**Happily Ever After** (graphic)

Destroy the **family**, destroy the **church**, destroy the **community**, destroy the **nation**.

God wants to:

Heal the **family**, heal the **church**, heal the **community**, heal the **nation**.

(Malachi 2:13-16) NLT

“Here is another thing you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn’t accept them with pleasure. You cry out, “Why doesn’t the Lord accept my worship?” I’ll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been **unfaithful to her**, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.”

**“**Didn’t the Lord make you **one** with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So **guard your heart**; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. “**For I hate divorce!**” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “**So guard your heart**; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

***Divorce***: to cut, sever, the ripping apart of flesh.

(Deuteronomy 24:1)-4

“If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, then her first husband, who divorced her, in not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled.”

(Matthew 5:31-32)

“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ **But I say** that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been **unfaithful**, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.”

(Mark 10:2-12)

“Some Pharisees came and tested him [Jesus] by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” “What did Moses command you?” he [Jesus] replied. They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied, “**But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’** ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”…”Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

 Jesus points out: **In the beginning**.

 **1st Century debate**: Hillel *vs*. Shammai

**Marital Unfaithfulness**: anytime someone is breaking their basic agreement with their spouse in an unrepentant pattern.

1. **One** to one
2. **Two** to one.
3. **Spiritual leaders** to one.

You do **everything** you can possibly do.

Is divorce a **sin**?

(Jeremiah 3:6-8)

“During the reign of King Josiah, the Lord said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has **committed adultery** there. I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her **certificate of divorce** and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.”

 **God hates divorce** because he knows the pain of divorce.

 **Divorce does not disqualify you** anymore than it would disqualify God.

What now? *\*\*build the list\*\**

1. If you’re married: **do everything possible** to protect your marriage.
2. Use **every resource** to fix your problem.
3. **Never look down** on those that have experienced the **pain** of divorce.