



Word Study on "Divorce"

Divorce – To legally dissolve one's marriage with a spouse

Scripture Word Study: Divorce (Ezra 9-10)

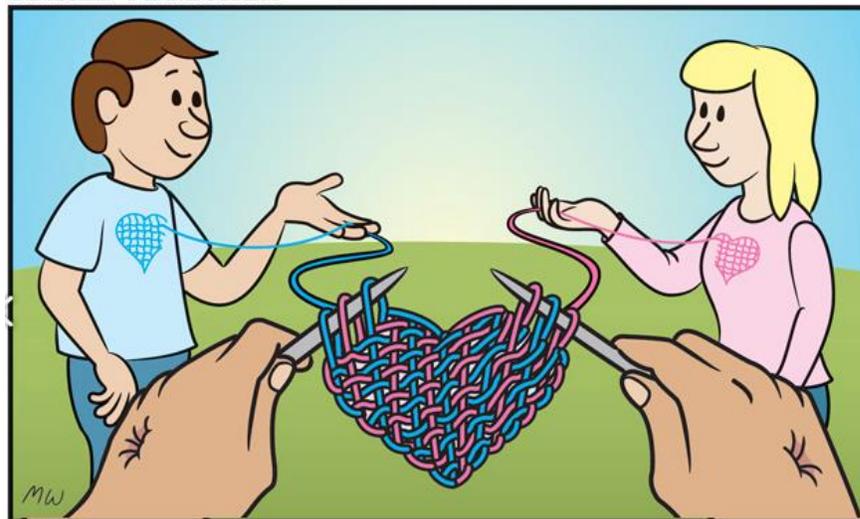
Please read the following passages and answer the associated questions.

- (1) Deuteronomy 7:1-4 Were the Israelites to marry the people of the land? _____
- (2) Ezra 9:1-2 Did the Israelites marry the people of the land? _____
- (3) Ezra 9:3-15 What did Ezra think about the situation? _____
- (4) Ezra 10:1-5 What did Ezra tell them to do about this sin? _____
- (5) Ezra 10:16 Did they divorce their wives? _____
- (6) Esther 1:19 Why did the king divorce Vashti? _____
- (7) According to Deuteronomy 24:1 what did a man have to do to divorce his wife?

- (8) According to Matthew 5:31-32, if a man divorces a woman without just cause, what does he cause her to do? _____
- (9) According to Malachi 2:16 what does God think of divorce? _____
- (10) In Ezra 10:1-19 divorce is sanctioned as not only allowed, but necessary. How can we reconcile this to Malachi 2:16?

Think & Pray _____

JOINED TOGETHER



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So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. — MATTHEW 19:6 NIV

Scripture Word Study: Divorce (Ezra 9-10)

- (1) Deuteronomy 7:1-4 Were the Israelites to marry the people of the land? No
- (2) Ezra 9:1-2 Did the Israelites marry the people of the land? Yes
- (3) Ezra 9:3-15 What did Ezra think about the situation? It was terrible and they were guilty
- (4) Ezra 10:1-5 What did Ezra tell them to do about this sin? Divorce their non Jewish spouses.
- (5) Ezra 10:16 Did they divorce their wives? Yes, most of them did
- (6) Esther 1:19 Why did the king divorce Vashti? Because she did not come when called and because of political pressure from others.
- (7) According to Deuteronomy 24:1 what did a man have to do to divorce his wife? Write a certificate
- (8) According to Matthew 5:31-32, if a man divorces a woman without just cause, what does he cause her to do? Commit adultery Mt 5:32
- (9) According to Malachi 2:16 what does God think of divorce? God hates divorce
- (10) In Ezra 10:1-19 divorce is sanctioned as not only allowed, but necessary. How can we reconcile this to Malachi 2:16?

Read Matt 19:3-9 divorce is allowed because of our hard hearts (Mt 19:8) Just as it was in Ezra 9 that the sin of the people in marrying the locals led to divorce, sometimes our own sins and those of our spouse, lead to an impossible situation that can only be resolved by divorce, albeit usually only partly resolved.

For further thought:

- (11) How do Romans 7:3 and 1st Corinthians 7:11 speak about divorce and remarriage. Does this add clarity for us? If so, how?
- (12) Two more verses that often come up in this discussion are Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:31. Do they help us or just cloud the issue? Why?
- (13) In the book of Hosea how many times does his wife leave and have to be redeemed? What does this teach us about marriage and divorce?