

“Here’s Why God Hates Divorce”

Matthew 5:31-32

June 29, 2025

INTRO: *What comes to mind when you think about divorce?*

- Painful, broken marriages & ravaged families...
- Personal & multi-generational devastation...
- “It’s no big deal... everyone’s doing it today.”
- “I’m single – it has nothing to do with me.”

PRAYER

BIG IDEA:

Divorce hurts far more than people realize!

*(Divorce sucks because it brings sinful division & destruction to **God’s miraculous mission** of loving glorification, unification & multiplication!)*

GOD HATES WHAT HURTS HIS LOVE. - JDP

PREVIEW: Let’s look at the text & task before us...

both require a: 1). Contextual, 2). Personal, 3). Physical, 4). Cultural, 5). Biblical, 6). Spiritual, & 7). Missional definition & understanding of divorce...

TEXT:

Matthew 5:31-32

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him (he must) give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

I. CONTEXTUAL

"It was also said..."

A. GOD'S WORD (thus far in Matthew's Gospel)

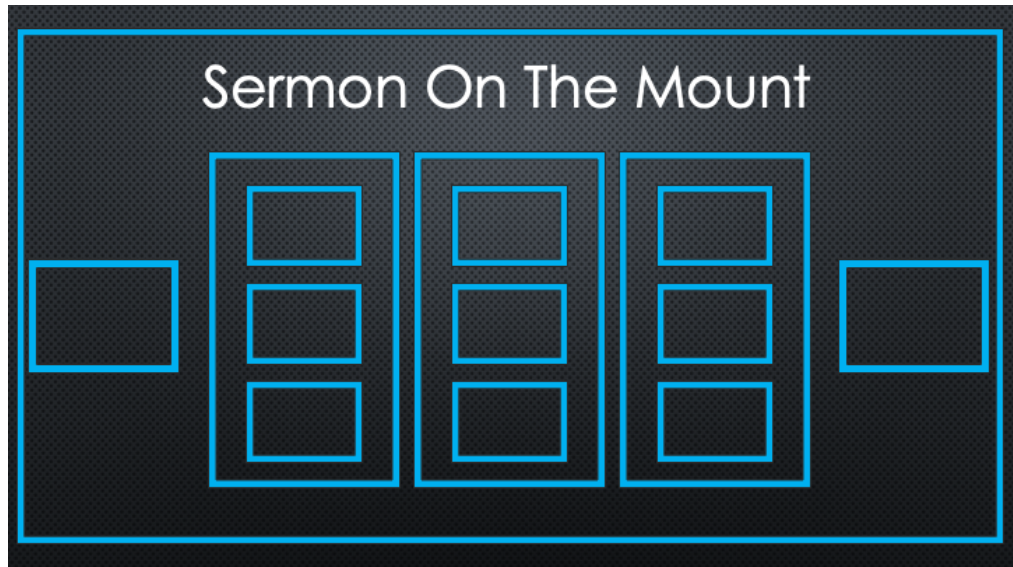
RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIPS

