

Jump To Page:

Sermon Notes

Slide Deck

## Classical Conversations

### Classical Conversations Interest

Harborview has three licensed Classical Conversations Communities on campus (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday). If you homeschool, or are thinking about homeschooling your family and are interested in the classical method of learning.



To learn more, contact Erin Hardwick, [erin@hfcgh.org](mailto:erin@hfcgh.org)

Learn more, or register here:

<https://classicalconversations.com/events/?id=r8QP3>

## HF Kids

### Saturday Nights no Summer Children's Ser

For the summer months we will not be having children's services during Saturday nights. The nursery and family room will be available to parents with babies and young children.

## MeySen

### MeySen

Give a pair of Japanese students the experience of American Life for 3 Days in August.

The MeySen Academy of Japan will be returning this summer with a group of their students to experience life in America. Host families are needed to house children in pairs for just a few nights. August 2nd through the 5th. Host families can take the student on hikes, zoos, or out to a baseball game. Go to our website to contact Clarissa Solomon to learn more how you can be a host family for this annual tradition.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/450/responses>



## Prayer

### All Church Prayer

All church prayer. July 11th 6:30-8:30pm.



## Freedom Prayer

We provide a prayer opportunity for anyone who feels the need for increased freedom and personal breakthrough in their lives. You will be walked through a process of Freedom Prayer by 2 or 3 of our trained Ministry Team Members.

Come with an expectant and receptive heart for the Lord to powerfully minister to you!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



## Intercessory Prayer

Join us for Intercessory prayer, Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, or Thursday mornings at 6:30am.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



## Small Groups

### Small Groups

Small Groups exist to help each one of us grow up into the life of God within us.

They are a primary mechanism for shepherding through relationship + discipleship.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/368/responses>



## Sycamore Commission

### Africa Missions Teams

Harborview is sending three missions teams to Africa this summer: Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe on behalf of the Sycamore Commission. This will be to complete the training of leaders in the region to teach the Living Set free principles to the people there. The teams will also be training an additional 450 people who will go on to share the transformative Gospel to their communities. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to these missions by visiting the Sycamore Commission website.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://sycamorecommission.org/events/africa-team>



## Middle School Summer Retreat

We're excited to announce our upcoming retreat!

**When:** Saturday, July 26 - Sunday, July 27

**Where:** Long Lake, Port Orchard, WA

**What:**

- Lakefront Campout
- Teaching – Growing in our knowledge and faith in the Lord
- Small Groups – Growing closer together as friends as we walk together
- Worship – Worshipping God in the midst of His creation
- Games – Building relationship and memories through shared experiences
- Water Fun – We will, of course, spend plenty of time on the water!

Cost: \$180

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/443/responses>

## Summer's Edge

Summer Edge Events. Every other Week beginning July 2nd at Harborview Fellowship.



## Whole Church

### Giving

Thank you for being a part of Harborview Fellowship Church. Your donations are used to support, grow, and advance God's kingdom through a number of ministries at Harborview Fellowship including Children and Youth ministries, Outreach, Missions, Operations, and Jesus Ministry training both locally and globally.

You can mail a check, or give online to the link below.

Harborview Fellowship

4819 Hunt Street NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/give>



## Women's Self Defense

For women post-high school and above. Learn practical skills of self-defense for peace of mind and awareness. Save the Date

When: Saturday, August 2nd

Time: 9am-1:30

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/449/responses>



## JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Matthew 5:31-32

### INTRODUCTION

1. There are few people in this room who have not been touched by divorce.
2. Many have been hurt. Some may be right now amid the pain of divorce.
3. Some are still recovering from divorce. It is a sensitive issue.
4. Today, I aim to address this relevant, biblical topic with sensitivity yet truthfully.
5. What does Jesus say about marriage, divorce, & remarriage?

### TEXT

**Matthew 5:31–32** (NKJV) *“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

- Jesus is realigning the understanding of marriage and divorce in kingdom righteousness.
- This issue is addressed by Jesus more fully in Matthew 19.

### THE SETTING vs. 1-2

- At this time, Jesus is in His final days in the movement of Matthew's gospel.
- He is heading toward Judea and will come to Jerusalem, where He will be crucified.
- The religious leaders of Israel are escalating their assaults on Jesus.

### JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE vs. 3-9

#### The Pharisee's Malicious Question vs. 3

**Matthew 19:3** (NKJV) *The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”*

- Practically from the onset of Jesus' ministry, He had been challenged, criticized, and attacked by the religious leaders of Israel.
- They test Him, hoping to cause Him to publicly be caught in error.
  - Can a man divorce his wife for any reason he wants to? An attack on its sanctity.
  - Of course, Jesus will answer, "No, a man cannot divorce his wife for any reason he wants to.
  - They wanted to trap Jesus with a Deut. 24 controversy and snare Him in a first-century Jewish controversy.

