

Divorce is ALWAYS the result of SIN

There are ALWAYS Sinful Actions and Sinful Attitudes
That LEAD to Divorce

Sometimes it is Primarily the Sin of ONE Spouse

But Often - Divorce - is the RESULT
Of SOME Sin – on the Part of Both Spouses

BUT - If you have BEEN Divorced – Pls hear me
You are NOT a 2nd-Class Christian

Because there is FORGIVENESS for Sin

<p><u>There IS Forgiveness</u> for <u>Sin</u> <u>BUT</u> – <u>God</u> does <u>NOT Allow Sin</u></p>

this statement - has a LOT to do
With our Subject today

There IS Forgiveness for SIN
BUT – God Does NOT Allow Sin

Which means – in MANY Cases
God Does NOT Allow - Divorce

I don't know if there is ANY subject
in ALL the teaching of Jesus

That is Questioned & Challenged
As often AS the Subject - of Divorce & Remarriage is

& THAT is the Subject we look at – today

Let's Pray

Last week – we looked at
some HARD Warnings from Jesus

Our Msg was - “Clear & Present Warnings”

& we made a commitment
To NOT Justify, & NOT Explain Away

The very CLEAR Warnings
that Jesus delivered - in Mark Ch 9

Which means we also CANNOT
Justify or Explain away

The Clear & Present WARNING - about Divorce
that is in our Vs's today

& Listen - I know many of us
already have our Explanation Ready for this subject

Some of us have heard
the Exceptions & Justifications – SO MUCH

That even before Jesus speaks

We've already got our defense statement
prepared and ready to deliver

But, can we please
lay all that aside for a few minutes

& just truly & sincerely HEAR
What Jesus has to say

About this Incredibly CENTRAL PART
of our Life with him? . . . OK?

So - We left Jesus
Dropping Jaws & leaving people Speechless

With some very Graphic WARNINGS
about us - cutting off sin in our lives

& so – it seems only right
for Mark to continue in that THEME – in the next vs's

So we start – in Mark 10:1 (NLT) → → →

Mark 10:1 (NLT)

1 Then Jesus left Capernaum and went down to the region of Judea and into the area east of the Jordan River. Once again crowds gathered around him, and as usual he was teaching them.

So **Jesus**, the **12 Disciples**,
& the **group** that **travllled** with him

ALL **left Capernaum** (his **home-town** - in Galilee)
& **headed SOUTH**

& **now** - **Jesus** is on **his way** - **Ultimately**
to **JERUSALEM** - & the **CROSS** (*just as he said*)

He is **Past Samaria** - But **EAST** of the **Jordan River**
In what is **today** – the **Country of Jordan**

& **v.1 says** – As **usual**

The **Crowds** were **gathered** around **him**
& **he** was **teaching** them

& then we read - Mark 10:2 (NLT)

2 Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?”

Notice their goal – **they tried to trap him**

& **Literally** – the **end** of the **Vs** is
is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?

& In response – we read in - Mark 10:3 (NLT)

**3 (teachers take note) Jesus answered them with a question:
“What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”**

Jesus asks - The Pharisees the question -

In order to REVEAL their heart

& it DID reveal their heart – & we see it in

Mark 10:4 (NLT)

4 “Well, he permitted it,” they replied. “He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.”

What the Pharisees are referring to

**AND what so much of
the Christian world has “Adopted”**

**Is actually a Side-Note – a Parenthesis
To all of God’s Teaching on Marriage**

It’s in Deuteronomy 24:1

**& it was actually written specifically
for the Wife’s Benefit - & for Her Safety**

**Deuteronomy 24:1 says - If a Husband
is going to send his Wife away**

**He must give her
a Certificate of Divorce**

SO THAT - **she** can be **married** again

& **SO THAT** the **community** would **know**
that **she** did **NOT** commit **Adultery**

Because the **penalty** for **Adultery** - **was Death**

& in **V.5** - **Jesus** makes it **Perfectly Clear**
WHY Moses wrote this **“Side-Note”** **RE: Marriage**

Mark 10:5 (NLT)

