

Divorce

We believe that God loves marriage and God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman. If you are currently considering divorce, we believe that God can heal your marriage. No matter how difficult your marriage may be, we want you to know that there is still hope.

Our heart for you is to hear what God has to say about your marriage. The clearest statement about divorce can be found in the book of Malachi, *"Has not the Lord made them one? In the flesh, they are His...so guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 'I hate divorce,' says the Lord God of Israel."* (Malachi 2:15–16)

Understand that God doesn't hate people who are divorced, but He hates the act of divorce, because ultimately it hurts the people He loves. Regardless of the circumstances surrounding your marriage, God intends that marriage be permanent. Divorce was not part of His original plan, and He does not desire it to be an option for anyone.

Fighting for your marriage should always be your first step, and we want to help you. We have couples who can meet with you to talk over the difficulties you are experiencing. They can help you discuss solutions, other than divorce, that may resolve these issues. God has saved many marriages from the brink of destruction. If your marriage is in trouble, He wants to save yours, too.

If abuse is involved (either toward you or your children), separation for protection might be a necessary next step until your spouse becomes repentant and changes. We recommend safety first for you and your children, as well as counseling for the offending spouse. Separation with the intent of reconciliation is okay for a season to maintain safety. If divorce still appears to be your only recourse. Please contact a pastor at your Campus for further assistance.

Additional Helpful Scriptures:

- Matthew 5:31-32
- Mark 10:2-12
- Luke 16:18
- 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
- 1 Corinthians 7:11-13

Community Resources:

- Smalley Institute is an online resource of books, articles, audio and DVD media on the subject of marriage, dating and parenting. smalley.cc
- Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. We provide help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages that reflect God's design, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in biblical principles
- Cloud and Townsend is an online resource that offers books, articles, audio and DVD media resources on emotional struggles, marriage, spiritual life, relationships, parenting, boundaries as well as additional topics. cloudtownsend.com/resources/question-answers/
- Family Life provides multiple resources that help people build stronger homes and communities. familylifetoday.com/

Grace Resources:

- Pastoral Counseling – gfcflorida.com/care#contact
- GFC Recommended Christian Counselor – care@gfcflorida.com
- Divorce Care Support Group – gfcflorida.com/Ministries/support
- Freedom – Men/ Women – Identify obstacles in your lie and get out of ruts that keep you from changing. gfcflorida.com/groups