

# RENEW

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*Marriage: It's a Beautiful Gift*



# Marriage Will Confront the Dark Side of One's Character

*Matthew 5:31*

*It has been said "Anyone who divorces his wife  
must give her a certificate of divorce."*



# Marriage Will Confront the Dark Side of One's Character

- *It's your fault.*
- *You don't make me happy.*
- *I've lost that lovin' feeling.*
- *I don't want to do the work to make it work.*



# Marriage Will Confront the Dark Side of One's Character

*Christian tradition emphasizes courage and perseverance in the face of suffering, but even within the church, seeking happiness and avoiding emotional pain have become the highest virtues. Yet this impossible foundation for Christian sexuality and relationships must be challenged.*

*Jonathan Grant, Divine Sex, 49*



# Marriage Will Confront the Dark Side of One's Character

*Matthew 5:31-32*

*It has been said "Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce." But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress.*



# “Are There Any Legit Reasons to Walk Away?”

- *Adultery*
- *Desertion*



# Thorny Questions

*What does this mean if someone wrongfully divorces?*



# Thorny Questions

*What happens if someone who wrongfully divorces remarries?*



# Thorny Questions

*What about the person who who hasn't been divorced but marries someone who has wrongfully divorced?*



# Thorny Questions

*What about the person who has been  
wrongfully divorced but hasn't remarried?  
What is he/she to do?*



# Thorny Questions

*What if I'm abandoned by my spouse or forced to leave because of abuse? May I remarry?*



# Four Words of Hope and Help

- *Forgiveness*
- *Hope*
- *Question*
- *Help*