

# MARRIAGE MURDERERS & MARRIAGE MAKERS

Pastor Chad Gilligan | November 11, 2022

## I. JESUS FLIPS THE SCRIPT

1. *Jesus is teaching His followers that life in the Kingdom of God is different than life in the world's kingdom.*

- Life in God's Kingdom is lived from the inside-out.

2. *Jesus flips the script to focus on inside and not the outside.*

- You can be right on the outside, and still be wrong on the inside.

**Matthew 5:27-32** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

## II. MARRIAGE MURDERERS

*"I confess to a basic reluctance to attempt an exposition of these verses. This is partly because divorce is a controversial and complex subject, but even more because it is a subject which touches people's emotions at a deep level. There is almost no unhappiness so poignant as the unhappiness of an unhappy marriage, and almost no tragedy so great as the degeneration of what God meant for love and fulfillment into a non-relationship of bitterness, discord and despair. Although I believe that God's way in most cases is not divorce, I hope I shall write with sensitivity, for I know the pain which many suffer, and I have no wish to add to their distress. Yet it is because I am convinced that the teaching of Jesus on this and every subject is good—intrinsically good, good for individuals, good for society—that I take my courage in both hands and write on." —*

**John Stott**

**Genesis 2:24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

### *1. Adultery*

### *2. Lust*

### *3. Divorce*

**Malachi 2:16** “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

**Matthew 19:3-9** 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?” “Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ 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’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

## **III. JESUS' UNPOPULAR OPINIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE**

### *1. People are created male or female.*

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

### *2. Sex is for marriage.*

**Hebrews 13:4** Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

### *3. Marriage is one man and one woman together for a lifetime.*

## **IV. MARRIAGE MAKERS**

**Matthew 5:27** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’”

### *1. Trust*

**Andrew G. Marshall's Infidelity Formula**

Problem + Poor Communication + Temptation = Infidelity

**A. Trust comes from love.**

**B. Trust comes from humility.**

**C. Trust comes from forgiveness.**

- Your spouse is a sinner married to a sinner.

**Matthew 5:28-30** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

## **2. Purity**

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5** It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God;

**A. Purity protects the great, God-given gift of sex.**

**Proverbs 5:18-19** May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

**B. Purity starts in your mind.**

**C. Purity requires radical action.**

*“Jesus was quite clear about it. It is better to lose one member and enter life maimed, he said, than to retain our whole body and go to hell. That is to say, it is better to forgo some experiences this life offers in order to enter the life which is life indeed; it is better to accept some cultural amputation in this world than risk final destruction in the next. Of course this teaching runs clean counter to modern standards of permissiveness. It is based on the principle that eternity is more important than time and purity than culture, and that any sacrifice is worth while in this life if it is necessary to ensure our entry into the next. We have to decide, quite simply, whether to live for this world or the next, whether to follow the crowd or Jesus Christ.” — John Stott*

- If you go to slippery places you will slide.

**D. Purity is an expression of love to Jesus and to your spouse.**

**Matthew 5:31-32** “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

### ***3. Commitment***

- A. Live out your marriage like divorce is not an option.**
- B. Decide that the word divorce will not be in your vocabulary.**
- C. Guard against contempt.**
- D. Focus on WE and not ME.**