

## **MARK 10:1-12 MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE**

### **INTRO READ MK. 10:1-12**

***VS 7 & 8, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.***

- "For this reason." What reason?
- The reason is that God created mankind perfect in two genders/sexes
  - **Gen. 2:18-25**
- There is within the created man a powerful drawing and desire for the opposite sex. This is God's intention.
- God brought before Adam all creatures, and Adam found none for a helper,
- There was nothing in all creation that so perfectly reflected man's own person, than the woman God made, they complemented each other.
- Complement: Something that fills up, completes, or makes perfect.
- Male and female, there is such an attraction there, there is the potential of such a union, a oneness, such a drawing to one another.
- In God's design the woman would complete the man, the man would complete the woman to such a perfect degree, to form a perfect union.
- This oneness must be worked out and guarded. it will not be automatic.
- Man would be so drawn to the woman that he would leave his own father and mother. and cleave to his wife.
- "Leave" means to depart from, to forsake, or leave a person by ceasing to care for them.
- To "Cleave" means to stick to, to glue to.
- This cleaving is deeper than DNA. (Leaving father and mother, the earlier deep relationship.)
- And His wife would follow the example of her man.
- God so made male and female so distinct that they together, joined as one, may best complete the whole person, the whole man and thus display mankind's ability to reflect the image of the Godhead and fulfill mans ordained work on earth.
- God made them both individually, and different, yet to be one piece that has been created in 2 different earthly vessels, yet to be one.
- One flesh, so united in purpose under God and the work He has given them to do that they act, move, function, think and execute as one person. one body, one being.
- Man and Woman no longer living as two single individuals, with two separate lives, but having been joined together by God, they now live united like one.
- Living together, sharing together, functioning together, working together for the same goals.
- Not living as having 2 separate agendas, two separate lives being lived under 1 roof.
- Wives helping their husbands to reach their God give calling in Christ. (Gen 2:18)

- Husbands helping their wives enjoy and realize their equality and value as equal partners and heirs together with Christ, helping each other mature to the full stature of Christ.
- The phrase "joined together" means to be yoked together, to fasten to one yoke, that is working as one, harnessing efforts and strengths together for a greater result. To do what could not be done by one.
- This joining together, this being yoked together, I believe has a purpose much greater than the physical, greater than a missional joining, but is meant for a relational oneness.
- Looking again at Gen. 1:26-27; God's original design was as He said, "let Us make man (mankind) in our image, according to Our likeness.
- so God created man in his Own image, in the image of God He created Him male and female, and He blessed them.
- You realize that this likeness was not a physical likeness for God is a Spirit.
- Part of this likeness was in the soul.
- We were created with a moral compass which is to point to God, to goodness, to rightness, to justice, to love, but we were also created to desire and pursue a unity and harmony.
- Man, and women were given an inner desire to find unity, to keep a unity, one that would reflect and point to the unity and harmony of the Holy Trinity.
- Being created in God's image we were to reflect Him in holiness and also unity.
- Imagin the unity of the Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit working together, flowing together, in love together.
- Three, yet One, man and wife, two yet one.
- One last thing from this verse, notice the words "*and* they were both naked and were not ashamed." Gen. 2:25.
- Symbolically this "not being ashamed," speaks of transparency within the marriage union. **IS THIS SO IN OUR MARRIAGES?**

**VS 9 *Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*"**

- Because of this oneness which God had designed and created for them, this supernatural joining together God says, let no man, no situation, no difficulty, no interest, separate them.
- Separate means to depart from, to separate oneself, to divide.
- In the phrase "let no man separate." The word "let" shows that there are somethings we must resist, to guard, things that will pressure us to separate.
- A dividing of our devotions for the calling God has called us to and our devotion for one another.
- There is an intensity in that little word "let."
- Now here is the searching question; with this statement from the lips of God the Son, regarding our oneness our togetherness, and the danger of separations, are we not commanded to protect this oneness with all our strength and resolve?
- Is this not part of the garden God has asked us to tend and care for?