Christology
Warfare
Righteousness
Spirit-led

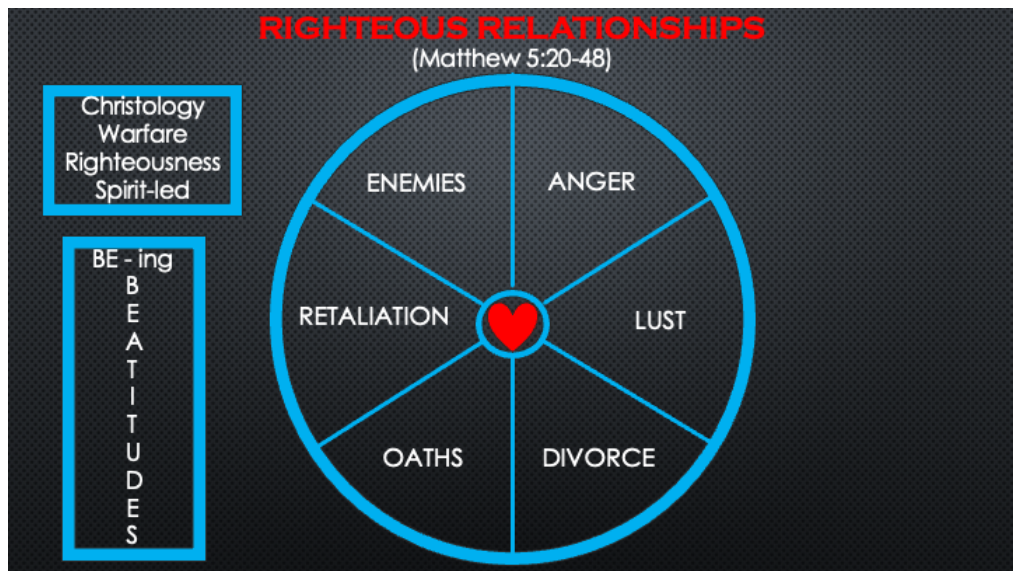
BE-ing
B
E
A
T
I
T
U
D
E
S

*Biblical righteousness
defines & divides both
humanity & eternity.*

(Matthew 5:20)



B. **GOD'S WILL** (per Jesus & the Old Testament)



God hates divorce! – [Malachi 2:16](#)

We'll look at the shocking tip... truth...& treasure of this text...

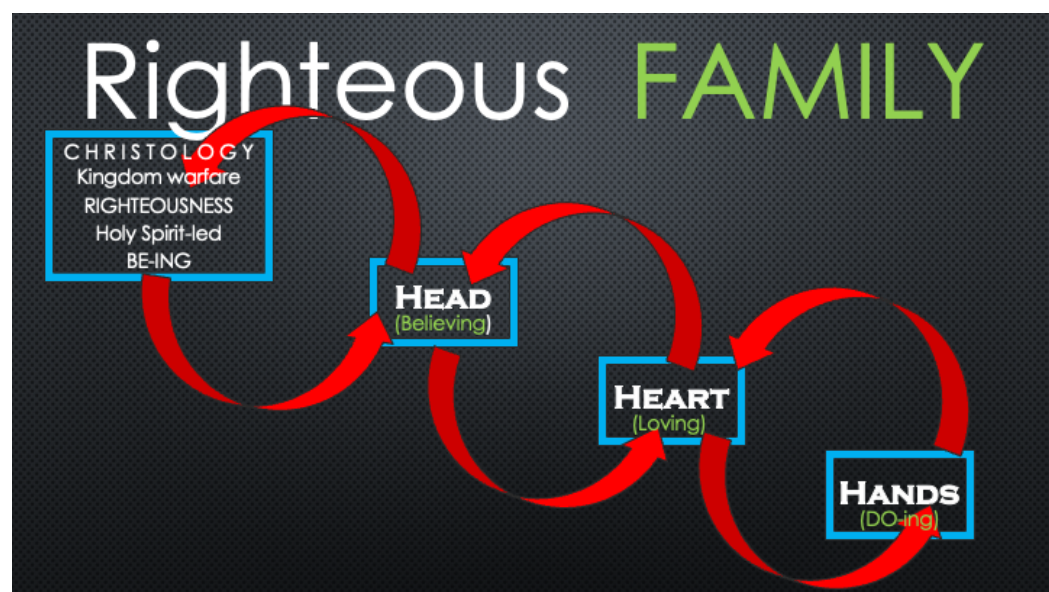
- God became man... a baby born in a barn!
- *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away sin...*

- He/we are to *“fulfill ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS”*
- He was *“led by the Spirit”* thru spiritual warfare...
- He’s a Nazarene who set up shop in Capernaum...
- His both/and beatitudes blow everyone away...
- His salt/light/city declarations are breathtaking.
- Ditto His 6 antithesis confrontations/corrections

