

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor

May 24, 2009

“ I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel”

Malachi 2:16

There are two people hate divorce most. God and anybody who has been through one! God hates divorce, first, because it violates His design for marriage as the covenant of love between a man and a woman for life in a way that is able to reflect Christ and His love for his church. And second, God hates divorce because it rips families apart. And God loves families.

But anyone who’s ever been through a divorce learns to hate it as well. As a pastor, I know anytime I touch on this subject, it’s like ripping the scab off an old wounds. *Divorce is a wound!* It’s a painful, heart-wrenching, thing that tears right thru the middle of a person’s life. Someone has observed that a divorce is more traumatic, emotionally, even than the death of a spouse. **Death** brings a *clean* kind of pain. Yes, they left you, but they didn’t want to! **Divorce**, by contrast, is a *dirty*, mangled pain, filled with rage and betrayal as it separates those who promised never to part.

And so the question is, how should we as a church, respond to divorce and the pain it brings to the lives of people we love. We do so in two ways.

1) We respond to divorce with love and care for those who suffer from it’s pain
We stand by them as they grieve. We help them see the need to repent of their sin and their part in the divorce.. And we urge them to be reconcile to their former spouse, if possible. And where that is not possible, we lovingly help them rebuild their broken lives by God’s grace

2) We respond to divorce by standing firm and saying that God hates it! We remain clear that every divorce is rooted in sin and therefore violates God’s will and purpose for marriage! And then we do everything we can to help prevent it by building strong, grace-filled marriages

Standing up to fight with you,

Pastor Scott Lee