- There was a more liberal school of rabbis and a strict school of rabbis.
- These Pharisees also knew they were in the region of Herod Antipas. He was the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded, who challenged his marriage.
- John condemned Herod and Herodias for their adulterous marriage.
- If they could get Jesus to speak out on the marriage issue, maybe Herod would respond to Jesus as He did to John the Baptist.

#### **Jesus' Shrewd Answer vs. 4-6**

**Matthew 19:4–6** (NKJV) *And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

- He says, “Have you not read?” You are the experts in the law.
- The way to address this issue is to go to the beginning. What is God’s design?

#### **The Creation vs. 4**

**Matthew 19:4** (NKJV) *And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’*

- From the beginning.

*Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (NIV)*

- In God's original design, He never had another plan or purpose for sexual or married life.
- This plan was one man and one woman. He did not create Eve and Eva for Adam. Nor did He create Anthony along with Adam so Eve could have relations with Adam or Anthony.
- God's original plan was one man for one woman, not two men for one woman, or two women for one man, or one man for one man, or one woman for one woman.
- Jesus is not teaching a novel doctrine for kingdom righteousness.
- He is simply advocating for the design of God since the beginning of time, one man for one woman.

#### **The Command vs. 5**

**Matthew 19:5** (NKJV) *and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?*

- Jesus continues to quote Moses.

- Gen. 2:24: . . . *that for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.*
- It is for this reason that Jesus says that man will leave his parents to join himself with a wife, and vice versa.
- To cleave is to create a bond of which there is a gluing together

***"Leave" is a command.***

- It is important for domestic health in the newly formed marriage.

***Cleave is in the passive voice.***

- It means to adhere to firmly, loyally, and closely. The root word implies gluing, a bonding.
- It is in the passive voice, which means it is done to them. When a man and woman join themselves in marriage, they are glued or joined together by an outside action.
  - God performs a divine work of joining together, and that marriage has become a bonding union by God. IT IS A WORK OF GOD.

***Two Become One Flesh***

- One flesh means more than a mere physical, sexual union.
- One flesh does involve the physical and the sexual. However, it also involves the very being of two people.
  - That is why adultery devastates the non-participating mate.
  - That is why men and women who are outside of the marriage covenant, enter sexual intercourse, are impacted mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
  - The essential fiber of their being is altered.

***The Principle vs. 6***

***Matthew 19:6 (NKJV) So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.***

- Jesus took the Pharisees back to God's intended design.
- Now Jesus summarizes the underlying principle.
- God made man and woman, husband and wife, an indissoluble union.
  - What God has joined together, do not let mankind separate.
  - You are entering into sacred territory.
- Jesus does not say what man has joined together, or love has joined together, but what God has joined together.



- Most who have gone through a divorce will share with you that the separation was like a tearing.
- It is more than just a legal reality.

#### The Pharisees' Intended Trap vs. 7

**Matthew 19:7** (NKJV) *They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”*

- The Pharisees responded with, “Why did Moses command us to give a bill of divorcement and send her away?” (Deut. 24:1-4)
- The Pharisees throw their Ace out on the table.
- With this, they were hoping to expose Jesus as contradicting Moses and showing Him as not credible.

#### Jesus' Defense vs. 8

**Matthew 19:8** (NKJV) *He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.*

- Jesus first corrects their error from Moses commanded to Moses permitted.
- Nowhere in Moses' writings did he command divorce.
  - In fact, the Deuteronomy text is the only text of Moses' writings that deals with divorce to this degree.
  - Divorce is not God's pleasure, His will, or His command.
  - It has never changed as seen in Malachi chapter two.

**Malachi 2:13–16** (NKJV) *And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. “Therefore, take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 “For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”*



- Jesus said that it was because of their hardness of heart that Moses permitted divorce; He did not command it, and that from the beginning it was not this way.
- Jesus does not cancel the Deuteronomic teaching but subordinates it to God's original design in Genesis..

### Jesus' Exception vs. 9

**Matthew 19:9** (NKJV) *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*

- Jesus went on to say that anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery.
- Why? Because they are still married in God's eyes, before whom the marriage covenant was established.
- The **exception** is for the case of immorality.
- It is not commanded, but it is permissible.
- "Immorality" in **vs. 9** is translated from the Gk. Wd. *porneia*, from which we get the word pornography.
  - *It is a broad term that encompasses all forms of illicit sexual activity.*
- In the context of marriage, adultery falls into that category.
- With this, the Pharisees were most likely brewing with a venomous anger toward Jesus.
- They had not only failed to get Him to contradict Moses, but He had showed that they were condemned by God in their illegitimate divorces and consequent adulteries.

