

Don't Leave!
1 Corinthians 7:10-16

I. Consulting God on Divorce and Remarriage

A. Read the fine print

1. read the fine print -
 - a. To make oneself aware of the specific terms, conditions, restrictions, limitations, etc., of an agreement, contract, or other document, which are often printed in very small type and thus easy to miss.
2. Why?
 - a. Dog Leased Not Leashed
 - (1) But excitement can sometimes blind us from the truth, as Dawn Sabins learned when she received her credit report. Instead of being charged \$2,400, she saw she was charged \$5,800.
 - (2) Confused, she called the company. Turns out she failed to read the fine print. Instead of financing the adoption, she was leasing the dog. The fine print stated she would be charged \$165.06 for 34 months and only then would she be eligible to buy the dog.
 - b. Grant of License to Your Content (Social Media Platform)
 - (1) A. You warrant and represent that you own the rights to or are otherwise authorized to post, display, perform, transmit, or otherwise distribute and sublicense the material you submit, post or display on or through the Services ("Your Content"). You retain ownership of all right, title, and interest in Your Content. However, during the course of your use of the Services, you grant [company X] a license to use and distribute Your Content. More specifically, by posting, downloading, displaying, performing, transmitting, or otherwise distributing Your Content on or through the Services,
 - (2) *you are granting [company X], its, parent company, and their affiliates, assigns, employees, agents and licensees the nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, sublicenseable and transferrable right and license to reproduce, display, distribute, adapt, prepare derivative works of, promote and perform Your Content in any medium and through any media channel for the purpose of (a) making Your Content available on the Services, (b) conducting [company X] internal business affairs, and (c) advertising, marketing and business development purposes.*
3. **It is important to take the time to know the whole story!**

B. Caveats Regarding God's Revelation about Divorce and Remarriage

1. Opinions abound but God's opinion overrules them all
 - a. God's purpose for creation takes precedence over all other considerations.
 - (1) God creates in order to fill creation with the knowledge of His glory
 - (a) **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*
 - (2) God sends and sacrifices His Son for the sake of filling creation with the knowledge of His glory
 - (a) **John 1:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
 - (b) **John 7:18 (ESV)** ¹⁸ *The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.*
 - (3) God saves and seals the church to expand the knowledge of His glory in the world
 - (a) **Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)** ²⁰ *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,* ²¹ *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*
 - (4) God disciples believers and sends them to make disciples through the word and the Spirit in order that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.
 - (a) **2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (ESV)** ⁶ *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
 - b. You exist, you and everyone else, with all your life options and experiences as components of God's plan to fill the earth with the experiential, personal knowledge of God in all His perfections and glory.
 - c. Practical Application Questions Christians Have Committed to Asking (Whether they realize it or not!)
 - (1) Does this relationship I am in or considering entering expand the knowledge of God's glory in the world?
 - (2) Does the way in which I conduct myself in this relationship express the reality of God's personal glory to the world?
 - (3) Will my departure from this relationship honor God and

manifest the value of His glory to the world?

- (a) If you are in a relationship that includes sex outside of marriage, the answer to that question is “yes.”
 - i) **Mark 9: 43-48** *43 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48 ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’*
- (b) If you are married and have vowed before God to remain committed to one another for life, no matter what, then the answer to this question, according to God, is “no.”

2. Experiences abound

- a. People get divorced and remarry
 - (1) Some people do not know what God says about divorce and remarriage so they follow the best wisdom they can find.
 - (2) Some people know a little about what God says about divorce and remarriage, so, thinking they might be the exception to the rule, reluctantly do what they think is best for themselves, very often thinking God’s primary concern in the universe is not His glory but their personal experience of human happiness.
 - (3) Some people know and understand God’s perspective on divorce, and with a full and defiant rebellion, seek their own answers to their marital dilemmas and divorce and remarry because they refuse to accept that God’s ways are ultimately the best ways in every situation.
- b. We are not here to today to pass judgment on people’s experiences.
 - (1) We are here to bring God’s word to light so that each of us may judge our own hearts against the will and ways of God.
 - (2) We are here to let God’s truth mold and shape us, not being conformed to this world but being transformed (**Rom 12:2**) for the sake of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord in our own generation and the ones that will follow.

3. Emotions abound

- a. Few enter marriage anticipating divorce.
- b. Divorce, at the very least raises feelings of disappointment, loss and failure, and at the worst: hostility, rage, anger, and revenge

- c. We are not going to ignore the emotions or the personal connections that come with talking about divorce and remarriage, but neither will we ignore the word of God and the grace of God in order to protect ourselves from emotion.
 - d. It is not the passage of time but the application of God's truth that heals the wounds of a broken heart and we are pursuing the healing power of God's truth today.
4. Grace abounds
- a. God hates divorce!
 - (1) (NIV, NASB, KJV but not ESV) **Malachi 2:16 (NIV)** ¹⁶ *"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.*
 - (a) Divorce = covering oneself with violence
 - (b) Divorce = Breaking faith
 - (2) Human beings who do what God hates commit sin against His glory
 - (3) Other sins God hates
 - (a) **Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV)** *There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*
 - (b) Why does God hate these things?
 - i) They are exactly the opposite of His glory therefore their expression in human act and attitude give glory to the evil one rather than God.
 - ii) They destroy both the sinner and the ones sins against, people created in His image whom God loves
 - iii) When God declares His hatred for divorce it is because it denies His glory and hurts people whom He loves.
 - b. Divorce and remarriage are not unforgivable sins.
 - (1) **Mark 3:28-30 (ESV)** ²⁸ *"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— ³⁰ for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."*
 - (2) Every sin, every act or attitude that denies the glory of God

or harms a person God loves can be forgiven, will be forgiven when confessed and repented of.

- (a) God does not bear grudges!
- (b) A sin forgiven is a sin forgotten!
 - i) **Psalm 32:5 (ESV)** ⁵ *I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*
 - ii) **Psalm 103:12 (ESV)** ¹² *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*
 - iii) **Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)** ²⁵ *"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.*
- (c) A sin confessed is a sin forgiven
 - i) **Proverbs 28:13 (ESV)** ¹³ *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*
 - ii) **1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)** ⁸ *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - iii) **Isaiah 44:22 (ESV)** ²² *I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.*

II. Paul and the Corinthians and Us Regarding Divorce and Remarriage (Next Week)

A. Paul tackles a major social issue head on

1. **1 Corinthians 7:10-13 (ESV)** ¹⁰ *To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. ¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.*

B. We have started by laying a foundation in glory and in grace.

1. Get glory and grace in place first and you're prepared for the radically counter-cultural revelation God extends regarding divorce and remarriage.
2. Spend time this week confessing and repenting of sin and seeking God's grace in your life.
3. Make a concerted effort to see the supremacy of God's glory in His word, in your life, and at work in the world.