

**Discussion Guide: Bryan Bicket**  
**Message: *Divorce* (series: *Sermon On the Mount*)**  
**March 17, 2024**

**PRIMARY PASSAGES (ESV)**

**Genesis 1:1:** *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Genesis 1:27:** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

**Genesis 2:23-25:** *Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

**Exodus 20:14:** *You shall not commit adultery.*

**Deuteronomy 24:1-4:** *When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.*

**Matthew 5:31-32:** *It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the grounds of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

**Matthew 19:3-10:** *And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [Genesis 1:27] 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'? [Genesis 2:24] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 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. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.' The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry."*

**1 John 1:9:** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Note:** The Apostle Paul also writes about marriage and divorce in Ephesians 5:23-32 and 1 Corinthians 7.

## MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- When it comes to marriage and divorce: look to God's design, not for the out
- Live a life of sexual integrity now
- If you're married, remember that you married a sinner...and so did your spouse!
- Spouses make lousy saviors!
- If you are struggling in marriage, start counseling now ([www.whitestonerresources.com](http://www.whitestonerresources.com))
- Your sin will always take more from you than it can ever give to you!
- Embrace forgiveness

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What picture of marriage did you have modeled for you growing up? What are you grateful for and what was challenging?
2. Why is it so important to understand God's original, good design for marriage before sin came into the world and corrupted what marriage was meant to be? What about God's design for marriage challenges your and our culture's thinking and practice of marriage and divorce?
3. What thoughts, frustrations, questions and challenges has the reality of divorce brought up in your heart and mind as it relates to God? What has the reality of divorce taught you about yourself and those around you?
4. Ultimately, a life-long, human marriage between a man and a woman is a picture of the love and faithfulness that Jesus (as the groom) has for the church (his bride). How does recognizing this reality shape the way you view the importance of couples staying true to their marriage vows? How does it shape the way you respond to Jesus when you fail to faithfully love and pursue Him?
5. Which of the message highlights stood out to you most and why?
6. How is the Holy Spirit asking you to respond to this message on marriage and divorce?

***Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your unfailing love for us. Thank You for creating marriage as a picture of Jesus' deep and unfailing love for His bride, the church. Holy Spirit, help us to live lives of sexual integrity, to stay faithful to God and to our marriage vows (for those of us who are married), and to embrace forgiveness when we have been hurt or have hurt others. God, we love You so much and we pray these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

For accountability resources visit:  
[www.immanuelhome.org/Accountability](http://www.immanuelhome.org/Accountability)



For Counseling Appointments visit:

[www.whitestonerresources.com](http://www.whitestonerresources.com) (Click "Get Started" in the top right corner).



(Please note, if you need financial assistance for counseling please email us at [nextstep@immanuelhome.org](mailto:nextstep@immanuelhome.org) before contacting White Stone Counseling Resources.)