### SUMMARY ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

1. **Christians** are only to marry other Christians, according to 2 Corinthians 6:14.
2. God designed marriage to be indissoluble, as stated in Matthew 19:4-6.
3. To divorce and remarry is to commit adultery, as seen in Matthew 19:9.
4. Divorce is nowhere commanded by God but is forbidden by Him.
5. **Divorce is permissible** by God in such cases as:
  - a. Unrelenting and unrepentant sexual infidelity by a mate according to Matthew 19:9.
  - b. If a non-Christian is not willing to live with their Christian spouse, the Christian is freed by God from the covenant of that marriage according to 1 Corinthians 7:15.

- In such situations, the violated partner is free to remarry and would not be considered in adultery. The remarriage is to be with a Christian, one who is not inappropriately divorced according to God's Word.
- 6. **Divorce that does not** include the two exceptions above (Spouse's immorality or abandonment by a non-Christian spouse) requires that the people involved remain single or be reconciled as explained in 1 Corinthians 7:10-16.
- 7. If a partner dies, the surviving mate is, of course, free to marry according to 1 Corinthians 7:39

### **WHAT ABOUT?**

- **Spousal or child abuse**, where well-being and safety are at issue.
  - We cannot imagine that it would be God's desire for a spouse to remain in a marriage of physical or devastating emotional abuse toward him or her and/or the children.
  - The first step is legal separation; it is a good and appropriate step.
  - In such a situation, a time of separation with the goal of repentance and restoration should be the ideal, not immediately beginning divorce proceedings.
  - Then proceed step by step.

### **CONCLUSION**

What are the biblical grounds for divorce?

- The answer is sexual immorality and abandonment.

Are there additional grounds for divorce beyond these two?

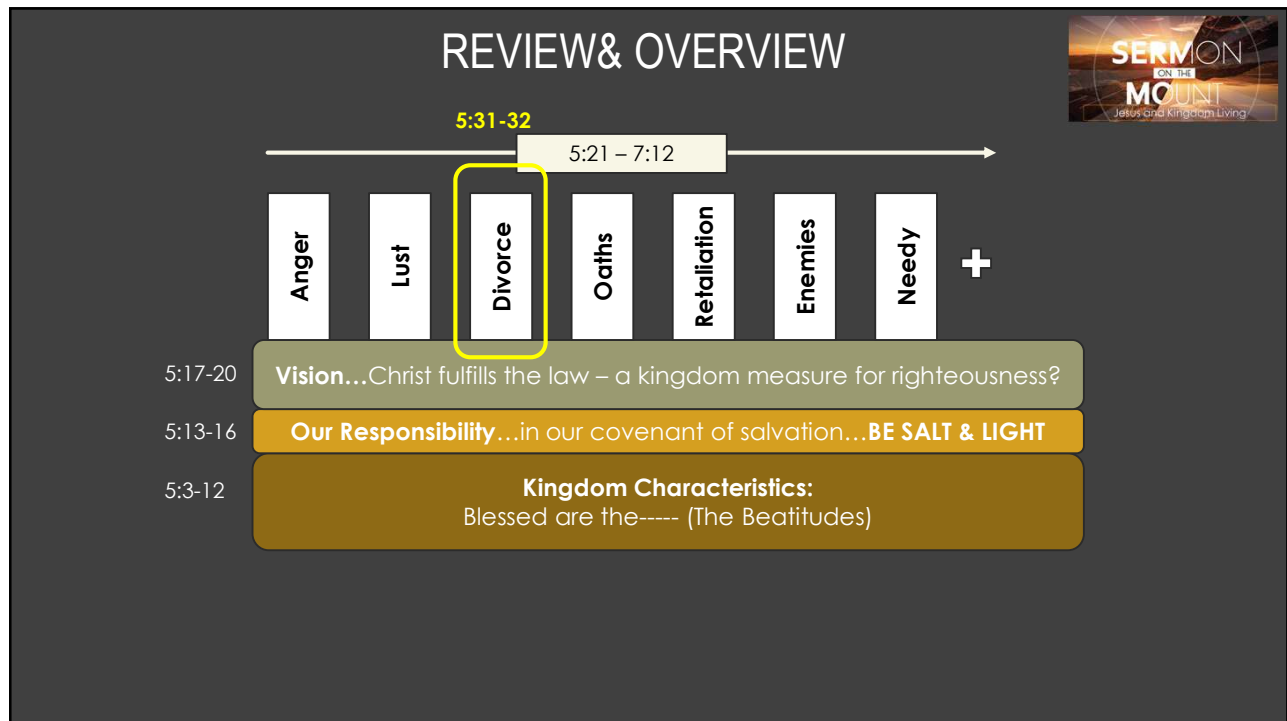
- Possibly.

