

Marriage and Divorce – Let's Go

Mark 10:1-12

8-29-21

I. What the Lord says about Divorce. Mark 10:1-5

Mark 10:1-5 – "And He left there...and crowds gathered to Him again. ...as was His custom, He taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test Him asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.' And Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.'"

1. God hates divorce and its effects.

Malachi 2:16 – God says, "I hate divorce...For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her... covers his garment with violence."

2. Unrepentant sexual immorality and desertion of an unbeliever break the bond of marriage.

Mathew 5:32 – "Jesus said, 'But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'"

1 Corinthians 7:15 – "... if the unbelieving partner separates... In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace."

3. Divorce is often due to the hardness of our hearts.

Matthew 19:8 – "... Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."

4. Forgiveness and restoration are always possible.

1 Peter 5:10 – "And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

II. What the Lord says about Marriage. Mark 10:6-9

1. Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and woman intended to last a lifetime for God's glory & our good.

Mark 10:6-9 – "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife... What God has joined together, let not man separate."

2. Marriage is a gift from God & receives meaning from Him.

Genesis 2:25 – "...the man and his wife were... naked and not ashamed."

3. Marriage was created for Partnership, Pleasure, and Procreation.

Genesis 2:18 – "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"

Song of Solomon 4:10 – "How beautiful is your love...my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!"

Malachi 2:15 – "And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring..."

**Unless the couple forsakes children for the sake of the Kingdom or is biologically unable to bear children. Adoption seems to be encouraged.*

4. Marriage is to Paint a picture of Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:32 – "This mystery ...refers to Christ and the church."

5. Premarital discipling, godly community, & our own growth in Christ, are all needed to make marriages strong in the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children..."

Deuteronomy 6:18-19 – "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you...thrusting out all your enemies... as the LORD has promised."

Growing Deeper this Week

1. How has the world changed in your lifetime regarding divorce and remarriage? What can the church do to help with divorce and remarriage?
2. What is the definition of marriage? What is the purpose of marriage? How does this affect our view on the legal definition of marriage?
3. Read Genesis 2:18-25. What is God's prescription for the ideal Christ-centered marriage?
4. What is the difference in the Bible between regulating or reporting divorce, on the one hand, and sanctioning or affirming divorce on the other?
5. For a Christ follower or leader, what is the place of compassion regarding divorce?
6. How has the fall of Adam and Eve influenced God's ideal for marriage? How does it affect the way a Christian might counsel couples?
7. Why are there so many different Christian opinions on divorce and remarriage? What do we know for sure?
8. What interest does the church have in defining and regulating secular marriage?
9. What can the church do to help prevent divorce before it happens? What can we as individuals do? Pray for people you know and for our relationships.