5 But Jesus responded, “He wrote this commandment only as a concession to (or because of) your hard hearts.

Jesus is **saying** –

This was **NOT PART** of **God’s Plan for Marriage**

Moses wrote **this** as a **CONCESSION**

(a **Side Note**) to **God’s Plan**

Because of - the **Hardness** of your **Heart**

God knew the **heart** of **Man**

so he **wrote** a **“Safety Clause”** for **the wife**

BUT – this was **NEVER**

part of **God’s Plan for Marriage**

& Jesus makes that clear – starting in

Mark 10:6 (NLT)

6 But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation.

In response to the Pharisees
bringing up this Side-Note of Divorce in the Law

Jesus goes OVER Moses’ Head
To the very purpose of God in Creation

Jesus says - Yeah – Moses had to
address your hard heart - *For your wife’s benefit*

**BUT - God DESIGNED us for Marriage (Male & Female)
From the beginning of creation**

& as we go on – we see
V.6 is a clear introduction – to the fact

that God created us Male & Female
For the purpose of the Marriage Relationship

& we see it - in Mark 10:7–8(a) (NLT)

→ → →

Mark 10:7–8(a) (NLT)

7 ‘*This* (the fact that God created us male & female - v.6) *explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, 8 and the two are united into one.*’ . . .

God’s CREATION DESIGN **EXPLAINS WHY**

Divorce was NEVER part
of God’s Plan for Marriage

This is the Foundation of Jesus’ answer
to the question about Divorce

God created us Male & Female
with the Marriage Relationship in Mind

& God’s Plan
for the Marriage Relationship

Is **for us** – to be **JOINED TOGETHER** - -
Two – Miraculously UNITED - into One

***‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.*’ . . .**

& then – the end of V.8 & into V.9 - MAKES IT CLEAR

These - Two Individuals
are No Longer - Two Individuals

& **BECAUSE** these **Two Individuals**
are **No Longer** - **Two Individuals**

No one should **attempt**
to **get them** To **be** - **Two Individuals - Again**

Mark 10:8(b) - 9 (NLT)

8 . . . Since they are no longer two but one, 9 let no one split apart (or tear apart) **what God has joined together.**”

First – **look closely** here – at **What CAUSED**

these Previously - Two individuals
To **No Longer BE - Two Individuals?**

GOD CAUSED them
to no longer be **Two Individuals** – Right?

God has **JOINED them** together - (**Made** them **ONE**)

I **don't think** the **word JOINED**
Is really **big enough** for **us**

We **might think** – like **maybe** “**A KNOT**”
Tie the KNOT – **Untie the KNOT**

(& **some** people **think**, I'm just **gonna** tie a **Slip-Knot**)

That is **NOT** what **JOINED TOGETHER** - **means**

The word means
to MAKE TWO – Permanently INTO ONE

Which is why Mark 10:9 says (LITERALLY)
let no one [TEAR] apart what God has [made one]

You CANNOT UNTIE this KNOT

You can Only Try to TEAR APART
what God made - to never be TORN APART

& that cannot be done
Without Significant Damage Occurring

& almost always – it is NOT JUST Damage
to the TWO that God had made ONE

But there is (almost always)

Significant Collateral Damage
to Innocent Bystanders

Guys - Divorce is Never part of God's Plan

Divorce happens - & sometimes Truly Required

But it is NOT - God's PLAN
& it is NOT - God's WILL

God - IS Present – in a Divorce
& God has Promised to be "At Work" - in a Divorce

But Divorce – is NOT

A Part of God's Plan – Or God's Will

Malachi 2:16 says – “*God HATES Divorce*”

God's Plan - & God's Will

Is that Two Lives

would be Miraculously Transformed

In to ONE FLESH

& guys – We've GOT to Start

Our conversations about Marriage

By EMBRACING This TRUTH about God & Divorce

We CANNOT Start

our Conversations about Divorce

With the Explanations & Exceptions & Defenses

That MANY of us – have HEARD so often

& so – moving on in our Text

(as was often the case)

The Disciples got to hear MORE from Jesus

When they got back to the house

So we cont - Mark 10:10 (NLT) → → →

Mark 10:10 (NLT)

10 Later, when he was alone with his disciples in the house, they brought up the subject again.

Just as it is today

This was such a “Hot Issue”

That the Disciples wanted more information

& we can tell

WHAT they were looking for

by the further instruction Jesus gives them

& THIS is where it gets HEAVY

Mark 10:11-12 (NLT)

11 He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her.

12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery.”

