

Sermon Series: Taboo Vol. 2

Today's Subject: **Divorce**



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Introduction

Few topics carry more pain, emotion, and complexity than divorce. For some, it is deeply personal. For others, it has impacted parents, children, friendships, or extended family. Because of that, conversations about divorce are often surrounded by guilt, shame, anger, or confusion.

Yet Scripture does not avoid hard conversations. Jesus addressed divorce honestly, compassionately, and truthfully. The goal is not condemnation, but clarity. God's heart for marriage is restoration, covenant, and faithfulness—while also recognizing the broken realities of sin in a fallen world.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 19:3–6

Malachi 2:16

Matthew 19:7–10

1 Corinthians 7:15

Romans 8:1

Joel 2:25

What Should Christians Understand About Divorce?

Scripture presents both the seriousness of divorce and the grace of God. Marriage matters deeply to God because it reflects covenant, commitment, and His faithful love.

1. Divorce Is DEVASTATING

Matthew 19:3–6 reminds us of God’s original design for marriage. Jesus points back to creation and says, “What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Marriage is not merely a legal agreement—it is a covenant joined by God. Because of that, divorce carries real damage. When something sacred is torn apart, there is often emotional, relational, spiritual, and generational pain.

Malachi 2:16 reflects God’s grief over covenant unfaithfulness. God hates the destruction divorce brings because He values covenant and loves people.

This is why marriage should never be approached casually, and why reconciliation should be pursued whenever possible.

2. Divorce Is PERMITTED

While God’s design is lifelong covenant, Scripture recognizes situations where divorce may be permitted because of severe covenant breaking.

Jesus addresses sexual immorality in Matthew 19:7–10. Persistent, unrepentant adultery represents a serious violation of the marriage covenant.

1 Corinthians 7:15 speaks of abandonment: “If the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so.” God does not require believers to remain bound when an unbelieving spouse fully walks away from the covenant.

Physical harm and abuse also represent serious covenant violations. God does not call people to remain in ongoing danger or harm. Protection and safety matter deeply to God.

Even when divorce may be biblically permitted, it should never be pursued casually or quickly. Wise counsel, prayer, and restoration efforts should always be considered.

3. Divorce Is NOT DEFINING

For many, divorce carries shame, regret, disappointment, or feelings of failure. But your hardest chapter is not your whole story.

Romans 8:1 reminds believers: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Divorce may describe part of your experience, but it does not define your identity in Christ. Grace, forgiveness, healing, and hope are still available.

Joel 2:25 offers hope: "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten." God restores what feels broken, heals wounds, and redeems painful stories.

A Word of Hope

Do not give up on your marriage before God does. God is able to soften hearts, rebuild trust, restore intimacy, and renew hope.

At the same time, if divorce is part of your story, know this: God's grace is not finished with you. The gospel offers hope for struggling marriages and wounded hearts alike.

Application

- Treat marriage as sacred and worth protecting.
- Seek prayer, wise counsel, and reconciliation whenever possible.
- Understand that while divorce may be permitted in some circumstances, it is never God's ideal.
- Reject shame and receive God's grace if divorce is part of your story.
- Trust God's ability to restore what feels broken or lost.

Conclusion

Divorce is devastating. Divorce may be permitted. But divorce is not defining.

God's heart remains for covenant, restoration, and healing. Whether you are fighting for a marriage, grieving a broken one, or learning to trust again, God's grace still meets you where you are.

Do not give up on your marriage before God does. And never believe that brokenness places you beyond the reach of restoration.