

## What God has joined together

Mark 10

Pray

**Hebrews 13:4**, **Marriage is honorable among all**, marriage should be honored, by everyone.

Now, sadly, marriage is no longer honored by everyone in our society.

- In fact, Today, marriage is dismissed as irrelevant by many people, People are delaying marriage more and more. Many times for the wrong reasons.
- Marriage is being redefined & ridiculed.
  - We don't live in a culture where marriage is honored by everyone anymore.

And part of the problem is nobody knows the basics of marriage anymore.

- It's far more important than you realize And God gave it to us.

Most people don't know why marriage matters and are wrong about the meaning

- and the purpose and the design of marriage.

Today we will see why God designed marriage.

- First, God created marriage for the connection of men and women.

**1 Corinthians 11:11** says **Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord**. In God's plan, men and women need each other.

- God wired it this way. God thought up gender. God thought up intimacy
  - And God thought up marriage. It was his idea.

the Bible goes back to the very beginning in the creation of the first couple

- and the first marriage.

And in Genesis chapter 2, the Bible says God creates Adam and he doesn't make Eve yet.

- **Why did God make man and then woman a little bit later?**
  - **Why didn't he make them both at the same time?**

I think he wanted Adam to realize how much he needed a women in his life.

Now, the Bible says this in **Genesis 2:18**. **It is not good, for man, to be alone.**

- **I will make a companion and helper who is right for him.**

This is a God-given thing.

- **And one of the purposes of marriage is an antidote to loneliness.**

nothing at all compares to the companionship of a man and a woman

- Who are committed to each other for the rest of their lives.

And God calls that marriage.

**Number two, God created marriage for the multiplication of the human race.**

- It's how we all got here. God populated the human planet through marriage.

For thousands of years, billions of people have come into existence

- because men and women got married.

Now think about this. God chose everybody who's going to be in heaven

- to come into existence through marriage and intimacy.
  - Nobody would be in heaven if God hadn't created marriage
- because everybody's come into existence through the tool that he designed.

**Genesis 1:27-28** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth."

- The very first command God gives to the human race is to
  - "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

So God's first command to the human race is get married and have sex.

- That is the only command of God the human race has been able to keep.
  - And we've done a pretty good job at that one.

There about 8 billion of us on earth because our parents were fruitful and multiplied

- and filled & world.

what does God want from marriage? Godly children.

- Because if people don't have kids, those kids aren't going to be born.
  - They can't get into heaven.

we're all alive because some couple got together.

- And for thousands of years, God has used marriage to populate heaven.

**The third reason God created marriage was for the protection of children.**

- We all know that kids grow better, healthier, stronger
  - when they grow up in a stable family.
    - when they grow up in a marriage with a mom and a dad.

When you were born, you were born completely helpless. You could not do anything.

- You couldn't feed yourself. You couldn't dress yourself.
  - You couldn't change your diaper.

You couldn't even turn over on your back when you first started.

- You were literally totally helpless.

God knew that human children needed a safe environment

- and you were going to need somebody to feed you and dress you
  - You were going to need somebody to protect you, to guide you, to train you,
    - to care for you.

Harvard did a study on the impact of marriage, negative or positive, on children.

- Studies have shown that if children grow up without two parents,
  - They will struggle a lot of more than those who had 2 married parents.

every single study done has proven that kids develop best with a married mom & dad.

- Children thrive in families,
  - That's why I'm not a big fan of orphanages.

Because no kid deserves to grow up in an institution. They deserve to grow up in a family.

**Proverbs 14:26** In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. Those who obey and respect the Lord have a secure fortress.

- Their children have a place of refuge and security.

That's what every child needs growing up. A place of refuge and security

- and not worrying is dad going to walk out, is mom going to walk out

### **God also created marriage for the perfection of our character**

- It is in relationships that we learn to be unselfish.
    - And no relationship has greater impact on your life than marriage
  - marriage is a lifelong course in learning to be unselfish? Because once you get married,
    - I can no longer think about me. I got to think about we
      - I can't think about just me, myself, and I.
  - In marriage you can't always do whatever you want to do like when u were single
- You have to learn to compromise. You have to learn to think of the other person.

