

WOAH! This Marriage Thing is Serious! (vs. 10-12)

God's Word reveals our low view marriage. Repent. Romans 1:24-32
Some can accept, and seek oneness in a covenant commitment
Others are to accept their singleness: due to birth or commitments

For Further Growth, or Group Study

Examine the "Two Exceptions":

Covenant breaking via sexual sin (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 5:27-32)
Abandonment out of a hard heart (1 Corinthians 7:7ff; Malachi 2:13-16)
But, is there repentance? 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Luke 5:32; 18:10-14

Read these passages and examine your heart:

Malachi 2:10-16; Ephesians 4:26-5:2; 5:18-64; Colossians 3:12-25

Honestly evaluate your state of oneness if married, or your contentedness, if not

Schedule a "Oneness Building" activity—A.S.A.P.

How to LOVE! Love is a "doing," not a feeling. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7—ESV)

A Discipleship Tool of Christ Community

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GOD'S ORIGINAL —and ongoing— PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

Help, Hope for Your Home from Jesus [Matthew 19:1-12]

Though Matthew 19 starts a new chapter, Jesus is continuing with His theme of God-honoring, Kingdom relationships. This is holy, hard work: being humble, hungry for holiness, pursuing reconciliation and accountability, forgiving, and building marital oneness, following our Creator's perfect plan.

After teaching us to humbly seek to restore wayward brothers (Matthew 18:12-20), Jesus then commands us to be merciful people who forgive, as we have been forgiven (18:21-35). Our relationships matter to God.

Now, in an encounter with the duplicitous Pharisees, Jesus addresses to the ultimate building block of humanity – marriage. Instead of debating loopholes of how to get out of it, Jesus reinforces God's eternal plan for marriage, and our need to follow it, not our sinful, hardened hearts.

Once again, Jesus turns an intended trap by haters Him into a time to teach, rebuke, and correct. Note to self: be ready to fall into any trap you set for God.

In an era and culture that sees marriage as optional, expendable, re-definable, today's text is a timely reminder and needed encouragement. May God help us to guard and deepen our marriage relationships.

Matthew 19:1 “When Jesus had finished saying these things, he departed from Galilee and went to the region of Judea across the Jordan. 2 Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. 3 Some Pharisees approached him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?”

4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, 5 and he also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

7 “Why then,” they asked him, “did Moses command us to give divorce papers and to send her away?”

8 He told them, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because of the hardness of your hearts, but it was not like that from the beginning. 9 I tell you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another commits adultery.”

10 His disciples said to him, “If the relationship of a man with his wife is like this, it’s better not to marry.”

11 He responded, “Not everyone can accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given. 12 For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb, there are eunuchs who were made by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves that way because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who is able to accept it should accept it.” **(Matthew 19:1-12–CSB)**

The Creator’s Design for Marriage Oneness Pursue Oneness. Resist Your Hard Heart

People who look for loopholes: you want them to do your taxes, but not walk down the aisle in marriage with you. Oneness in marriage should keep us from feeling like we need an escape clause from our covenant relationship. Don’t pack a parachute for the after the honeymoon.

The respected Rabbis of Jesus’ day were divided on acceptable reasons for divorce. Some agreed with Rabbi Hillel who said the man had permission to send his wife away if he was displeased with her (a bad cook, infertile, less attractive . . .). Others sided with Rabbi Shammai, who said only if she was unfaithful.

The Pharisees, who supposedly held a high view of Scriptures, wanted Jesus’ opinion on grounds for divorce—a hot button issue of their day too. Far from being trapped, Jesus took them to God’s original, ongoing plan, the pattern God set forth in Genesis.

While people claim Jesus never addressed a variety of issues, this text, like many others, show that He did. Our loving, wise Creator set forth a one man, one woman, till death do us part gift. Regardless of new definitions or accepted standards, God’s plan stands. Deviations from it reveal sinfully hardened hearts.

Don’t Forget where Jesus is Heading (vs. 1, 2)

He is not just on a long walk. Heading to His cross.
Teaching, Healing the Crowds, Preparing the Twelve

STOP Trying to Test, Trap God. Losing Game! (vs. 3)

“Which side will you take: indecent = displeasure or unfaithful?”
“But, Moses said . . .” (vs. 7; cf. 22:18, 35; Matthew 14:1-12)
“Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them. (Proverbs 26:27- NIV)
“the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7; cf. Psalm 139)

In ALL Things, Look to, Side with, God’s Word:

Have you even read your Bibles? *OUCH!* (Genesis 1, 2)
Male and Female: Creator’s design of gender, unto marriage
In marriage, we cut ties, build new ones, become one with spouse
Don’t try to sever what God has planned, joined (Proverbs 6:32)
Moses didn’t approve divorce. He saw sinful hearts (Deuteronomy 24:1ff)
Hard hearts made verifying documentation necessary
This was NOT God’s plan (see Genesis 1, 2; Malachi 2:13-16)