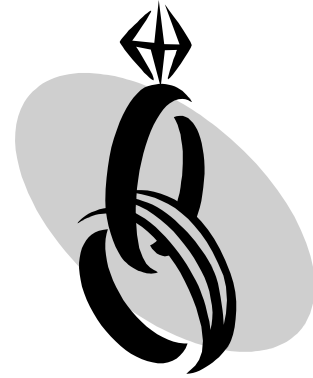


DIVORCE

This is yet another of several hard-hitting subjects that I am forwarding to you; but the hope and intention is that you understand that divorce is an imperfect outcome to a perfect beginning; that is, that marriage is a covenant or promise before God and divorce is a creation and convenience of fallen man.



Divorce is a terrible experience, circumstance, and condition of a once enjoined couple; and is a travesty for the children who, in all cases, are the least considered but greatest effected in the ordeal. Long-term studies have shown that children of divorce are at higher risk of social, academic and developmental problems compared with children of married parents – but symptoms or evidence may not fully surface until adulthood.

Traditionally, marriage vows in our country have included some phrase as *what God has joined, let no man tear asunder*; but these vows have been greatly diluted (as has marriage in general). The industry of divorce is a scourge on our society and has propagated immeasurable costs to the once honored and protected sanctity of marriage.

Please understand that my words are not aimed at condemning or criticizing those who have suffered from divorce or bad marriages for that matter. My criticism and concern is with the laws and conditions that enable divorce to be transacted with such simplicity and volume; and, in turn, have enabled couples to conveniently terminate the marriage rather than try further or try at all. A *chicken-and-egg* proposition might be that such laws and conditions have changed our society and not visa versa. Perhaps marriage and the traditional family should be placed on the endangered species list.

My views or opinions are not based on my perfection in relationships, marriage, and family; on the contrary, I too have been divorced after 13 years of marriage. But my personal experience and my limited reading on the subject are the basis for my strong words. God hates divorce because it is counter to his model of marriage; but God loves his creation and is able to forgive as forgiveness is sincerely sought. Marriage can be a wonderful experience if each is mutually committed to the relationship over an above their individual wants and even needs at times. Divorce is the worst of possible outcomes to the children, to the couple, and to marriage as it was designed to be. Love will always prevail if pursued to the end.

In a

WORD