

The Divorce Question **A Theological and Practical Issue**

Intro

1. Societal
2. Spiritual

Individual- Christians

Institutional- Churches

Moral Dilemmas do exist.

In a fallen world there are moral dilemmas. With moral dilemmas, there will be multiple options. Often, there is a biblical defense for more than one option.

There are real moral choices that need to be made, but that does not mean that people always hold to the same answer.

"Do we not have to accept the fact that under the shadow of forgiveness different decisions are possible and different loyalties and liberties may exist?"

- Helmut Thielcke

I. Description of the Views

A. Restrictive View- Never

1. Textual

Matt. 5, 19 (Not found in Mk and Lk)

Mal. 2:14ff

Gen 1-2

2. Theological

Covenant (Carl Laney Bill Heth * changed view)

Betrothal (Bill Yarger, J D Pentecost, John Piper)

Levirate Marriage Lev 18 (C.C. Ryrie, Walt Kaiser)

B. Liberal View -Always

1. Biblical Reasons

2. Sociological Reasons

- C. Conditional View- Only if.....
 - 1. Adultery- Porneia, Homosexuality (Erasmus, John Murray, John Frame)
 - 2. Desertion (Non Christian Spouse Jay Adams, John Frame, Wayne Grudem)
 - 3. Physical harm and other reasons (C Keener, Wayne Grudem)
 - 4. Pornography
 - Internet addiction (Steve Tracy)

- II. Defense of the Views
 - A. Matt. 5, 19
 - 1. Lexical Issue
 - 2. Grammatical Issue
 - 4. Theological Issue
 - 5. Cultural Issue
 - B. Duet. 24:1ff
 - 1. Theocracy
 - 2. Theology
 - C. Mal. 2:14-16
 - D. Ezra 10:10-11
 - E. Rom 7:1 ff
 - F. I Cor. 7:10-16

- III. Discussion of Remarriage
 - A. "Innocent party?"
 - B. What if unbiblical remarriage?
 - C. The Pastors obligation to the people and to the Lord

- IV. Divorce and Leadership in the Church

A. Text
I Tim 3:1-3, 12 (Titus 1:6)

B. Theology

1. Grace of God

2. Forgiveness from God

3. Law of the Lord... But are we sure we know?

Try to decide your theological position before you must put it into practice
The Balance of Grace and Truth are Essential
“Speaking the truth in Love”