What God Thinks about Divorce

Mal. 2:16

Introduction:
A. Our society and divorce.
   1. "Marriage No. 17" (B'ham News, 1/1/89).
   2. 1996: 1,157,000 divorces and 2,339,000 marriages in U.S.
   3. In church: About 10% divorced or married to divorcee (Own observations).
B. Our God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16)
C. Our study involves three aspects of divorce.

Discussion:
I. Some REASONS For Divorce.
   A. Ignorance of God's will: Inadequate teaching, Inadequate study, Inadequate interest.
   B. Influence of Society: Media treatment, Sexual revolution, Social acceptance.
   C. Ill-chosen mates - Little regard for: solid values, sound wisdom, guidance by parents.
   D. Impatience with: weaknesses and faults, normal problems of marriage, attainment of goals.
   E. Inconsideration of: each other's needs (cf 1 Cor. 7:1-5), other family members, God's will in daily affairs.
   F. Infidelity in marriage.

II. Some RULES Of Divorce.
   A. Rules set by man.
      1. Society.
      2. Some religious people.
   B. Rules set by Christ.
      1. It is a sin to divorce for “just any reason” (NKJV) (Matt. 19:1-8; cf. Mal. 2:16)
         a. Some think that no sin is committed unless there is a remarriage.
         b. There is no adultery, but there is the sin of divorcing for “just any reason.”
      2. It is further sin when such a one remarry – the sin of adultery (Matt 19:9; cf. Mt 5:31, 32)
         a. Cannot remarry unless the reason for divorcing was fornication.
            (1) Not "for the suspicion of fornication".
            (2) Not “know in heart” without proof.
            (3) Not divorce now for some reason, then later discover the fornication.
            (4) Not some other reason then fornication as after thought - when want to remarry.
      3. Paul does not give another set of rules in 1 Cor. 7:10-16.
         a. Verses 10-11 the same as Jesus gave.
         b. Verses 12-16 deals with a believer deserted by an unbelieving companion – not remarriage.

III. Some RESULTS Of Divorce.
   A. On the families.
   B. On the church.
      1. Church has obligation to fornication within. (1 Cor. 5; Rev. 2:20).
      2. Church must consider evidence in second marriages.
   C. On the parties themselves.
      1. Hard even on those with right to remarry.
      2. Harder on those who have no right to remarry.
         b. Or a life of fornication, resulting in condemnation (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9,10).

Conclusion:
A. No divorce is a good one - someone gets hurt.
B. Divorce should not be hasty - even for fornication.
C. Considering all about divorce, no wonder the Lord hates it.