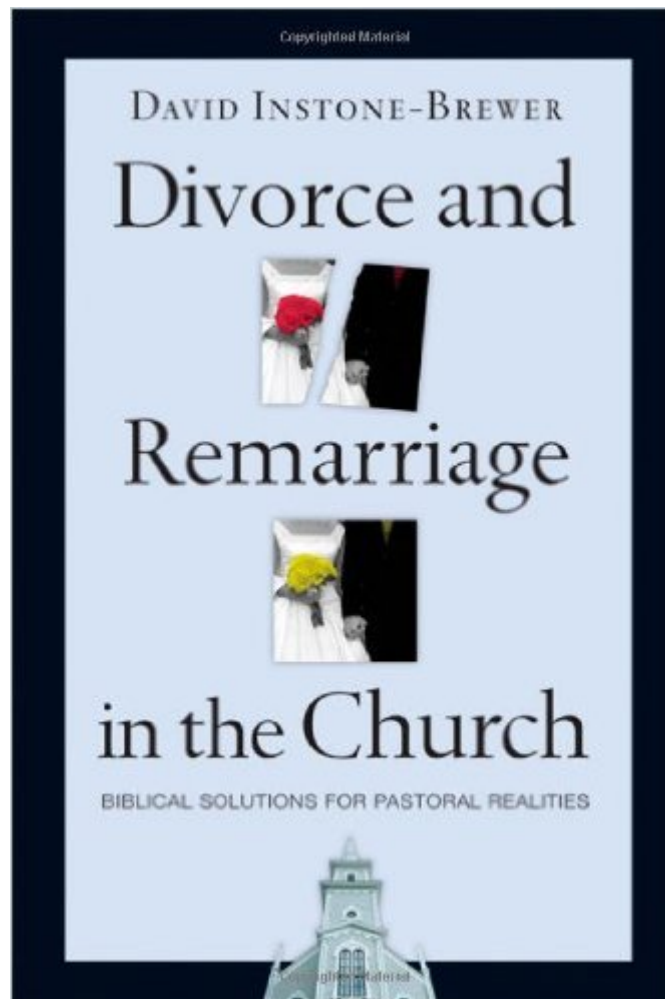


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Divorce And Remarriage In The Church: Biblical Solutions For Pastoral Realities



Synopsis

Will God allow me to divorce my abusive husband? Would it be a sin if I remarried? Divorce and remarriage are major pastoral issues facing every church. Yet when we turn to Scripture for guidance, we often hear conflicting messages about its teachings. David Instone-Brewer shows how, when properly understood, the New Testament provides faithful, realistic and wise guidance of crucial importance and practical help for the church today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Instone-Brewer's book, *Divorce and Remarriage in the Church*, offers a fresh approach to the issue of divorce and remarriage. Unlike traditional interpretation, Instone-Brewer argues that the Bible not only allows divorce on the ground of adultery, but also other grounds such as violence. By using his knowledge of the customs of the first century Palestine, he claims that the traditional interpretation has misread the relevant biblical passages. In this review, I will attempt to examine whether his argument is convincing or not.

Praise One of the most helpful advices Instone-Brewer (I-B) gives in this book is for the church not to judge who is guilty or who is innocent in a divorce. (p. 114) Outsiders are really incapable of making such judgment. In most cases, there is no one who is completely innocent or guilty. The church should teach them principles about marriages, and let them deal with their sins before God. Even in instances where reconciliation is impossible, forgiveness should be granted. In practical situations, however, I-B leaves a loophole untreated. He says, "... a believer should only divorce if they have biblical grounds ... and that all divorcees may

remarry unless their innocent ex-partner wants a reconciliation." (p. 159) But how does the church decide if the ex-partner is innocent or not? It is a problem that needs to be resolved, but I-B does not get into. Thanks to his research, I-B clears up a lot of misunderstandings of the first century Palestinian cultural values. Remarriage was clearly allowed then, but later generations interpreted the silence of the Scripture to mean prohibition of remarriage. To aid his argument, in Chapter Seven, I-B offers a strong case against the idea that marriage relationship always lasts lifelong.

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