- Then let us ask ourselves, what in our married lives has caused us to be separated in oneness, purpose, calling, in vision and in our God ordained mission?
- Has our jobs, pleasures, worldly pursuits, activities, worldly business? You fill in the blanks.
- It is sad that in some of our marriages this separation has gone on for years and has now become the norm, a deadly norm.
- There is a way back. It will take a choice, a resolve, a painful cutting off of the precious foot, hand and a plucking of the eye. A humbling before God and our spouse.
- We must be intentional.
- But to live together as one according to the design and purpose of God is a great treasure here and a great reward in glory.

### **WHAT ABOUT SINGLES:**

- I've talked much about married couples, but what about singles?
- 1 Cor. 7;7, 8 Paul speaks of singleness as a gift from God and in VS 17 Paul says God has called each person to either marriage or singleness.
- But remain as called, abide with God. vs. 24
- Vs. 26 Paul says it is good for a man to remain as he is.
- In vs. 29, Paul says even those who have wives should be as those who had none, serving and building God's Kingdom because the time is short.
- Meaning that we all, single or married should give ourselves as much as possible to the work of building the Kingdom of God, not only our little temporary kingdom.
- in vs. 32-35, Paul then explains himself by saying that those who are unmarried care for the things of the Lord and are not distracted as the married Christians are with earthly responsibilities and cares.
- There is not the competition for their time and labors from a spouse or family. They are more able to give themselves more fully to the kingdom of God, exercising their God given gifting.

***VS 10-12, In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. So, He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."***

### **HERE ARE THE TWO GREAT QUESTIONS.**

- Can a Christian divorce their spouse?
- Can a divorced Christian remarry?
- Regarding divorce, and regarding divorce and remarriage.
- Read **Matt. 19:1-12**
- The question is not so much can a man or a woman divorce, for Moses had given them a path for such, though it was not God's original order.
- The questions are divorce on what grounds, and can one remarry after divorce.
- I confess I am not settled on these, what I think is not written in stone.

- **What I will say is, this is my understanding now!**
- **The above verses states divorce for something called “uncleanness.”**
  - **Uncleanness; nakedness, shame, disgrace or shameful thing.**
  - **Uncleanness, not in the physical sense but in the sense of something shameful. (Dt. 23:14)**
- **The law of Moses did not need to give adultery as a ground for divorce because it had already been addressed in **Deut. 22:22**, death by stoning.**
  - **If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.**
- **But it seems to me from Matt. 5:32, Matt. 19:9, that divorce was allowed in the case of adultery**
- **As to remarriage, the great dilemma is, does the phrase, “except for sexual immorality” attach itself to both the allowance of divorce, and allowance of remarriage?**
- **Commentators forever have been struggling and disagreeing on this one.**
- **My conclusion is that adultery opens the door for the divorced person to remarry.**
- **Let’s look at **Duet. 24:2** again.**
- **It seems that Moses’ certificate of divorce opened the door for remarriage.**
  - **1 Cor. 7:15?**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- **Marriage is sacred, it is to be a microcosm the relationship between the Godhead and also of Christ and His bride the Church.**
- **This is why it is so under attack.**
- **Don’t let the attacks be successful, resist the devil, do not be ignorant of his devices. Stand strong in the Lord.**
- **Win back any oneness lost, and any ground lost, for the glory of God.**
- **Meet together and talk peacefully about where you are. Where we need improvement.**
- **Humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.**
- **J. C. Ryle says happy or those who observe these three things regarding marriage.**
  - 1) **Marry only in the Lord and only after much prayer.**
  - 2) **Do not expect too much from your spouse, for marriage after all is the union of 2 sinners not 2 angels.**
  - 3) **Strive first and foremost for one another’s sanctification. the more holy married couples are the happier they are**
- **Christ loved the Church and give Himself for her, that He might sanctify her.**  
**(Eph. 5:21-33)**