

The high divorce rate: its causes and its cures

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: May Allaah give you give good. Umm Imaan says:

Oh Noble Shaykh may Allaah preserve you. What are the reasons for success in remaining upon a stable marital life? And what is the main reason during our current time for the high rate of divorce among some of the people and among the youth?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: Allaah (سبحانه)² has commanded us to live with our spouses in an honourable manner. Allaah (سبحانه) said:

[And live with them honourably.]³

Thus it is obligatory upon each spouse to interact with the other in an honourable manner. And to fulfil what Allaah has made obligatory as it relates to the rights of their spouse. And if they find something that they hate from the other spouse, then they should be patient. Allaah (سبحانه) said:

[If you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing and Allaah brings through it a great deal of good.]⁴

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁵ said:

‘Let not a believing man hate a believing woman, if he dislikes a character trait from her then he will be pleased with another character trait from her.’⁶

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

‘Verily the woman was created from the bent rib and the most crooked part of the rib is the top part. And if you try to straighten her out you will break her, and breaking her is to divorce her, and if you leave her alone she will remain crooked.’⁷

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

³ سورة النساء - Soorah an-Nisaa [4:19]

⁴ سورة النساء - Soorah an-Nisaa [4:19]

⁵ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

⁶ Saheeh Muslim

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Thus this shows the necessity of patience. Therefore the husband should be patient with what he may find from his wife's deficiencies (lack of completeness) in some matters. He should be patient. And if he dislikes some things about her then it may be that he dislikes a thing and Allaah will bring through it a great deal of good.

The same applies to her. She should be patient with things that she sees in her husband that she is not pleased with. She should be patient. And the condition will change, and their affair will improve and the hatred will go away by the permission of Allaah; by having patience and tolerance.

Question: And as for the reason for divorce during our current times oh Shaykh?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله): In brief, the reasons for divorce is he is not patient with the things he dislikes about her and if she is patient the final consequence is it ends in divorce. For this reason Allaah (سبحانه) said:

[As to those women on whose part you see ill conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly, if it is useful), but if they return to obedience, seek not against them means (of annoyance).]⁸

This (verse) is in relation to the husband. He said concerning the wife:

[And if a woman fears cruelty or desertion on her husband's part, there is no sin on them both if they make terms of peace between themselves; and making peace is better. And human inner-selves are swayed by greed.]⁹

And Allaah (سبحانه) said:

[If you fear a breach between them (the man and his wife), appoint (two) arbitrators, one from his family and the other from her family; if they both wish for peace, Allaah will cause their reconciliation.]¹⁰

Thus the legislation came with the remedy for that which occurs between the spouses in order to remove the conflict and return the love and intimacy regardless of what problems had occurred.

⁷ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

⁸ سورة النساء - Soorah an-Nisaa [4:34]

⁹ سورة النساء - Soorah an-Nisaa [4:128]

¹⁰ سورة النساء - Soorah an-Nisaa [4:35]