

Mark 10:13 People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Another version renders this, Mark 10:14 ... Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Our children are important to us  
– we would never encourage  
them to blow themselves up.



In 1957, Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, said “Peace will come when the Arabs love their children more than they hate us.”

Unfortunately, many people in this country would rather cause total destruction of their children’s lives than to allow them to live with their parents.

This lesson is a warning against tragedy. It's a tragedy that I have seen all too often among the children of God and even more so in the world.

It's a tragedy that God doesn't want to see happen.

Mal 2:14 "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

15 "But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring?

Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. 16 "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

While husband and wife may be at war  
during a divorce, there is always  
collateral damage – the children.

What does divorce do for children?  
(Archibald Hart, Helping Children  
Survive Divorce, Word Publishing, 1997)

It signals the collapse of the family structure.

Parents have a diminished capacity to parent.

The divorce creates conflicts of loyalty in the children.

Uncertainty about the future causes deep-seated insecurity.



The anger and resentment  
between the parents creates intense  
fear in the child.

Children take on anxiety about their  
parents.

Most children of divorce suffer from  
economic descent.

Toddlers (2-4 years old) often show signs of regression to an earlier stage of development. They become more dependent and passive, engaging in babyish behavior. Some believe the absence of a parent of the opposite sex at this stage may be harmful to the child's sexual development.

Young children (5-8) also regress, and tend to take responsibility for the marriage breakup. They tend to have irrational fears of being abandoned or starving.

Older children (9-12) experience anger as the dominant emotion, mainly directed at the parent believed to be the initiator of the divorce.

Teenagers (13-) Resent parents and fear being separated from friends. Withdrawal and depression, followed by isolation and refusal to talk about problems. The “loyalty dilemma” is an acute problem.

Daughters of divorce showed  
delayed effects, many  
consequences only showing up  
when they marry.

Mothers especially are in a poor state of mind about choosing a new mate and move quickly into a second marriage without having resolved the residual problems from the first.

Economic consequences  
currently estimated to be up to  
\$180,000 for attorney fees alone.  
Less than 50% of divorced and  
separated mothers receive child  
support (1989). Less than 24% of  
never married mothers ever  
receive child support.

[http://www.futureofchildren.org/information2827/information\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=75549](http://www.futureofchildren.org/information2827/information_show.htm?doc_id=75549)



Some divorces are worse than others.

No two divorces are alike.

Divorce itself is not wrong. God divorced Israel  
for her faithless acts.

Jer 3:8 And I saw that for all the adulteries of  
faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her  
a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah  
did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also.

# What must we avoid?

1. Divorce

2. The consequences that accompany divorce.

# 1. Divorce

Divorce always has sin connected by one or both parties.

I am convinced that looking at the consequences will help us avoid the idea that divorce is a reasonable option.

Let's look again at the  
consequences of divorce in light  
of the Scripture.

The collapse of the family structure.

Heb 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

Although many fathers believe it  
does, a divorce does not  
terminate parental obligations.

Parents have a diminished  
capacity to parent.

Eph 6:4 And, fathers, do not  
provoke your children to anger;  
but bring them up in the  
discipline and instruction of the  
Lord.

Divorce creates conflicts of loyalty in the children.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

A Christian will not let bitterness, wrath and anger separate their children from them.



Uncertainty about the future causes deep-seated insecurity.

1 Cor 4:2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

As stewards of what God has given us, our children, we must be trustworthy to be a child of God.

The anger and resentment between  
the parents creates intense fear in  
the child.

Col 3:8 But now you also, put them  
all aside: anger, wrath, malice,  
slander, and abusive speech from  
your mouth.

1 Cor 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one.

That verse says that anyone who is guilty of such **is not a brother** but simply a liar who calls himself a brother!

*not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be...*

Divorce causes children take on anxiety about their parents. In every letter Paul writes, he says, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. “

Our heavenly Father gives us grace (kindness) and peace (security as we live in Him), can earthly fathers do less? Shall we provide anxiety for our children

Most children of divorce suffer  
from economic descent.

1 Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not  
provide for his own, and especially  
for those of his household, he has  
denied the faith, and is worse than  
an unbeliever.

Luke 11:11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Jesus asks, “What kind of father  
would do that?”



His answer is, “Certainly not a  
good one – one like your  
heavenly father.”

Jesus teaches us that it is natural for a father to help his children and not hurt them. How can we do the exact opposite of what Jesus says is natural for a father?



Luke 8:14 "And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

Don't get *choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life*

*Mat 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*