



Community Group Lesson Plan • Abbotsford

Title of Sermon: Divorce

Passage: 1 Corinthians 7:8-16

What instructions does Paul give regarding divorce:

1. Between a believer and an unbeliever
 - a. Have you considered or used 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 when talking to people about divorce? Why or why not?
 - b. Read 1 John 3:9-10. How does the individualistic culture we live in influence how we interpret and apply this text?
 - c. How do the principles in Matthew 18:15-20 correct our cultural thinking regarding the autonomy of the individual to make decisions regarding marriage and divorce?
 - d. Marriages are public and we ask others to hold us accountable
 - i. Do we view our public vow making in weddings as the foundation for accountability with others in our marriages? Why or why not?
 - ii. Do we think our church family has the right to speak to us regarding our marriage? Why or why not?
 - iii. Read Proverbs 17:9 and Matthew 18:15-16. Why do these verses not contradict each other? (The issue is the difference between “airing dirty laundry” and confronting unrepentant sin.)
 - e. The church shouldn't be the last call when our marriages are in trouble
 - i. Why don't we want to involve the church?
 - ii. Does past misuse of church discipline, or the fear of potential misuse, free us from following the Matthew 18 model?
 - iii. Do we believe the church leadership possesses authority to discern and give direction in these matters?
 - f. There are biblical principles to manage divorce and remarriage
 - i. What were the biblical principles for divorce?
 - ii. Is this a new idea for you that there are legitimate, biblical reasons for divorce and remarriage after divorce? Why or why not?



2. Between two believers
 - a. Call for Renewed Commitment
 - i. What does it look like to renew commitment in your marriage?
 - b. Call for Reconciliation
 - i. What does it look like to pursue reconciliation with a divorced or separated believing spouse?
 - c. Call for Remaining Unmarried
 - i. Is this a hard word? Why or why not?
 - ii. How does Paul's teaching on singleness in 1 Corinthians 7:32-38 inform our thoughts about this call?
 - d. Call for Repentance
 - i. Individual response: 1 John 1:9 tells us that God is just to forgive our sins, yet part of repentance is to seek forgiveness from others. What would repentance look like after an unbiblical divorce?
 - ii. Corporate response: How do we as a church help divorced individuals feel accepted in the church family?

For support in your personal situation, please contact care@northview.org.
For theological questions on this topic, please email extra@northview.org.

Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

Benediction - 2 Corinthians 13:11 NIV

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."