

Jesus' Plan for Marriage Children and Divorce

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Mark 10:1-16 (NIV)

¹Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. ²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³“What did Moses command you?” he replied. ⁴They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” ⁵“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. ⁶“But **at the beginning of creation** God ‘made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.” ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

· **For the optimum marriage you have to follow the Original Equipment Manufacturer’s manual.** (vs. 5-9; Deuteronomy 24:1; Proverbs 19:21)

“After marriage the individual is no more... the two become one.”

“And the law of God was not, that a man should forsake his wife whenever he had a mind to it, but that he should rather forsake his father and mother than his wife; loving his wife as his own body.” Poole

· **Marriage is no small thing and when done right is absolutely wonderful, but when done wrong can be absolutely miserable.** (Ephesians 5:25-33; Ecclesiastes 4:8-12)

“Marriage can either be a great blessing, or a great curse, depending on where you place the Cross.” C.T. Studd

· **Divorce is really bad, and should only be a last resort. And Jesus gives only one provision for Divorce - Infidelity.** (vs. 10-12; Matt 5:31-32; Matt 19:8-9; Malachi 2:16)

“The greatest wounds are inflicted on the children when dad doesn’t love mom and mom doesn’t love dad as God intended.”

The secret to a wonderful marriage (and life) is to live every day like a child, with an ever sense of wonder, awe, adventure, trust, and love...