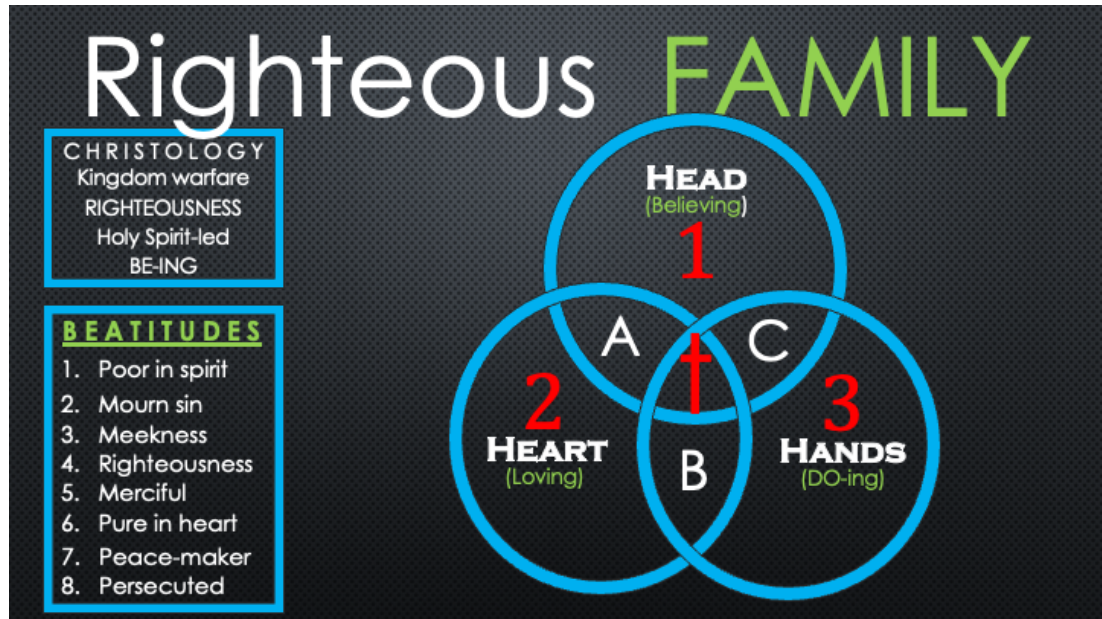
God HATES! (idolatry; injustice; hypocrisy; deceit, arrogance; lying tongues; false witnesses; the divisive...)

1. God hates the workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5)
2. God hates the wicked (Psalm 11:5)
3. God hates the sacrifices of the wicked (Proverbs 15:8)
4. God hates the ways of the wicked (Proverbs 15:9)
5. God hates the thoughts of the wicked (Proverbs 15:26)
6. God hates feet that make haste to run to evil (Proverbs 6:18)

C. GOD’S WAY(S)



T/S: Make note of the home-wrecking and devastating realities connected to divorce... to include all the culturally affirming & tragedy-minimizing rhetoric that is designed to soft-sell division & destruction, where unity & oneness is the divine design...



VIDEO:

"Anger, Murder, & Adultery, Lust, & Divorce"
(The Bible Project)

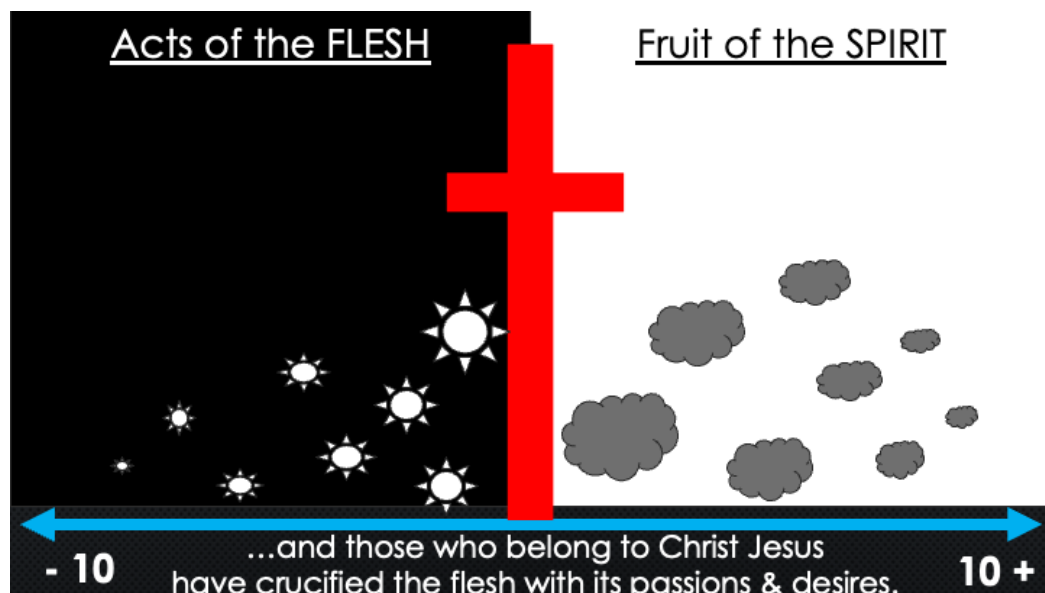
II. PERSONAL

"It was also said...
WHOEVER... HIM... HER... I... YOU..."