Is divorce ever to be treated lightly or employed as the first recourse?

- Absolutely not. God can change and reform any person.
- God is capable of healing and renewing any marriage.
- Divorce should only occur in instances of repeated and unrepentant heinous sin.



1



2

## JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



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3

THE SETTING vs. 1-2  
 JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE vs. 3-9  
 The Pharisee's Malicious Question vs. 3



*Matthew 19:3 (NKJV) The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”*

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THE SETTING	vs. 1-2
JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE	vs. 3-9
The Pharisee's Malicious Question	vs. 3
Jesus' Shrewd Answer	vs. 4-6



*Matthew 19:4–6 (NKJV) And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

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THE SETTING	vs. 1-2
JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE	vs. 3-9
The Pharisee's Malicious Question	vs. 3
Jesus' Shrewd Answer	vs. 4-6
The Creation	vs. 4



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The Command	vs. 5
<i>"Leave" is a command</i>	
<i>"Cleave" is in the passive voice</i>	
<i>Two Become "One Flesh"</i>	



7

THE SETTING	vs. 1-2
JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE	vs. 3-9
The Pharisee's Malicious Question	vs. 3
Jesus' Shrewd Answer	vs. 4-6
The Creation	vs. 4
The Command	vs. 5
The Principle	vs. 6



*Matthew 19:6 (NKJV) So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

8

THE SETTING	vs. 1-2
JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE	vs. 3-9
The Pharisee's Malicious Question	vs. 3
Jesus' Shrewd Answer	vs. 4-6
The Pharisees' Intended Trap	vs. 7



*Matthew 19:7 (NKJV) They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"*

9

JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE	vs. 3-9
The Pharisee's Malicious Question	vs. 3
Jesus' Shrewd Answer	vs. 4-6
The Pharisees' Intended Trap	vs. 7
Jesus' Defense	vs. 8



*Matthew 19:8 (NKJV) He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.  
..."*

10



*Malachi 2:13–16 (NKJV) And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore, take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."*



11

JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE	vs. 3-9
The Pharisee's Malicious Question	vs. 3
Jesus' Shrewd Answer	vs. 4-6
The Pharisees' Intended Trap	vs. 7
Jesus' Defense	vs. 8
Jesus' Explanation	vs. 9



*Matthew 19:9 (NKJV) And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*

12

## SUMMARY ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



1. *Christians are only to marry other Christians, according to 2 Corinthians 6:14.*
2. *God designed marriage to be indissoluble, as stated in Matthew 19:4-6.*
3. *To divorce unbiblically and to remarry is to commit adultery, as seen in Matthew 19:9.*
4. *Divorce is nowhere commanded by God but is forbidden by Him.*

13

## SUMMARY ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



5. *Divorce is permissible by God in such cases as:*
  - a. *Unrelenting and unrepentant sexual infidelity by a spouse according to Matthew 19:9.*
  - b. *If a non-Christian is not willing to live with their Christian spouse, the Christian is freed by God from the covenant of that marriage according to 1 Corinthians 7:15.*
    - *In such situations, the violated partner is free to remarry and would not be considered in adultery. The remarriage is to be with a Christian, one who is not inappropriately divorced according to God's Word.*

14

## SUMMARY ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



6. *Divorce that does not include the two exceptions above (Spouse's immorality or abandonment by a non-Christian spouse) requires that the people involved remain single or be reconciled as explained in 1 Corinthians 7:10-16.*
7. *If a partner dies, the surviving mate is, of course, free to marry according to 1 Corinthians 7:39*

15

## WHAT ABOUT?



- *Spousal or child abuse, where well-being and safety are at issue.*

16

## CONCLUSION

*What are the biblical grounds for divorce?*

- *Sexual immorality and abandonment.*

*Are there additional grounds for divorce beyond these two?*

- *Possibly.*

*Is divorce ever to be treated lightly or employed as the first recourse?*

- *Absolutely not. God can change and reform any person.*
- *God is capable of healing and renewing any marriage.*
- *Divorce should only occur in instances of repeated and unrepentant heinous sin.*

