

“Marriage and Divorce – Part 2”
Mark 10:1-12
(Preached at Trinity, December 5, 2012)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we began **Chapter 10** last time we found Jesus once again surrounded by a crowd of people who had come to hear Jesus teach.
While most of the crowd had gathered to hear the teaching of Jesus the Pharisees came with a different agenda. They came to test our Lord’s doctrine in an effort to trap and discredit Him. Their question was whether it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife?
2. These verses address the subject of marriage and divorce, a very timely subject for our day when marriage has fallen on hard times. Many are choosing not to marry at all, choosing rather to cohabitate. There is also a push today to redefine marriage, parting with the traditional and Biblical definition of the union between one man and one woman. And for those who choose to marry, the divorce rate continues at all-time highs.
3. In these sermons we’ll be examining the subject of marriage and divorce. First, we’ll look at the purpose of marriage and then I hope to set before you the issue of the Biblical perspective on divorce.
4. Last time we began looking at God’s purpose for marriage.
Verse 6 - “God made them male and female”
 - A. God made the two sexes separate and distinct from one another.
 - B. It is important for us to remember why God made the two sexes of human beings for therein lies God’s purpose for marriage.
 - a. For the purpose of providing a companion for the man
 - b. For the purpose of establishing a union between the male & female that would form a bond stronger than they were as individuals
 - c. For the purpose of providing the means through which the human race would multiply
5. Last time we examined the first of these – God formed the woman for companionship for the man. God said it is not good to be alone
Genesis 2:18 NAS - "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."
 1. This is not to place any moral condemnation upon being single. There is no Biblical command, “Thou Shalt Marry.” – some remain single for various reasons
 2. For some God has not chosen to provide a mate – remember this is a God ordained institution and God must provide the partners.
 3. Some have chosen to remain single for the sake of the Gospel
 4. Some choose to delay due to temporary life circumstances such as education
If a man is to provide for his family he must adequately prepare himself to do so
 5. God’s purpose for most human beings is that they marry
"It is not good for the man to be alone"
For those who God has not provided a mate they should see this as God’s plan for their life or at least for this season of life and see their singleness as a blessing from God and use it for God’s glory.

- I. The second purpose for the two sexes is for the purpose of establishing a union between the male and female – a bond stronger than the individual parts
- Mark 10:7-9 NAS** - "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
- A. Marriage is a unique union
1. It is ordained by God and established by God
 2. It finds its picture in our union with Christ--inseparable oneness.
 - a. A man and woman should identify closely with one another
 - b. When one hurts both should hurt
When one rejoices both should rejoice
 3. One reflects upon the other. That's why it is inconceivable that one should tear down their mate in public. If a woman makes her husband look like a moron she shall be known as the woman married to a moron.
- B. This union has several aspects
1. The sexual aspect – not only for procreation but for the enjoyment of the partners – Sinful man perverts all of God's blessings for the satisfying of animal-like lusts
 - a. Fornication and adultery can rip apart the marriage. It is not God's design that sex would ever occur outside of marriage
This is at the heart of the Seventh Commandment.
Hebrews 13:4 NAU - " Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be* undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
 - b. Men and women pervert God's plan for the expression of their sexuality from from pornography to romance novels to homosexuality.
 - c. In marriage the two develop a mutual trust; comfort and confidence in the fidelity of their partner. Jealousy dies where confidence is strong.
 2. The intellectual aspect – the two share hopes, dreams, fears & concerns –
 - a. They plan together as one. Their lives are one.
 - b. A husband and wife should encourage one another and provide continual support – we must never do or say anything that would reflect negatively on our mate (remember you are one flesh)
Ephesians 5:28 NAU - " So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;"
 - c. A husband and wife should maintain a continued atmosphere of trust. They must talk to one another and listen to one another.
 - d. They must grow together intellectually. I married a 17 year old and my wife married a 19 year old. We have grown together.
 3. The moral aspect
 - a. This includes a sense of duty towards each other according to the Law of God--Wives honoring and submitting to their husbands and husbands loving their wives.

- b. The family provides the basis for passing on God's values onto the next generation.
Deuteronomy 4:10 NAU - "*Remember* the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'"
Psalm 78:5-7 NAU - "For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, ⁶ That the generation to come might know, *even* the children *yet* to be born, *That* they may arise and tell *them* to their children, ⁷ That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,"
4. The spiritual aspect – Husbands and wives should promote the spiritual wellbeing of each other – pray together, watch over one another. The two are united together as one; they labor together as one to display God's glory upon the earth.
- B. It is God that makes such a union possible
Mark 10:8-9 NAU - "And the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.""
1. Jesus is making it clear that marriage is a divinely appointed institution that goes all that way back to creation
 2. Like the Sabbath, it is a creation ordinance that will endure as long as this present world exists
- II. The third purpose of male and female and for marriage is for the procreation of the human race
- A. Procreation must only take place within the union of marriage
Gen. 1:28 NAS - "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it"
1. Once again, we find fallen man's great perversion of God's design. Today for those under 30 most births occur outside marriage. In an article from the NY Times, February 2012:
 "It used to be called illegitimacy. Now it is the new normal."
 "*It is both a symbol of the transforming family and a hint of coming generational change.*"
 2. The expression of sexuality in marriage isn't restricted to procreation but there is a presupposition of this purpose.
 3. Having and raising children is an important part of adulthood. It is a part of becoming mature and giving yourself for the sake of another.
 4. In an interview on CNN Albert Mohler said:
"Parenthood is a part of helping to create adults," Mohler said. "We grow up by having children. Without that responsibility, we have a generation of perpetual adolescents just growing old.... This is really about avoiding responsibility and I find that tremendously sad. We have to understand that parenthood is to be understood as a part of marriage itself."

Conclusion:

1. The Pharisees obviously failed to understand the purpose of marriage and the blessing of marriage. They did not understand the great responsibility connected with marriage. For them it was merely an institution to satisfy the whims of the husband.
2. Paul would later give the greatest clarity on God's purpose for marriage.
Ephesians 5:25-31 NAS - "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh."
3. May God grant us strong marriages. And may each of us commit ourselves to strengthening our marriage and using our marriage as a platform to display the glory of God.
4. Lord willing, next time we will begin to direct our attention to the subject of divorce.