A. Righteousness is always a personal issue!

BIBLICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS IS
BE-ing miraculously & missionally Christlike,
in motives, messaging, & methodologies...
holistically harmonizing Heads, Hearts, & Hands,
Locally... Regionally... & Globally (Acts 1:8)...
as defined, described, & demanded... in &...
according to God's Word, will, & way(s);
eternally resulting in a right standing relationship
with the loving & living, triune God of the Bible...
ALL by His grace, thru His Gospel & for His glory.
No more... No less... NO MATTER WHAT!

- a. Whoever is an absolute AND personal term.
- b. **"I"** = Creator, King, Christ Jesus
- c. Jesus includes EVERY **"him"** & **"her."**
- d. Jesus includes EVERY **"you"** listening!



B. Righteousness is especially important in marriage!

III. PHYSICAL

*"It was also said, whoever **DIVORCES...**"*

- A. **"DIVORCE" requires the reality of marriage...**
- B. *Marriage requires the union of 1 man & 1 woman*
- C. Divorce is the termination/ending of a marriage.
- D. *Divorce is divisive & exemplifies relational division.*
- E. Divorce is destructive... it's relational devastation
- F. Divorce is bloody... it is relational brokenness.
- G. *Divorce is the opposite of oneness & koinonia.*

IV. CULTURAL

*"It was also said, **whoever DIVORCES his wife, let him (he must) give her a certificate of divorce.**"*

- A. Jesus is shocking again via His
 - a. **Confrontation**
 - b. **Clarification**
 - c. **Correction**
- B. The thing to note here is the hidden sin.
 - a. **Half-truths** are full deceptions/lies!
 - b. The letter of the Law is only the beginning...
 - c. *Hand responses to heart sins are insufficient!*

C. In biblical times, both O.T. & N.T., if women were “sent away” without certificates of divorce, they were often victimized on many levels & in egregious ways...

D. See the SURFACE, SIN, & SOLUTION...

a. **Surface** = *it's okay for a MAN (note the specificity of gender in the Bible, as well as the injustice of both the exclusivity & privilege of initiation, coupled with the open ended inclusivity of ANY unsubstantiated, one-sided, whimsical reasoning to divorce.*

b. **Sin** =

- i. 1). **Devaluing** of a human life;
- ii. 2). **Disrespecting** one's spouse;
- iii. 3). **Disregarding** God's divine design;
- iv. 4). **Displaying** a lack of love;
- v. 5). **Disparaging** vs. attracting followers
- vi. 6). **Defaming** the wife;
- vii. 7). **Dividing** what God has unified;
- viii. 8). **Destroying** marriage's witness;
- ix. 9). **Deceitful** hypocrisy;
- x. 10). **Demolishing** trust

c. **Solution** =

- i. **The WORD of God** (living & written... that is, Christ Jesus & the Holy Bible)...
- ii. **The WILL of God** (that is, what HE wants)... and
- iii. **The WAYs of God** (that is, God's choices, motives, means, & methods...)

When cultural opinions and populous interpretations become replacements for biblical truth and God's definitions --- sin abounds... and both the Devil & death are crouching at the door!

In reality, without God's truth-filled definitions, man's trusted opinions are nothing more than perverted & poisonous "descriptions" disguised as definitions...

Even if God's truth in love is laid out before us... without the grace of God's Spirit-empowered guidance, we will look through the dark and dangerous, unbiblical & biased, sinful, & subjective lens of... the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

V. BIBLICAL

"It was also said, whoever DIVORCES his wife, let him (he must) give her a certificate of divorce.

But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

BIBLICAL

Marriage & Divorce

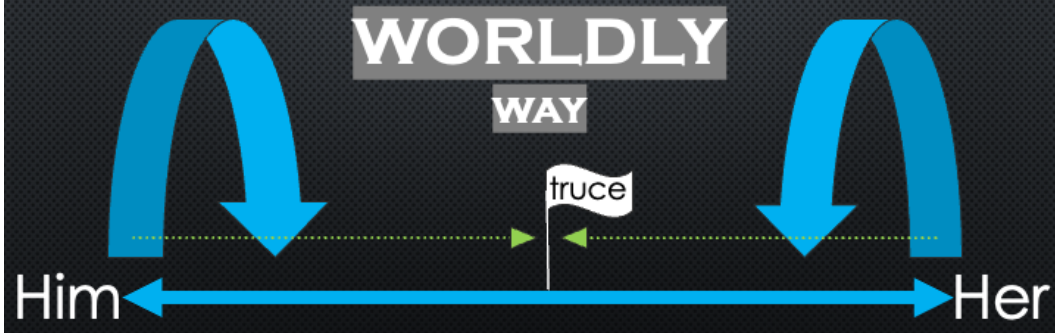
Genesis 1:27-28... (blessing & marriage)
Genesis 2:24 & 3:15... (marriage & messiness)
Malachi 2:16... (God HATES divorce)
Matthew 19:5-7 & 5:31-32... (Jesus on both)

