

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EMERGING ISSUES OF
DIVORCE AMONG SELECTED CHRISTIAN FAMILIES IN
MAARA DISTRICT OF THARAKA – NITHI COUNTY, KENYA**



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ABSTRACT

The question of "marriage and divorce" is one of the toughest issues that face the church in the modern era. This poses a major challenge to many Christian couples with the obligation to stick to the injunction that, "What God has joined together, let no one put asunder" (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; I Cor. 7:10-11). According to Arnold (2001) some Christian couples believe that it is biblically permissible to marry and divorce when a couple becomes incompatible at any stage in their married life. The researcher sought to "investigate the causes of divorce, the outcomes of divorce, intervention strategies for minimizing divorce and challenges faced in the process of intervention basing the study on the role of socio-culture, economic, religious and technological factors on divorce amongst the churches in Maara district" in order to understand the relationship between Christian families considering their basis in relation to Christ and the church so as to understand the relationship between partners in Christian marriages. The researcher sought a permit to seek permission from all relevant authorities. The study was carried out in Kenya, Tharaka-Nithi County, Maara district and the study population comprised of church counselors, religious leaders, married Christian couples, and divorcees. The researcher used mixed design to provide a systematic description and analysis of the variables. Qualitative research design was applied on a select group to answer research questions such as: - what, which, how, when, why and where in regard to divorce. The data collection instruments utilized included: Questionnaires, interview schedule and observation. The study's validity and reliability was ensured through a pilot study where the questionnaires were adjusted accordingly in consultation with the supervisors in order to meet the desired purpose of the study. The data was processed using Statistical packages for social sciences software (SPSS) version 17.0 and presented in percentages, tables, pie-charts and graphs.