

LIFEGROUP MATERIAL | WEEK OF April 25th *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage*

Matthew 19:3-10

3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" **4** He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? **6** So they are no longer two but one flesh. "Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate." **7** They said to him, "Why then did Moses command" one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." 10 "His disciples said to him, if such is the case of a man with his wife, it's better not to marry."

The only **standard** we should live by is God's standard.

The only way to know God's **standard** is to read God's **Word**.

A **casual** approach to marriage.

A **contractual** approach to marriage.

A **covenantal** approach to marriage.

Your divorce or your remarriage is not a **continual** state of **adultery**.

The reason that God is so serious about our marriage covenants with **each other** is that He is so serious about His marriage covenant with **us**.

LIFEGROUP CONVERSATION

- 1. Was there someone in your life that modeled what a marriage should look like? If so, share with the group. How have those models shaped your relationship?
- 2. Have your group read Matthew 19:3-10. How does Jesus' teaching on divorce stand in contrast to the way people view marriage and divorce today?
- 3. What is the difference in viewing marriage as a covenant instead of a contract?
- 4. Pastor Chris talked about how we need to live by God's standard. What does that look like for you? 5a. What is the biggest hindrance in your marriage right now? If you have people in your group who are not married, talk about any hindrances that they might have in their relationships with their gf/bf, parents, siblings, friends, etc...

5b. What are you willing to do to ensure that this area of your marriage will no longer be a hindrance?

Honestly evaluate whether you're living up to the Kingdom values of marriage. If not, or if you're confused about a particular issue, talk to God. Ask Him for forgiveness, if necessary, and for guidance. As a group, pray for one another.