

DIVORCE (JND)

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God never intended that a Christian should have to break the marriage bond but, in certain circumstances, God conceded to this as in cases of desertion having taken place or where adultery had been committed which I take it also refers to the desire to commit adultery or potential adultery.

The Lord allowed divorce in such instances and the parties could deem the marriage to be broken and act upon these circumstances by instituting divorce.

It should be noted that emotional desertion precedes physical desertion.

I have no doubt from 1 Corinthians 7 that a Christian deliberately deserted by his or her spouse was in every way free to remarry upon divorce but I cannot see that any Christians under any circumstances would totally desert his or her spouse and children, particularly if the children are very young, whatever the reason.

On the other hand, I cannot see how anyone should stay with a spouse who is violent or adulterous in any way or who have emotionally deserted.

The saying that all marriages are 'in the Lord' is not so. Christians can and do marry contrary to God's Will.

A marriage where there has been desertion, adultery or potential adultery God allows to be ended in divorce. If there has been adultery and it continues then the marriage should be dissolved so that the New Testament principle of everyone having their own spouse be maintained. Concubinage is not allowed. That was Solomon's downfall and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. And yet people still refer to him as a type of Christ!!

If a man has forsaken his wife for another woman and remains with that second woman then she has become his wife as well. Divorce from the original wife is permitted. What happens with the 'second' wife raises other issues.

It has been rightly said that desertion is a type of adultery since it is a blatant act of unfaithfulness to one's spouse.

In all cases, however, God can forgive those who so offend. But desertion and adultery may not necessarily be completely forgiven by the one who has suffered from his or her spouses desertion or unfaithfulness and infidelity.

Marriage, even between Christians, is intended to be a lifelong bond but certainly not bondage as the apostle Paul states.

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