

ISLAMIC TEACHINGS ON DIVORCE

1. Technically, Muslim jurists define the term divorce as the legal dissolution of a marriage bond established between man and woman so that they are no longer husband and wife.
2. Although marriage is a permanent relationship, Islam recognizes the necessity under exceptional circumstances of keeping the way open for its dissolution when the couples can no longer live happily as husband and wife.
3. This is because there is no point in keeping a nominal contract when the two couples cannot honour its vows and therefore they are living as enemies in their home.
4. Instead of the married partners turning their home into hell, it is better for them to separate peacefully than persisting on indefinitely and harm each other.
5. However, although divorce is allowed in Islam, it is the most hated act in the sight of Allah.

The prophet PBUH said; *“Of all things allowed in Islam, divorce is the most hated”*

He also said; *“The woman who asks her husband to divorce her without a cause, the smell of Paradise is forbidden on her.”*

“There are three things which, whether done in joke or in earnest, shall be considered serious and effectual, namely; marriage, divorce, and taking a wife back.”

6. In the holy Qur’an, Allah approved the prophet’s decision of insisting that his adopted son, Zaid, keep his wife whom he had divorced.

Q (33:37) says; *“And remember when you said to the man whom Allah and yourself have favoured! Keep your wife and have fear of Allah...”*

7. Everything possible must be done to avoid divorce. Firstly, the two couples are asked to try and settle their differences themselves.
8. Secondly, if they fail, two arbiters (mediators) from either side of the woman and man are sought to make peace between them.

Allah says in **Q (4:35)** says; *“If you fear a break between a man and his wife, appoint an arbiter from his people and another from hers. If they wish to be reconciled, Allah will bring them together...”*

9. If the mediators fail to bring peace between the couples, then divorce will follow.

Allah says **Q (2:227)**; *“But if their intention is firm for divorce, Allah hears and knows all things”*