



## Ask, Father James:

### *Is it lawful for a man to divorce a woman for any reason”?*

This was the question the Pharisees asked Jesus in Matthew 19:3. Satan has always wanted to destroy the three first and oldest institutions that God created - Life, Marriage and Family. Jesus' response to the Pharisees touched on these three institutions and why it should not be destroyed. Jesus quoted Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24 to answer their question. (i.e., that God has intended from the very beginning of time for one man to be married to one woman for life, with adultery as the only exception). He declared emphatically that those who divorce/remarry in an unscriptural way are guilty of committing adultery (Matthew 19:3-12).

When Jesus responded to the Pharisees that "from the very beginning..." Jesus means that, from the very beginning it was God's intention for a man and a woman to have a long lasting and happy marriage and consequently, a happy life and a happy loving family. This was God's intention for Adam and Eve, but Satan robbed them of it. They allowed the serpent to deceive them and destroyed God's plan for them.

The Pharisees were of the opinion that it may be preferable to live single than to risk permanent marriage to a woman who creates misery and is unpleasant to live with. Jesus corrects them and says, God made us male and female and for this reason a man must leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh (Matthew 19:5). By this Jesus means that a thriving marriage only works when both husband and wife leave their parents' home in numerous ways (physically, relationally, emotionally, financially, spiritually and when necessary, geographically).

Most divorces come about because of some of the reasons above. Some men, though married, never really left home physically and relationally. They crave mom's cooking and miss their room in the basement of their parent's house. Some married men want to acquire in a few months what their parents spent 30 years acquiring and the frustration of not been able, leads them to be tied to their parents' credit card. A man who is spiritually tied to his parents goes to church to impress his parents instead of leading his own family to church to have a family relationship with Jesus Christ. This is why it is helpful for a married man to move geographically so as to have the freedom to be united to his wife as a real man.

Also, to aid the man not to contemplate divorce at any point during the marriage, a wife too should try to invest and support the marriage spiritually, financially, physically and morally. The Bible says; A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands (Proverbs 14:1).

*Please email your Faith Questions to Father James at: [frjowolagba@gmail.com](mailto:frjowolagba@gmail.com)*

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