Additional Scriptures on Divorce/Marriage:

- Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Ephesians 4:32 & 5:31-33
- 1st Corinthians 6 & 7 & 13; Colossians 3
- Mark 10; Romans 7; Luke 16
- Old Testament books: Hosea & Song of Songs

Romans 3:23 & Ephesians 2:1

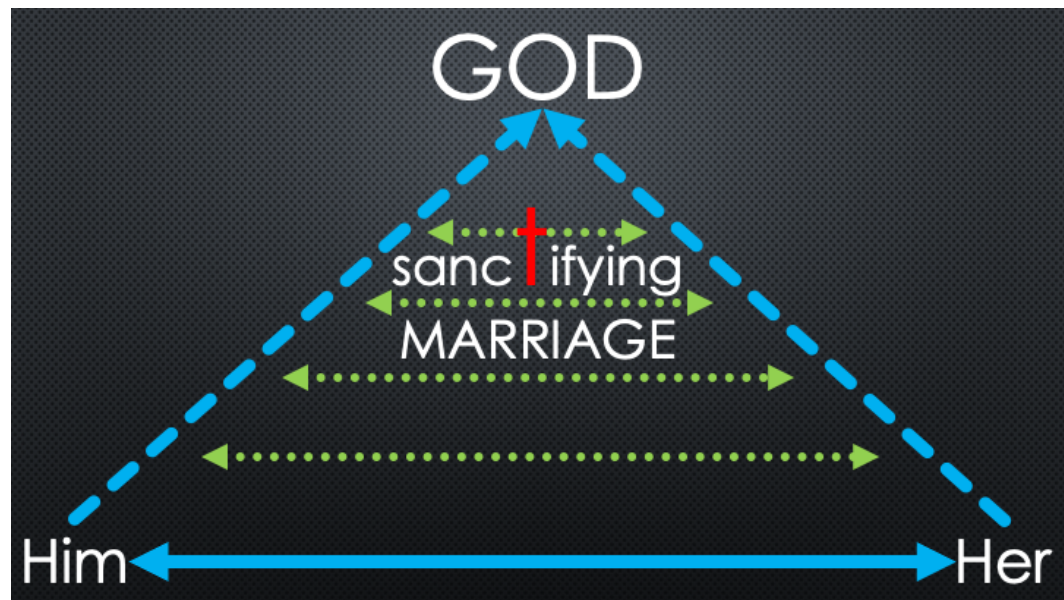
For ALL have sinned & fallen short of the glory of God.
...and YOU were dead in your transgression & sins.



Marriage is MISSION!

Marriage is NOT about personal satisfaction, gratification, passion, or even procreation or service... No. Marriage, like all of creation, is designed, purposed, & maximized in its biblical, missional, & potential glorification of God... THINK about how FOREIGN, displaced, ignored & perverted that truth is in today's lying world!

- JDP



GOD ON DIVORCE...

- **Divorce** = betrayal & brokenness!
- **Divorce** = division & destruction!
- **Divorce** = opposite of oneness!
- **Contrast divorce with:** trinity... unity... & integrity...
see John 13:34-35... John 17... Acts 2:41-46...
Bridegroom & bride Scriptures... covenant Scriptures...
promise, trust, integrity, perseverance, patience, walk,
work, witness, & LOVE, etc. teachings in the Bible...