**The Disciples obviously wanted to know
about REMARRIAGE After Divorce**

But **I promise** you – **this was NOT**
the **information** they **were expecting**

**This is a Radically Serious Warning
About Divorce & Remarriage**

& WE HATE these Vs's

BECAUSE they are a Radically Serious Warning
About Divorce & Remarriage

& BECAUSE we HATE these Vs's

we spend a TON of time
Talking about "The Exceptions" to these Vs's

& Jesus DID give - One Exception

& Paul gave ONE - & Possibly TWO Exceptions

BUT – is there a chance
that we're a bit TOO Quick

to JUMP to the Exceptions?

Shouldn't we just allow the Weight
of these Vs's - to PRESS DOWN on us some

We can't just Blow these Vs's off
We can't just 'talk' them away

YES – there ARE some exceptions

But what Jesus is trying to say is
God's Plan for Marriage – is Permanent

→ → →

& God's View of Divorce
Is Much more SERIOUS
Than We generally think it is

I KNOW this is **hard** to **take**

I KNOW there is **often more discussion**
that **needs** to **take place**

BUT what **Jesus** is **saying here**
Is **That** it **IS POSSIBLE**

For you to **THINK**
you've UN-Tied the **Knot of Marriage**

When God STILL sees you – **AS Married**

If you take a Hard Look at **vs's 11-12** – **that's what you see**

It **seems to me** - **Jesus** is **referring** to a **situation**

where a person THINKS - **they** are **no longer married**
but **God** Still **Sees Them** as **Married**

& **IF that** is **the case** – **in GOD'S Eyes**

Then - when you **try** to **become**
One Flesh with a **New Person**

God calls it - Adultery

Vs's 11-12 are a RADICAL WARNING

Which is why this is - The Divorce Teaching We HATE

So – WHAT EXCEPTIONS to these Vs's
Can we Actually FIND in Scripture?

The BIG ONE - is in Matthew Ch 19

It's Matthew's account - of this same teaching

Matthew 19:9 (NLT)

9 And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.

This is the BIG Exception
The case of One Spouse committing Adultery

But – even then – Jesus doesn't DEMAND Divorce
He only ALLOWS it

& he ALLOWS IT – because in the O.T.
the consequence of Adultery - was Death

& Death - would then allow
the innocent spouse to Remarry

So – Altho NOT required
Adultery gives you the Right – to Divorce

Then in 1 Cor Ch 7

We have Paul's Exception (or Exceptions)

This Exception comes – as a Parenthesis

In the Middle of a teaching

on being married to an Unbelieving Spouse

1 Corinthians 7:15 (NLT)

15 (But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the believing husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.)

So – that's pretty clear

& then – coming FROM this teaching in 1 Cor 7

There is a case to be made

that Divorces that occurred

WHILE YOU were an UNBELIEVER

Fall under this same Exception

So – Only Three Exceptions (to the Warning in Mark Ch 10)
that we clearly see in Scripture

1) Adultery

2) Unbelieving Spouse divorces you

3) You were an Unbeliever when you divorced a spouse

4) (we add) Immediate REMOVAL from Abuse situation

OTHER than for These Exceptions

Divorce could put you

In a **Really Difficult Spot - with God**

Because Vs's 11-12 of Mark 10

Are a **Really, Really Serious Warning**

& **so** – **What do you do** – if **you've already** made
a **Serious Error** – in **this area** of **your life?**

You CONFESS - & REPENT

You Acknowledge your **Sin** to **God**

& **Ask him** to **FORGIVE YOU**

& **if possible** – **Acknowledge your sin**
to others that **you've hurt**

& **ask them** to **Forgive you**

1 John 1:9–10 (NLT)

9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

10 (But) If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

→ → →

**If you have made a Sinful Decision
In this critical area of your life**

CONFESS your Sin to God & REPENT

**God is Faithful & Just to Forgive you
& Cleanse you from all Unrighteousness**

**He CAN – Pick you up
& set your feet on the Rock**

& restore you to a Right Relationship with him

**Because Our God
is a Faithful, Merciful, Forgiving God**

**BUT Please – We should never Mistake
God's Mercy & Forgiveness**

for God Condoning our Sinful Choices

God's Word is True

& the WARNINGS are there to help keep us
from USHERING DESTRUCTION into our lives

Let's Pray