

LESSON 23

BEFORE YOU DIVORCE

These are indeed perilous times. Our society no longer views marriage as sacred, and divorce is accepted and promoted. Ministers encourage the practice by failing to declare God's word on the subject. Many people, saved and lost, have been through one or more divorces before they ever learn what the Bible has to say about the matter. This lesson is not designed to heap condemnation upon those whose past ignorance led them into error. But we cannot allow and promote future error by failing to set forth scriptural truth on the subject.

1. To the best of your recollection, write out the vows you spoke at your wedding.
2. What does Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 say about those who break vows made before God?
3. Explain God's warning "destroy the work of thine hands" (Ecclesiastes 5:6, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15).
4. How does Proverbs 31:12 apply in this regard?
5. What does God declare to be His attitude toward "putting away" (Malachi 2:14-16)?
6. What are the three commands given in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11?
7. Though Paul had no such commands to cite in the Old Testament, what is the proof he was speaking under the inspiration of God in these verses?
8. What do we learn about the spiritual condition of the husband in this context (1 Corinthians 7:13)?
9. Discuss Matthew 5:31-32 in light of the second of these three commands.
10. "I did it for the children" is a common claim. What does 1 Corinthians 7:14 say about the influence of one righteous partner on the young?

11. What reason does God give for staying in a bad relationship (1 Corinthians 7:16)?
12. Discuss how Christ's sufferings for you, and your eventual salvation, are the example for all those in a troubled home.
13. Another common claim is "I don't love him anymore." What light does Galatians 5:22 and Song of Solomon 8:7 shed upon such a statement?
14. List some of the "built in" dangers involved in a second marriage.
15. List some of the difficulties faced by "step" parents as regards raising the children.