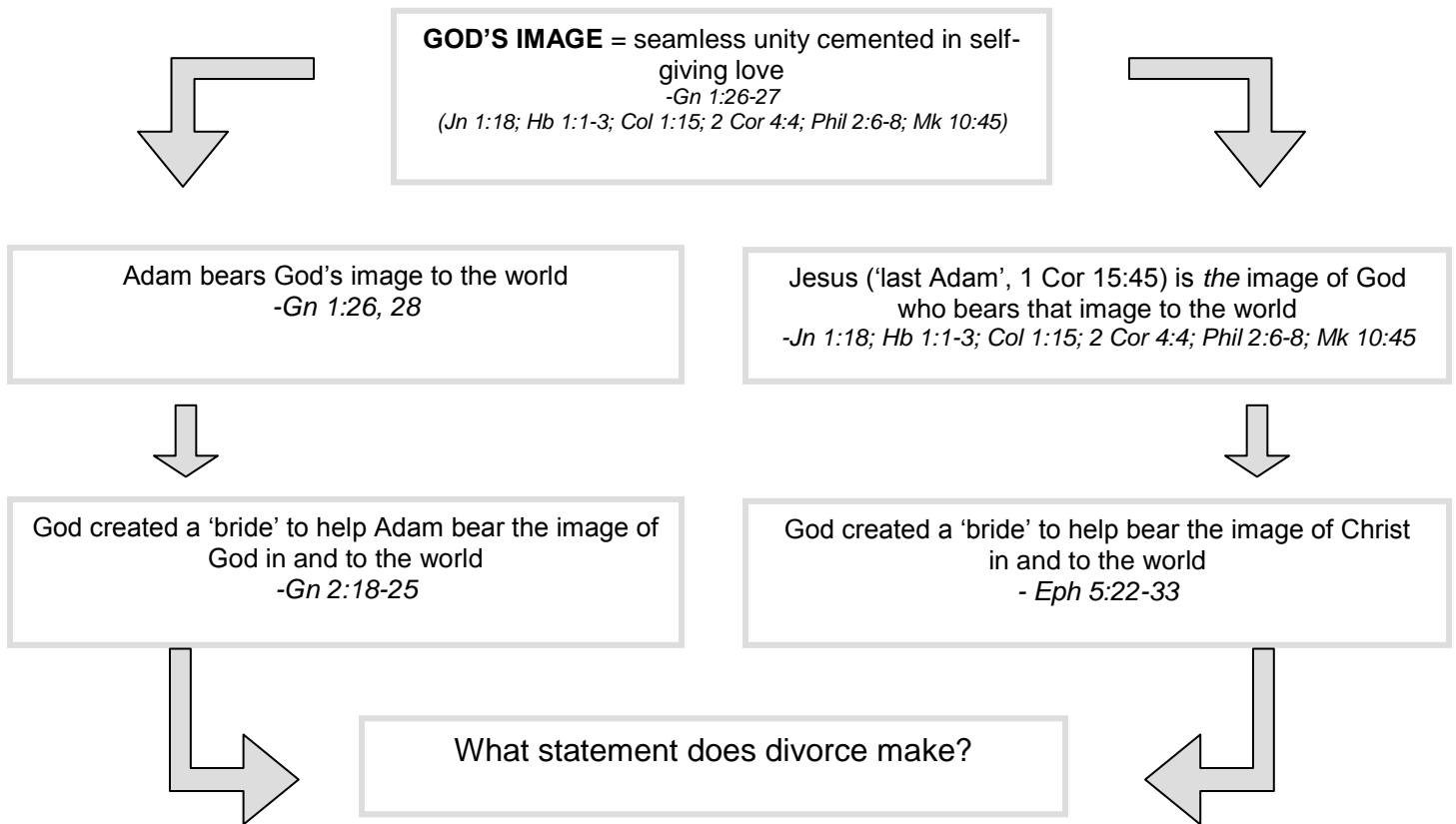


GBC's View of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

A Survey of Scripture

INTRODUCTION:

1. God's original intent for marriage, Genesis 1-2; Ephesians 5.



2. God's gracious provision to curb rampant, hard-hearted divorce, Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

3. Jesus affirms both the original intent of marriage AND the devastation of frivolous divorce, Mt 5:31-32; Mt 19:1-12; Mk 10:1-12; Lk 16:18.

4. Paul affirms and expands God's revelation concerning divorce and remarriage as the gospel advances, 1 Cor 7:8-16.

Christians, formerly divorced before conversion, have the right to remarry, 7:8-9.

Christians who have divorced for reasons other than adultery are NOT free to remarry, 7:10-11.

The spouse who comes to Christ should not seek herself to end her marriage to an unbeliever, 7:12-14.

Christian spouses should not even try to contest the unbelieving spouse who is determined to divorce, 7:15-16.

Summary Points for Believers:

1. Marrying for the right, highest, most God-glorifying reasons effectively distances believers from the divorce option.
2. Only the death of a spouse, adultery, or abandonment actually sever the marriage bond.
3. Therefore, divorce and biblical remarriage on the basis of adultery and abandonment are permissible.
4. In cases of adultery – repentance, forgiveness, and Biblical restoration are better options than divorce. (Divorce is never commanded.)
5. Believers who come to an awareness that their current remarriage produced adultery should:
 - a. humbly confess that sin to God, and
 - b. resolutely stay in the marriage, striving to glorify God in that marriage.
6. Make all decisions prayerfully, slowly, and with much counsel from elder leadership.