



Message Series Guide

Revive

Part 3 – Let Not Man Separate

Mark 10:1-12

Mark 10:1–12 carries profound implications for marriage and sexuality. In Jesus' time, a man could divorce his wife for the slightest offense. Jesus reveals people had corrupted God's definition for marriage: that one man and one woman become “one” by a covenant made before God. As Jesus rebukes the religious leaders, He explains that, even though the Law makes our private sin(s) public, grace always comes running to tell us our sin(s) can be forgiven. The truth of God's protects the weak and powerless, and rebukes those who choose to harden their hearts against His truth.

READ:

Mark 10:1-12 • Romans 3:20 • Matthew 19:9 • 1 Corinthians 7:15 • Malachi 2:16

- How did the Pharisees receive Jesus? What was really motivating them to ask Jesus about divorce? Where did Jesus point the Pharisees to answer their questions? Why do you think Jesus referenced the Law of Moses to answer the Pharisees question?
- What is the purpose of the Old Testament Law? Why can't a reliance on the Law be the source of our salvation?
- From the creation story (Gen 2:18-25), what are some aspects that God intended for marriage? Which of those areas do you see the world disregarding? How can the Church help uphold the truth about God's design for marriage?
- If God doesn't approve of divorce, why did He allow it? What does it mean “because of their hardness of heart?” How does a hard heart blind us from the truth of God's Word?
- God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) but God doesn't hate divorced people. How does the truth of the Gospel (grace, forgiveness, reconciliation) bring us hope even in the greatest hurts of marriage?
- What are some of the most common reasons for divorce today? What are the biblical allowances for divorce? What should divorce always be the last resort?
- Why do you think God warned against separating what He had put together?

DISCUSS:

- If you could go back in time and speak to the past version of yourself, what are 1-2 pieces of advice would you give regarding marriage? Why is marriage both challenging and fulfilling?
- How would you define marriage as a Jesus follower? What is the purpose of marriage? How does that affect how we view marriage inside the church vs. outside the church?
- What is God's view on divorce? What are some of the negative effects of divorce? How does divorce go against the nature of God.
- How have you seen God renew and restore marriages that were damaged by unfaithfulness or neglect?

PRAY:

Pray about some practical ways you and your spouse can do to build up your marriage? If you are single, pray about some practical ways you can build up your relationship with Christ.

RESPOND:

Consider how the Law makes public what is going on privately in your life and/or marriage. Confess and repent any sin that needs to be removed brought into the light, and allow God's grace to restore you.



Sermon Notes

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Jesus points out that divorce could occur in order to reveal in public what was going on in private in that marriage: the hardness of heart.

3 Factors about God's Design for Marriage:

1. The Actions of God – “God made them male and female.”
2. The Desires of God – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
 - There is no perfect marriage. Just a perfect God working out His perfect love within two imperfect people.
3. The Warning of God – “What God has joined together, let not man separate”.

Quote:

Marriage is a process, not a single production. It is a pilgrimage, not a six-week performance. It's intended to be a public portrayal, not a private predicament. It is life-long covenant, not a renegotiable contract. – Ray Fowler