The number one tool that God uses in our life to build Christlike character

- is our spouse.

Because every day you get hundreds of opportunities to not think about you.

- You get opportunities to think of the other person, to care about them.

Our spouse is God's number one tool to make you like Christ because they're closest to you

### **God created marriage for the construction of society.**

- Marriage is the fundamental building block of every community, church, state,
    - nation, society, and culture. If you know history,
      - you know that where marriages are strong, nations are strong,
- wherever marriages and families are weak, nations are in decline.

**Proverbs 14:34** says this, "Righteousness, that means doing it God's way, lifts up exalts a nation, but sin, not doing it God's way, brings disgrace to any society."

the deepest, and the most profound reason that God created marriage

- was for the reflection of our relationship with Christ.

marriage is a symbol of how much God loves us

- and how we are to be in relationship with him.

**Ephesians 5:25** says, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." How did Christ love the church? He sacrificed his life.

- He died for the church. He says, "Husbands, that's the way you're to love your wife.
  - That's the kind of love you're to have.

Sacrificial love where her needs are so before yours that you sacrifice your life."

**Ephesians 5:33** Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Twice in the Bible, Jesus says, "There's going to be no marriage in heaven."

- Why will there be no marriage in heaven?

Because In a perfect place you're not going to need the multiplication of the human race.

- In a perfect place, you're not going to need the protection of children.
- In a perfect place, you're not going to need the perfection of your character.

**But here on earth, marriage matters. And the Bible says we are to honor it.**

As we study the book of Mark Jesus is getting closer and closer to the cross

- and as he does he continues to have confrontations with the religious leaders and what happens at this point is the religious leaders come to Jesus

- and they bring him a very controversial subject in order to somehow trap him
  - to make him look bad in the eyes of the people

its the subject of marriage & divorce

And in these verses, we're going to see what Jesus has to say on this subject

- Look what it says in verse one

1 Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.

once again as Jesus is on the move multitudes gathered to him

- and he did what he always did and loved to do **he taught them**

because He knew that's really what the people needed

- they needed to be taught, instructed by hearing the word of God
  - which is really one of our greatest needs also

The Bible says you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free

**Psalm 119:33** – "Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end.

**Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

**Matthew 4:4** "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

**Romans 10:17** faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

<sup>2</sup>The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him.

This particular subject of divorce was highly debated

- and there were a few different rabbis of the day
  - that had different interpretations of a passage found in

**Deuteronomy 24:1** where Moses wrote a man could divorce his wife for an uncleanness

- now there was one liberal interpretation that one Rabbi suggested
  - that said uncleanness meant anything you found in your wife

- that you felt was unclean if you didn't like the way she cooked
  - you could write her a bill of divorcement
- if you didn't like the way she did her hair or disrespected you
  - you could just say here take this and you could divorce

now there was another rabbi, a conservative rabbi

- that said uncleanness meant unfaithfulness
  - that you could write her a bill of divorcement
    - but many people tended to go with the more liberal side

and so there was a lot of divorce taking place just like it is today

- I love how Jesus answers there question..

Basically he says, "Let's go to the Bible."

- Look at verse three.

<sup>3</sup>And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

he takes them back to the word of God

- Now, these guys were experts in the law of Moses.

<sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her."

<sup>5</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Jesus says, "Let me teach you about marriage." And not only am I going to go back in time,

- I'm going to go back to the very beginning. I'm going to go back to Genesis chapter 1
  - and Genesis 2. Those lay out the foundational principles of marriage

kind of interesting they asked about divorce but Jesus focuses on marriage

This passage says three things.

- Number one, **marriage is God's plan.** It's not a human plan or idea.
  - It's not a tradition that we can just throw out.

God invented marriage when he invented humanity.

Second thing that verse says is that marriage is between **a man and a woman.**

- And their body parts fit together. And they fit together for a purpose,
  - the creation of everybody else.
- God made males. God made females. And God chose what he wanted you to be.

And the third thing it says is marriage is to be permanent. It says what God joins together.

