



Message Series Guide

Revive

Part I – No Longer Two but One

Mark 10:2-8; Ephesians 5:28-29; Genesis 2:21-24

The word, *revive*, means to restore new life. So many marriages today are in need of revival and new life. Marriage was originally ordained by God at creation. From the beginning man was instructed to leave his family so that he could be joined to his wife as “one flesh”. To be joined as one means “to glue or cement together, stick to, or be braided together firmly.” The vows and promises that a Christian man and woman share with one another during their wedding ceremony implies permanency. The fact that God joins a husband and wife together reinforces the concept that marriage was meant to be until “death to you part.” When the two become one, unity is established, unity in spirit and in flesh.

READ:

Mark 10:2-8 • Ephesians 5:28-29 • Genesis 2:21-24 • Matthew 19:5-6 • Galatians 2:20

- How did the Pharisees attempt to test Jesus with their question about divorce? Why was this considered a test and not a sincere question? Why do you think Jesus pointed the Pharisees back to creation?
- Jesus said that Moses “allowed” divorce as a concession because of their “hard hearts”. What was Jesus’ point? How can developing a hard heart cause us to become “blind” to God’s truth? How does developing a hard heart affect our marriages?
- What does Jesus’ response to the Pharisees indicate about God’s design and plan for marriage?
- Jesus’ view of marriage comes from Genesis 2:21-24. Jesus says, “what God has joined together, let no man separate.” What does this teach us about the sacredness of marriage? The permanence of marriage? The intimacy of marriage?
- Explain marriage as a covenant relationship? Why is this understanding important? How does a covenant marriage reflect the Trinity? Jesus and the Church?

DISCUSS:

- For Singles: Do you have a biblical worldview of marriage? Do you see singleness as a gift from God? For Married: Are you willing to fight to remain one in your marriage? Do you need to repent from resentment or neglect toward your spouse in your marriage? For Divorced: Have you grieved your loss? Have you considered and prayed for restoration? Are you letting God’s grace and forgiveness heal you?
- Referring to the account in Genesis 2 of God taking a rib from Adam’s side, what does it mean to be “one flesh” or “one body” with our spouse? How can a husband and wife remain as “one flesh”?
- What unions must we forsake in order to remain as one flesh with our spouse? What are the consequences of someone who never truly “leaves and cleaves?”
- Although there are differing views, the Bible seems to allow divorce only for specific reasons (adultery & desertion). However, divorce should always be the last resort. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- How can “dying to one’s self” in marriage actually strengthen the marriage relationship?

PRAY:

If you are married, pray that unity and oneness would increase with your spouse as you seek to live as one flesh. If you are single, pray that your unity in Christ would increase you seek to live for Him everyday.

RESPOND:

Sign-up to attend the Revive Marriage Conference on March 5 www.theridge.cc/events



Sermon Notes

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Revival means to restore to new life or to restore to new strength.

Revival in our marriage is not about a husband and wife falling in love with one another again. It's about falling in love with Jesus Christ all over again.

Adapted Quote:

You'll never be a good [husband or wife] until you learn to be a good bride to Jesus. – Tim Keller

Quote:

Something was taken from Adam (rib), in order that he might embrace, with greater benevolence, a part of himself...He now saw himself, who had before been only half complete, now rendered whole in his wife. – John Calvin

What it means to live as One Flesh

- One Body
- One Union
- One Promise
- One Love