

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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Dating While Getting a Divorce?

--By Tabitha

Malachi 2:16a, "For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that **he hateth putting away...**" We must admit that God hates

divorce, yet He does state a time when divorce is "permissible". "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, **except it be for fornication**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery"

--**Matthew 19:9**

But what about the time **between** the parting/separation **UNTIL** the divorce is final?

So many times I have heard of situations where a person has been separated, waiting for a divorce and find that they have already begun dating another!! Scriptures do not address this area "specifically", which may be why so many Christians are falling into this sinful trend.

When couples take their wedding vows, they are still bound to their spouse until the divorce has been **finalized** - God still sees you as "**legally**" married. At any time during the separation, couples could realize what a mistake the divorce would be and reconcile back to their spouse. They don't need to be remarried again as they are still legally bound.

God says, "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, **let not man put asunder.**" **Matthew 19:6** (and **Mark 10:9**) Dating before a divorce has been legally finalized is putting further separation (asunder) in the marriage, which God commands **not** to do.

Many Christians do not honor these principles and are actually breaking covenant. I am sure if the man died during the separation that the woman would insist on

receiving his social security or collect on his insurance, or both Life and Health Insurance policies. The law today still has many rules showing that you are still married until the divorce has been legally processed.

Another trend that is growing in popularity amongst Christians is having a boyfriend/girlfriend staying overnight during visits. Some are even living together without marriage. Staying or living together out of marriage gives way to many temptations, wrong impressions with neighbors, family members, and fellow Christians, as well as a stumblingblock to others.

This has been happening for many years as Jesus met with the woman at the well and addressed her live-in situation by stating that the man she was living with was "not her husband". **John 4:18**

A woman once told me, "*But we are not sleeping together.*" Yet her family gave personal testimony that she indeed shared the same bed with her boyfriend at nights and she shared his when she visited him. So what else are the children, other family members, or neighbors to believe whether there was sexual immorality or not?

This style of "living" for Christians does not give Christ honor or a good witness for a Christian life that we are keeping ourselves pure.

As Christians, we are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. **James 1:27**, "**Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this**, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, **and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**"

So.....

➤ Since marriage is still binding until the divorce has been finalized, it is not lawful for one to date another during the pre-divorce process; it is breaking covenant, which is a sin.

➤ Singles staying over during visits causes stumblingblocks, **MANY** temptations, misunderstandings, and does not give a Christian a good report. **Philippians 4:8**, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, **whatsoever things are honest**, whatsoever things are just, **whatsoever**

things are pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, **whatsoever things are of good report**; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”

This sinful trend puts the Church leaders in an embarrassing situation when they must call on their flock who are involved in such lifestyles. It is grounds for dis-fellowship if repentance is not seen.

Which will you do - please God and offer Him a Spiritual sacrifice, or follow your emotions and cause others to stumble, lose your witness for Christ, and possibly your soul?