



CLEAR THE AIR

Burning Issues
Confronting Christians Today



Divorce, Annulment, and Remarriage

**MALACHI 2:13-16; MATTHEW 19:3-9;
1 CORINTHIANS 7:12-15**

STUDY GUIDE

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STUDY GUIDE • CLEAR THE AIR!

Divorce, Annulment, and Remarriage

Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:12-15

WELCOME:

Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask members of your GG members how many of them are married, and for how many years they have been married. Was there a time when misunderstandings, disagreements on major issues, or persistent quarrels and fights caused either of the spouse to think of just giving up on the marriage and contemplate the option of annulment or divorce (although it is still illegal in the country)? How did the Word of God prevent them from walking away and filing the lawsuit?

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

- [God Gave Me You](#)
- [I Will Be Here](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will know God's reason for man and woman to be married and what his view is on divorce.
2. GG members will learn to what extent a married couple should try to work on their marriage before considering the final option of separation, annulment, or divorce.
3. GG members will be taught the Biblical grounds or conditions for a married person to seek annulment or divorce and, if possible, remarry.

INTRODUCTION

The sanctity of matrimony was ordained by God and is inviolate. Given, however, the sinful nature of human beings, there will be instances or circumstances wherein married couples would find themselves intolerable of each other, disrespecting, hurting, and even hating one another, to the point that one party or the other would become unfaithful, or would abandon the spouse altogether.

The Sanctity of Marriage as Purposed by God

Marriage was the very first institution established by God. He did it right after creating Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. This shows us that marriage is sacred. Let us learn more about what the Bible teaches about marriage.

1. What was God's good and perfect plan between a man and a woman? (Genesis 2:18,21–22,24)
2. What is the spirit of the covenant of union between a man and his wife? What is expected for the union to be kept faithful? (Malachi 2:13–16)
3. What was Jesus' perspective on the sanctity of marriage? (Mark 10:2–9)

The Biblical Grounds for the Dissolution of a Marriage

Though God meant for husband and wife to remain married to each other for their entire lifetimes, there are some exceptions to the rule because of sin.

1. What did Jesus mean by sexual immorality? (Matthew 5:32; 19:9) What are examples of sexual immorality that are grounds for a spouse to seek redress and file for divorce?
2. What is another Biblical basis for divorce besides sexual immorality? (1 Corinthians 7:12-15)
3. Are there any Biblical and/or extra-Biblical grounds for a spouse to seek divorce or annulment? (e.g. verbal, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; neglect)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Principles Concerning Biblical Grounds for Remarriage

The Bible teaches that there are situations or circumstances in which a person is allowed to remarry. Let's take a look at them.

1. When either one of the spouses dies. (Romans 7:1–3; 1 Corinthians 7:39)
2. When the marriage is severely broken, and every reconciliatory effort by the church or counselors are not able to convince the estranged spouses to keep the marriage. (1 Corinthians 7:15)
3. When an earlier was officially and legally dissolved. (Matthew 19:9)

Application

The reality of life is that not every marriage is made in heaven. Two distinct, separate people with different personalities may find themselves bound together in the holy matrimony of marriage, only to find out later in their union that their differences seem to be too huge and impossible to bridge.

However, it is not altogether hopeless. When couples use God's Word as their divine guidance, they can navigate through difficult times in their marriage. God has given believing couples His Spirit as the source of their strength so that their marriage may not end in divorce.




Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to remember the vows that we made during the rite of marriage and the covenant of love that was committed to you and to each other. Fill us with your Holy Spirit to enable us to wholeheartedly trust in your Word that you have so graciously given us, so that we can live a life of righteousness and glorify your name. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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