

# TABOO 2

BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MORE TOUGH TOPICS

Part 2: Divorce | September 23 & 24, 2017

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## **Jesus Confronts the Taboo Topic of Divorce in Matthew 19:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. <sup>2</sup>Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

<sup>3</sup>Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

**Context for the question: Dueling rabbis and personal justification**

**The original marriage vow included fidelity, provision and love.**

<sup>4</sup>“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’” <sup>5</sup>and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?”

<sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

**Jesus begins with a foundational truth: Marriage is sacred**

**Jesus understands a foundational reality: Marriage is hard**

<sup>7</sup>“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

<sup>8</sup>Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup>I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

**Worth noting: Permission and command are not the same.**

## **Biblical Grounds for Divorce**

Matthew 19:9, Deuteronomy 24:1, Exodus 21:10-11, 1 Corinthians 7:15, Malachi 2:16, Colossians 3:13

1. Adultery

2. Abandonment

3. Abuse

## **Before You Say, “I Don’t”**

1. **Count the cost** (*Luke 14:25-34*)
2. **Be real** (*Psalms 32:5*)
3. **Do the work** (*Matthew 19:6*)

## **Back to the Beginning** (Matthew 19:1-2)

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. <sup>2</sup>Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

**Don’t miss this:** Jesus experienced the pain of spiritual divorce and found it in his heart to forgive.

**It’s true...** *“I hate divorce,” says the Lord God of Israel. Why? Because God hates anything that causes his children pain.*

## **Next Steps**

*Find full details for all these events in CTK Life, at the Connection Point, or online at [ctk.church](http://ctk.church).*

**Divorce Care** helps men and women process and heal from divorce. Our women’s group starts Monday, October 2 from 6:30–8:15 PM. We’re also forming a men’s group based on interest we receive over the next few weeks. If you’re interested, let us know at the Connection Point today or contact Stan Chronister (360-739-2457 or [stanchron@hotmail.com](mailto:stanchron@hotmail.com)).

**Compass** is a program that helps kids navigate life’s difficulties. This fall, Facing Change is their theme, and it will be a great kid-level exploration of the grief cycle divorce can initiate for kids. Compass starts Monday, October 2 at the same time as Divorce Care for Women (above).

## **Marriage-Building Events This Fall**

- **Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts** — Pre-marriage class starts Tuesday, October 10. Register before October 5.
- **The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work** — Coming November 3 & 4

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What do you love or dislike about weddings?
- 2) Do you believe that marriage is sacred? Why or why not?
- 3) How has the taboo of divorce affected your life? What would you say to someone contemplating divorce?
- 4) Discuss the biblical grounds for divorce. How would you define the terms?
- 5) God can always heal and restore broken relationships. Read Colossians 3:13 in light of the final truth that Jesus spoke of all of this on the way to the cross. What does it really mean to forgive as God forgave you?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?