they have remarried, you two are still married! Your two flesh are still one! This is not annulled by time, emotion, circumstance, nor by any other thing. Marriage is a vow made to God.

2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

### **Ecclesiastes 5:2-7 The BIBLE**

If neither of you has remarried return, or seek to return, to your spouse. Fulfill your vow to God. Man's divorce or recognition of divorce has absolutely nothing to do with God's opinion of it. God's ways and opinions of a matter are so much higher and greater than ours are, and what HE says matters!

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where-



to I sent it.

**Isaiah 55:7-11 The BIBLE**

And it is in fact in our best interest that we seek reconciliation with our spouse, as, without it, we are unable to remarry!

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

**Matthew 19:9 The BIBLE**

### ***Repent and do Works Meet for Repentance!***

A sin that we have committed once is a sin that is a hundred times easier to commit a second time! It is a whole that has been opened in our commitment to God, through which much more of our commitment immediately begins to unceasingly escape. God commands us to close that hole! Even a Christian must constantly practice this repair of his commitment to God!

Adultery is especially important to repent of and rid oneself of, as it is a sin unto death! This is a sin that will send one to hell! And if divorce is not repented of it can easily lead to adultery!

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

**Hebrews 13:4 The BIBLE**

Merely saying the sinner's prayer and doing mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Holy Spirit is insufficient to ensure one's salvation!

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father Which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy Name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

**Matthew 7:16 - 23 The BIBLE**

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man Whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.

**Acts 17:30-31 The BIBLE**