

God Hates Divorce... Why?

Jim Campbell · Spotlight Magazine · June 2026

Divorce is a hard thing. Chances are, in our culture, it's touched you or your family in some way, and maybe you've even heard that God hates divorce...what's up with that?

Is that true? Yeah, it is. It comes from Malachi 2, where the prophet Malachi quotes God as saying, "For I hate divorce!" says the Lord, the God of Israel. Often times, the church doesn't know what to do with that. What does that mean?

God isn't alone, because I don't know many people that don't hate divorce. No one enters a marriage in hopes that one day...if they are lucky...they'll get divorced? No one. The key is in why God hates divorce.

One reason that God hates divorce is for what it does to us. God loves us, and He hurts when we hurt. Jesus wept with his friends and God is emotionally invested in His creation. In this Malachi passage, he says to divorce your wife is to "overwhelm her with cruelty." It's a life-altering harshness for spouses, kids, families.

Not only does God hate what it does for us, but more importantly, He hates what divorce falsely says about Him. God created marriage. When he made Eve from Adam in Genesis, that was symbolic, not about one being better, but that their union was meant to last. When men and women join, it's a return to oneness, but it's even deeper than that. It also shows a picture of the Gospel. Sin separates, but God reconciles. Marriage is a picture of God's relationship with man. Divorce takes something God allowed us to participate in that is a tribute to who He is, and breaks it.

Here's the truth. **While God hates divorce, He doesn't hate the divorced.** We should all remember that. If you've been divorced, whether you pushed it, resisted it or caused it, God hates what happened, but He still loves you and wants to heal and redeem you. While each sin carries different consequences, they all have one thing in common. God seeks to redeem us from them.

I know, as you read this, you may not believe me, but it's true. God hasn't forgotten you or thrown you away or is done with you. Your story has changed, but it has not ended. As long as you aren't dead, God's not done, so hang in there. Seek Him out, because as much as you hated to do it, He hated it, too, and would love nothing more than to take you where you are and bring you to where He wants you to be.