- God joins a couple in marriage. It's meant to be permanent,

### why do so many marriages today end in divorce?

if you boil it all down if you really get down to the bottom line of what causes divorce

- somewhere in that relationship Jesus says there has been a **Hardness of Heart** and somebody departed from being obedient to the word of God
- And the marriage got off track

when it's time for a man and a woman to be married the purpose is that

- they would leave father and mother and start their own life together
  - that's God's intention

but it also speaks to that intimate relationship between husband and wife

- it says we are to join to our wife, not join to your girlfriend
  - not join to your boyfriend
- not being sexually active outside of a marriage relationship

God is the one who created this intimate relationship

- for the man and his wife not anything outside of that that intimate relationship is reserved for husband and wife

the word **joined** in the Hebrew, refers to a strong bonding together of objects

- and was often used to represent gluing or cementing permanently together.

And so divorce was not in God's plan because the two people were glued

- or cemented together by God.

Now, If you try to separate what you've joined together,

- like two pieces of paper, or wood & you Try to separate them.

you are not able to separate those two pieces without damage

- Divorce does a lot of damage

The bond between husband and wife

- should be even stronger than the bond between parent and child.

That's wild Because you know how deeply you are attached to your children.

- And God says the bond between husband and wife is even more important
  - because a man should leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.
    - The marriage bond should be even stronger than the blood bond.

**<sup>10</sup> In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter.**

now this is interesting because Jesus already taught

- the disciples about marriage & divorce on The Sermon on the Mount
  - in Matthew chapter 5 but apparently they didn't get it or understand it

this really blesses me because Jesus already taught them about this

- and they forgot and that makes me feel much better about myself by the way because as we study the word we don't always pull it off sometimes we mess up
- sometimes we fall short, sometimes we don't do what's right
  - even though we heard it, listen to it & studied about it
    - and it shows God is patient, long suffering & gives us many chances

**11 So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. 12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."**

We have to understand the context of this passage to understand these verses

- Jesus is dealing with individuals that basically said
- you can get out of your marriage for any reason you want
  - you didn't like the way she cooks
  - you don't like the way she talks
  - you found somebody else that you think is more beautiful

he's talking to people who had that mentality

- so he's saying to them if a man divorces his wife in that context
  - and just says later I'm going to find somebody else
    - and he just kicks her to the curb that's adultery

he's not talking about a marriage that ended & there was bad circumstances

- & biblical grounds for divorce
- and they got remarried = that's not adultery

God does permit divorce in the case of sexual immorality.

- I didn't say commands, God permits it.

Whatever grounds the Bible possibly gives for divorce,

- that does not mean God desires a divorce to occur in those instances.

Rather than asking "is \_\_\_\_\_ a grounds for divorce," often the question should be

- "is \_\_\_\_\_ grounds for forgiveness, restoration, and/or counseling?"

in 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul added another biblical permission for divorce.

- And that permission is abandonment by an unbelieving spouse.

In that passage Paul's talking about Christians who are married to non-Christians.

- Paul says, If you're married to an unbeliever,
  - do the best you can to stay in that marriage.

Who knows, God may lead you to be a wonderful influence on them to lead them to Jesus

- But if your partner is determined to leave then let them go.

Jesus is talking about people who were just like I'm just going to go from person to person

if you have gone through divorce God can forgive you God can restore you

- I've seen many people get married a second time and have a marriage in the Lord

**The truth is if you want to have a successful marriage it's got to be built on Jesus**

- he has to be involved he created marriage he's the author of it
  - he loves marriage he has a plan and a purpose for it
    - but it's got to be done his way

If you are married and you're doing great praise God keep on

- keeping the Lord at the center of your marriage and God will bless it
- if you're in a rough patch in your marriage it's worth working on it

if your marriage has broken up make sure that your relationship with Jesus

- is where it needs to be and maybe somewhere down the road
  - God's going to bring somebody into your life
    - that truly loves the Lord and walks with the Lord

and if you're looking for somebody and you're not married yet

- you're looking for somebody to be married to
  - you have a desire to be married it's a great desire
    - **but make sure that this person that you're praying about**
      - **spending the rest of your life with loves Jesus**
        - **more than they love you**
          - don't settle don't compromise for less
            - than what God has for you

**Share Gospel & Pray**