

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Mark 10:1-12

Pastor Jän 101519

Mark 10:1-12 Jesus 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. ² Some 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. ⁴ They 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,⁸ and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ¹⁰ When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹ He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹² And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

As was his custom, he taught them (v. 1): You may by now have noticed Jesus' consistent emphasis on teaching.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As established by Jesus, the two primary activities of the church are baptizing and teaching.

Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife? (v. 2): this is a passage that addresses the issue of divorce, however, Jesus' response establishes a number of principles regarding God's purposes for humanity.

We will look at how Jesus' teaching is antithetical to Postmodern beliefs.

What did Moses command you? (v. 3): because there were a number of schools of thought amongst the Jews, Jesus first quizzes the Pharisees on their beliefs.

Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away (v. 4): the Pharisees were referring to Deuteronomy 24:1-4 where Moses established that a divorced couple could not remarry if, in between, they had married someone else.

Because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote this law (v. 5): here Jesus begins to show that the Mosaic Law made some accommodation for the sinfulness of mankind. However, as we will see, this was not God's best for mankind.

This comes under the heading of progressive revelation.

Acts 17:30-31 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female (v. 6): Jesus returns us to God's created design for humanity. "Man" is bifurcated into two different sexes that have unique characteristics.

A. Men were designed to be the head of woman (wife) and the household.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

1Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

B. Women were designed to be a helper to a man (husband) not visa versa.

1Corinthians 11:9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

C. The top purposes of marriage are procreation and complementary companionship.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

Genesis 2:16 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

D. Man's designed fulfillment is found in leadership (of the home and of sacred and secular institutions) while woman's is in childrearing and household management.

1Timothy 2:15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

1Timothy 5:9-10 and 14 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰ and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds... ¹⁴ So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.

1Timothy 5:4 He (an overseer) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife (v. 7): according to Jesus, marriage consists ONLY of a man and a woman in matrimonial union.

No longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate (vv. 8-9): it is God who unites men and women together in marriage and in doing so, ends their bifurcation as separate sub-species. No human authority has the power to end this.

First Exception

Matthew 19:9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Except for sexual immorality: in the Matthew account, Jesus provided an exception that allows for divorce. However, the deeper issue is that he here defines all sex outside of marriage (including homosexuality) as immoral. And marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

Second Exception

1Corinthians 7:12 and 15 ¹² To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

Abandonment by a non-believer was considered an exception for divorce by the Apostles.