

# A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

## Session 2: Divorce and Remarriage

January 25, 2023



**Preschool  
Pajama  
Pancake  
Party**

**January 28**  
9 to 11 am

**Pajama Pancake Party**

Kids, join us on Saturday, January 28 from 9 to 11 am for a Pajama Pancake Party! Wear your favorite pj's for delicious pancakes and a movie. Open to children [...]

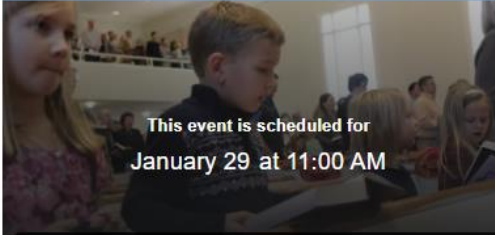
## KNOW ENCOURAGE GROW IN CHRIST

### Wednesday Evenings

Fellowship Dinner – 5 PM  
Bible Study & Children's Activities – 6:30 PM

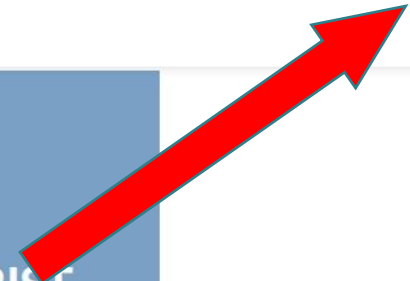
### Sunday Mornings

Sunday School – 9:45 AM  
In-Person Worship – 11 AM  
On-line Worship – 11 AM



This event is scheduled for  
**January 29 at 11:00 AM**

LIVE





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### Quick Links

- BULLETIN
- CALENDAR
- CHURCH APP
- COMMITTEES & MINISTRY TEAMS
- COUNSELING
- DINNER
- DIRECTORY
- EVENTS/REGISTER
- GIVE
- LIVE BROADCAST
- MEDIA
- MEMBER LOGIN
- PRAYER REQUEST
- WEDDINGS
- WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY





## A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

12-week study, begins January 18, 2023

Chapel, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Led by Dr. Kevin Head and Rev. Logan Carpenter

Join us on Wednesday nights for our adult class, *A Christian Response*. Led by Dr. Kevin Head and Rev. Logan Carpenter, this 12-week study delves into how a Christian ought to respond when confronted with complex and heavily debated issues, even among fellow Christians. The class will explore what the Bible has to say on how Christians ought to think about and respond to these issues today.

For more information, contact Rev. Logan Carpenter at [\(770\) 587-6980](tel:7705876980) or [logan@fbroswell.org](mailto:logan@fbroswell.org)

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## CLASS STUDIES

Miss a class, want to watch again, or attend from home? Session materials will be available below, after each live session.

*A Christian Response - Session 1*

VIDEO

PRESENTATION MATERIALS



# Issue of Divorce in First Century

3 Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?'

*Matthew 19:3*

# Issue of Divorce in First Century

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house.....”

*Deuteronomy 24:1*

# Dispute between Rabbinic Schools

1. The School of Shammai – “A man may not divorce his wife unless he has found unchastity in her, for it is written: “Because he hath found in her indecentcy in anything.”
2. The School of Hillel – “He may divorce her even if she spoiled a dish for him, for it is written, ‘Because he hath found in her indecentcy in anything.”

# Jesus' Response

- 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."



7 “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

8 Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

# Certificate of Divorce

- Moses permitted divorce but required that a certificate be given to the woman; this served as a means of protection
- Certificate gave her the right to remarry; she could not be accused of adultery

# Certificate of Divorce (cont.)

- Only other option without a certificate would be prostitution
- Men could easily divorce, certificate was intended to protect women in such cases

# What is meant by “unchastity”?

- The Greek word here is “porneia,” translated in different ways (RSV – “unchastity,” KJV/TLB – “fornication,” NASV – “Immorality,” NIV/TEV – “marital unfaithfulness,”
- Literally means “sexual immorality,” used for prostitution, extra-marital affairs, premarital relations, etc.; the burden here is on the woman

# “Unchastity”? (cont.)

- Different from the Greek word *moicheia* which means adultery
- When *porneia* is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, it is often the word chosen to talk about Israel’s unfaithfulness to God.

# Matthew 5:31-32

- “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.”

# Understanding Matthew 5

- New element in these words is the man who divorces his wife makes her into an adulteress
- Underlying assumption is a certificate of divorce has no real effect; marriage remains in force

# Understanding Matthew 5 (cont.)

- Double standard again evident-nothing prohibiting the man from remarrying, only the woman
- Teaching comes in Sermon on the Mount, a call to higher righteousness to go beyond the teachings of the Law in order to fulfill its deeper intent, many hard teachings; marriage is an aspect of discipleship.



# Luke 16:18

- “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

# Understanding Luke 16:18

- Differences from Matt. 5:
  1. This teaching lacks the exception clause
  2. Shares with Mark 10:11 the teaching that a husband who divorces his wife and marries another thereby commits adultery
- Same interpretations apply (1) no remarriage, or (2) against divorce for the purpose of remarrying someone else

**What do you think?**

# 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

“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 a husband must not divorce his wife. To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must

“not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean but as it is, they are holy.”

“But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?”

# Understanding 1 Corinthians 7

- Chronologically, this passage is the first written New Testament word about divorce and remarriage
- Context: The Corinthian Christians had written a letter to Paul asking several questions; one question was this: "Should Christians abstain from sexual relations?"

# 1 Corinthians 7 (cont.)

- Paul says that sex is a beautiful gift God has given to married couples; he advises the unmarried to remain unmarried, but at the same time gives those whose desires are strong permission to marry
- Then, Paul turns to divorce in verses 10-16 (another issue the Corinthians had apparently asked about)



# 1 Corinthians (cont.)

- Possibly, some of the Christian women in Corinth had asked about staying married to non-Christian husbands
- In Greek culture, the woman had rights to divorce
- Paul does not characterize remarriage as adultery, but he does discourage remarriage

# 1 Corinthians (cont.)

- Paul then adds words that are his own thoughts
- He assumes that within the church there will be persons married to non-Christians
- Paul urges Christians to remain in marriages, even with non-Christian spouses

# Remaining Questions

- What does all this mean? What do these passages teach us for marriage today?
- What about issues that are not addressed in scripture (i.e. – physical or emotional spouse abuse, “falling out of love” with spouses, God leading individuals in two different directions, etc.)?
- Next week: summary and biblical principles