- EVERYTHING good & God-glorifying in creation is connected to covenant... THAT's why the height of spiritual warfare is fought on the mountain tops of truth, love, commitment, & family relationships!
-
- **DEVIL KNOWS THAT DIVISION/DIVORCE FUELS & FEEDS DECEPTION, DILUTION, & DESTRUCTION.**
-
- *Sadly, covenant-breaking people are broken, corrupted & spiritually conquered people.*
-
- ***"Divide & conquer"* has been a prized & proven strategy in war for a long time... because IT WORKS!**
-
- ***Divorce is a stain on the name of the Christian family.***
-
- Fortunately, the miraculous blood of the Lamb cleans up & removes all confessed & repented stains... **IF** & when, by God's grace, thru His Gospel, & for His glory, forgiveness is empowered by His Spirit... in His faithfully-obedient family.
-
- **"God on marriage" must be understood to understand "God on divorce."** (See Genesis 1:27-28; then 2:24; then Song of Songs '(steamy passionate love); then Malachi 2:13-16; then N.T. texts, starting with Jesus; & then the epistles...)
-
- **Marriage is a God-created COVENANT... not a contract.**

VIDEO: *Biblical Divorce & Remarriage*
(SBTS – Dr. Tom Schreiner)

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

1“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes **because he has found some indecency in her**, and he writes her a certificate of divorce ...**4**...***And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.***

- See rich word study... indecency!!!
 - **Indecency** is only used **2X**... 23:14 & 24:4
 - Shows God’s perspective...
 - Shows God literally:
 - **He walks with us**
 - **HE WALKS IN OUR CAMP(S)**
 - He Demands:
 - **Keep His land holy!**
 - “No crap in camp!”
 - He Delivers!

VI. SPIRITUAL

“But I say to you...”

- A. Remember **2nd Timothy 3:16-17**
- B. See the inspired iceberg's *tip, truth, & treasure!*
- C. *There's often more than history for you & me.*
 - a. **Garden of Eden** (Genesis 1:27-28 / 2:24)
 - b. The Fall of humanity (Genesis 3:1-15)
 - c. The Great Flood & Noah's ark
 - d. **Abraham & Isaac's near sacrifice**
 - e. **David & Goliath**
 - f. Malachi 2:16... *God hates divorce...*

The Church is the bride of Christ!
(Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelations 19-7-9 & 21:2,9)

VII. MISSIONAL

- A. God hates divorce but loves disciples!
- B. **TO UNDERSTAND HIS HATE YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND HIS LOVE...**
- C. *He hates sin because He loves sinners!*
- D. To understand His love is to understand His mission for marriage & its message...

WELCOME TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

Revelation 19:6-8

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

6Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns. 7Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Malachi 2:13-16 (AMP/ESV)

This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with [your own] weeping... because the LORD no longer regards your offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14But you say, "Why [does He reject it]?" Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously / faithlessly. Yet she is your marriage companion and the wife of your covenant [made by your vows].

15Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?

And what was the one God seeking?

GODLY OFFSPRING.

*So guard yourselves in your spirit,
& let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*

16"FOR I HATE DIVORCE," SAYS THE LORD

REVIEW:

DIVORCE HURTS FAR MORE THAN PEOPLE REALIZE.

(God hates divorce because He hates SIN!)

HE HATES WHAT HURTS HIS LOVE!

CLOSE:

To understand biblical divorce we need to understand biblical marriage... which requires understanding biblical mission... which is all about Christ & His Gospel message... By grace through faith, fallen sinners can be forgiven & restored...

WELCOME TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

Missional marriages make disciples who make disciples who makes disciples... ALL by God's grace... thru His Gospel... and ALL for His glory... via the miraculous transformation of His family member's Heads, Hearts, & Hands... locally, regionally, & globally – no more, no less, no matter what!

BY TRAGIC CONTRAST...

Spiritual divorce stems from sin and self-seeking souls who give in to the world, the flesh, & the deceitful Devil's lustful idolatry, love-less lies... In short, divorce (both culturally & spiritually) disrupts and even destroys discipleship.

From this perspective one begins to see more clearly the message, method, & mission being portrayed in Hosea's Old Testament book & marriage of Hosea... To that end, when we dig deeper into the powerful example of "justified divorce," what we find instead is a lesson on the Person & power of The Gospel... a breath-taking, prophetic portrait of the loving commitment & saving crucifixion of Christ...

The Bible's greatest focus on divorce is found in Hosea... where Gomer the whore, the unworthy, adulterous, represents you & me... & Hosea, who forgives, pays for, and restores his wife... represents our just & Justifier, our Ransom & our Redeemer... our perfect, glory-worthy, grace-gifting crucified Creator & co-missioning Christ – His name is JESUS...
and He is LORD!

WELCOME TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

PRAYER

WORSHIP: *Diana Lopez's Baptism & God, Turn It Around*