

To the Married; A Command

Why do we rarely hear 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 quoted in the debate over divorce? People are quick to quote Matthew, chapter 19, but we don't hear, "To the married, I give this command - not I but the Lord, a wife must not separate from her husband, but if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And the husband must not divorce his wife." Paul uses the words, "command" and "must." Words people do not want to hear today. They are too confining and too intrusive - they take away freedom and do not allow people to do what *they* want to do.

Marriage is sacred to the Lord and our culture does not give it the reverence it is due. Marriage is to be *for life*. Not until, "my spouse does not meet my needs" any longer, or "I don't feel love," or *anything* else for that matter. It is a command - do not divorce! It means that we need to submit our marriage and our spouse to the Lord and that we need to work at it. The Lord *can* make *any* marriage healthy, strong, and productive. It is a matter of submitting our will to the Lord rather than pursuing our own selfish, self-centered desires. To the married, I give this command - DO NOT DIVORCE. Do not take it lightly and do not be afraid to speak this Biblical truth to those who need to hear it.

The Marriage Minute

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