

I. Intro

A. Text: **Mark 10:1-10**

*<sup>1</sup> And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. <sup>2</sup> And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" <sup>3</sup> He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." <sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup> 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." <sup>10</sup> And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. (Mk. 10:1-10)*

B. Recap

1. **TRC Definition:** Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church.
  - a. Biblical View of Marriage = Covenant
    - i. Not just covenant as long as it feels good.
    - ii. Lifetime covenant.
    - iii. Reflects the marriage covenant between the Bridegroom King and His Bride (the Church) that is eternal.
  - b. Marriage is far more about covenant than it is about compatibility.
2. God designed marriage, not to make us happy. But to make us Holy.
  - a. To make us more like Him.

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- i. Passionate.
  - ii. Sacrificially loving.
  - iii. Relinquisher of rights.
  - iv. Longsuffering.
  - v. Full of Grace

#### B. Background

1. Jesus traveled from Galilee, south to the Judean area on the East side of the Jordan River. (v. 1)
  - a. Multitudes flocked to Jesus (as usual)
2. The Pharisees cornered Jesus with a question to test Him and put Him in a tough spot.

<sup>2</sup> *And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" (Mk. 10:2)*

- a. John the Baptist was imprisoned and lost his head for his strict stance on marital commitment.
      - i. John approached Herod and told him that it was against God's will for him to have his brother, Phillip's, wife (**Matt. 14:1-12**).
      - ii. Cost John his head on a platter.
      - iii. Tried to back Jesus into a similar corner.
3. **Matt. 19:3:** *"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*
  - a. **Shammai:** No divorce except for in cases of serious transgressions (like adultery).
  - b. **Hillel:** Divorce is allowable in cases of serious transgressions as well as some trivial offenses.
    - i. Led to men in Israel divorcing wives for just about anything.
  - c. Similar to California now.

PETITIONER:  
RESPONDENT:

CASE NUMBER:

Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:

5. **LEGAL GROUNDS** (Family Code sections 2200–2210, 2310–2312)

- a. ☐ Divorce or ☐ Legal separation of the marriage or domestic partnership based on (check one):  
 (1) ☐ irreconcilable differences. (2) ☐ permanent legal incapacity to make decisions.
- b. ☐ Nullity of void marriage or domestic partnership based on  
 (1) ☐ incest. (2) ☐ bigamy.
- c. ☐ Nullity of voidable marriage or domestic partnership based on  
 (1) ☐ petitioner's age at time of registration of domestic partnership or marriage. (4) ☐ fraud.  
 (2) ☐ prior existing marriage or domestic partnership. (5) ☐ force.  
 (3) ☐ unsound mind. (6) ☐ physical incapacity.

6. **CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)**

Petitioner Respondent Joint Other

## i. California's No Fault Divorce

sb-court.org/self-help/family-law/dissolution-marriage-domestic-partnership

### Dissolution of Marriage/Domestic Partnership

#### What is it?

This petition (also known as Divorce) ends your marriage or domestic partnership. Once your dissolution of marriage is finalized, you go back to single status and you are able to remarry.

California is a "no fault" divorce state, which means that the spouse or domestic partner that is asking for the divorce does not have to prove that the other spouse or domestic partner did something wrong. To get a no fault divorce, the spouse or domestic partner has to state that the couple cannot get along. Legally, this is called "irreconcilable differences." Through your divorce you can address the following issues:

- Child custody and visitation
- Child support
- Spousal or partner support
- The division of property and debts
- Attorney's fees

The divorce process will take at least 6 months, starting from the date the Petitioner has the other party served with the

4. Jesus answered the question with a question, "What did Moses command you?" (v. 3)

a. Answer: Moses permitted/allowed divorce.

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<sup>3</sup> He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup> They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” (Mk. 10:3-4)

b. Pharisaic answer minimally paraphrased Deut. 24.

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. (Deut. 24:1-3)

- i. If the wife finds no favor...
  - ii. If there is some type of uncleanness in her...
  - iii. Don't just send her away: Give her some legal paperwork that frees her from your control.
  - iv. If she finds another and marries him, it's over...
- c. Moses wasn't promoting divorce. He was actually responding to a new problem in Jewish society:
- i. The hardness of man's heart.

## II. Body

### A. Prevailing Reason for Divorce: Hard Hearts

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. (Mk. 10:5)

- 1. Hardness of heart necessitated that a woman be given some protection (finality).
  - a. If she found no favor in her husband's eyes.
  - b. If he found some discrepancy with her, if he found some indecency with her.

### B. God's Distinct Design and Perfect Plan Is Obvious from the Beginning

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<sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Mk. 10:5-9)

1. Miraculously two people becoming one flesh.
  - a. Miracle of God.
    - i. Work of the Creator.
  - b. If God put it together... who can separate it?
    - i. Don't even attempt it.
  - c. God's View of Marriage: 1 Man, 1 Woman, Covenant Commitment, Lifetime.
2. Jesus' disciples waited until they got inside (alone) to ask Jesus to clarify His position.

<sup>10</sup> And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, <sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” (Mk. 10:10-12)

- a. Divorce and remarriage is sin.
  - i. Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.
  - ii. Why? Although they have a piece of legal paperwork in their hands, God still sees you as married.
  - iii. If you, as one who is still married join yourself to another... Adultery!

### III. Conclusion

- A. Our earthly marriages reflect the way in which God loves His people.
  1. He is madly in love with them.
    - a. Apple of His eye.

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- b. Jealous for them.
  - 2. He is faithful to them.
    - a. Even when they are unfaithful to Him.
    - b. He pursues His Bride.
    - c. He will win her affection and allegiance.
  - 3. Though He may withdraw His hand for a season (because of rebellion), He runs to forgive when forgiveness is unthinkable.
- B. YWHW is the covenant-Keeping God who never lets go of those who are in covenant with Him.
- 1. He designed our marriages to reflect such commitment.
  - 2. Divorce is simply not His plan and brings Him no pleasure.
    - a. Displeasure
    - b. Defames His character

#### IV. Additional References To Consider

##### A. **Matt. 19:1-12**

*Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. <sup>2</sup> And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. <sup>3</sup> And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" <sup>4</sup> He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> 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'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." <sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." <sup>10</sup> The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." <sup>11</sup> But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. <sup>12</sup> For there*

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*are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."*

**B. Lk. 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> *"Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery."*

**C. Matt. 5:31-32**

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

**D. Rom. 7:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> *Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? <sup>2</sup> For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. <sup>3</sup> Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress."*

**E. 1 Cor. 7:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband <sup>11</sup> (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife."*

**F. Lev. 20:10**

<sup>10</sup> *"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."*

**G. Jer. 3:8-15**

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<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore?" <sup>7</sup> And I thought, 'After she has done all this she will return to me,' but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. <sup>8</sup> She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. <sup>9</sup> Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. <sup>10</sup> Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the LORD." <sup>11</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. <sup>12</sup> Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "'Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. <sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. <sup>14</sup> Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion."

#### **H. Mal. 2:13-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. <sup>14</sup> Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. <sup>15</sup> But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. <sup>16</sup> "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

#### **I. Hos. 2:14-16, 5:14-15, 6:1**

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. <sup>15</sup> And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at



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*the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. <sup>16</sup> “And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’*

*<sup>14</sup> For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue. <sup>15</sup> I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.*

*<sup>1</sup> “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*