

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

One Flesh — Matthew 19:3-12

November 18, 2018

The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.” **-Matthew 19:10-11**

I. MARRIAGE—GOD’S VIEW

- In the kingdom of God, human opinion is overthrown by the breathtaking newness of the teaching of Jesus (Matt. 5-7, 19).
- God did not create a unisex world. One man, one woman, for life was His plan (Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:10-11, 39).
- Divorce is permitted because of sin, but it is never ideal and rarely what is best (Matt. 19:8; 1 Cor. 7:10-11).
- Sadly, after attempting reconciliation over time, there are cases where divorce is not wanted in marriage, but can be obtained due to adultery, abandonment and covenant breaking (Jer. 3:6-8; 1 Cor. 7:15-16).
- Divorce and remarriage leads to adultery [depending on the circumstances, either culpable or non-culpable] (Matt. 1:19; 5:32; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18).
- Among the rabbis, Shammai was a conservative, Hillel was a liberal, and Jesus was a radical (Matt. 19:10-12).

II. NOW WHAT?

- Understand and accept that marriage is sacred to God. Remaining single is also a godly option (Gen. 2:24-25; 1 Cor. 7:6, 25-28).
- For the divorced, confess any sinful responsibility on your part in a failed marriage and repent.
- For the new believer, accept your “condition” in life and move on from there (1 Cor. 7:20-24).
- If you are unmarried, pray, think, seek godly counsel, pray some more before you get married or remarried (Matt. 19:10-11; 1 Cor. 7:25-40).
- If you are in a troubled marriage, do not compound a bad decision with a worse decision. Work on your marriage (Matt. 18:21-23; 1 Cor. 13:4-8).

KNOW: God set up marriage from the beginning as a permanent, life-long union. Jesus reiterated God’s stance in very clear and direct language. Divorce, even when forgiveness has come, will almost always be like tearing flesh.

DO: Whether you are single, married, divorced, remarried or widowed, accept God’s standard for marriage.

Suggested Reading:

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible by Jay Adams (LifePoint Library #646 ADA)

www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/marriage-pursuing-conformity-to-christ-in-the-covenant

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. Maybe someone from your group would like to share (briefly) about how divorce has affected their life.
2. Why do you think Jesus comes down so “hard” on divorce? Why is marriage so important to God?
3. Both marriage and divorce have become easy to acquire in our society. What do you think have been the overall effects?
4. Is it okay to remain single? Does God want everyone to be married?
5. How can the church be more caring towards those who have gone through a divorce while remaining true to Scripture?
6. What’s the best thing we can do for a friend or family member who is going through an unwanted divorce? Where does an aggrieved husband or wife find support?