

# Staying true to Christian belief in family law

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## Introduction

#### Corney & Lind Lawyers

- Christian law firm
- Our focus areas
  - Schools & Education
  - Not for Profit & Charity
  - Commercial
  - Employment & Discrimination
  - Personal Injury
  - Family Law
  - Estate & Elder Law

#### Webinar

- 1. What do some Christians believe God commands in Scripture regarding divorce?
- 2. What does that look like in the practice of family law?
- 3. The role of the wider church
- 4. Questions



## What do some Christians believe?

**Matthew 19:3-9** 

Some Pharisees came to [Jesus] to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immortality, and marries another woman commits adultery."



## What do some Christians believe?

#### **Different Views**

- 1. There are **no allowable grounds** for divorce.
- 2. There are **two allowable grounds** or divorce (traditional view):
  - i. sexual immorality (Matthew 19:3-9); and
  - ii. when a person who does not yet believe in Christ leaves the marriage (1 Corinthians 7:15)
- 3. There are **four allowable grounds** for divorce:
  - i. sexual immorality
  - ii. when a person who does not yet believe in Christ leaves the marriage
  - iii. emotional neglect
  - iv. material neglect (Exodus 21:10-11)
- 4. The **grounds for divorce are not fixed** and Christians are ruled by principles of love *What is the most loving action?* (The Great Commandment)

## just redemptive outcomes

In the practice of family law

#### **Legal Issues**

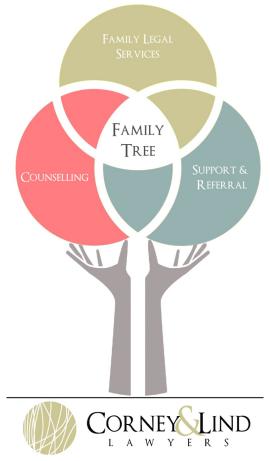
- Safety First
- Think about the children!
- **Awareness**
- Know your limits

#### Social Issues

#### The Family Tree

Our family lawyers operate as part of a wider network of support for clients which includes:

- counselling
- support workers, referrals and education services



### Role of the Wider Church

The church has an important role to play in this wider network of support for clients.

#### 1. Resourcing

- emotional and spiritual support
- babysitters to care for their children
- help moving house (packing, unpacking, cleaning)
- gardening and maintenance
- food
- referrals financial planners, community support groups or domestic violence services

#### 2. Reintegration



## Questions?

## just redemptive outcomes





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