

Faithfulness in Marriage

Matthew 5:31-32

Main Point:

Out of thankfulness for your Bridegroom, commit yourself to lifelong faithfulness in marriage and help others do the same.

1. As a result of sin, divorce has been and is prevalent, even in the church.
2. Contrary to the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus says that marriage is a lifelong commitment that is not to be easily broken.
3. Human marriage is designed to mirror Christ's marriage to the Church.
4. Out of thankfulness for your Bridegroom, commit yourself to lifelong faithfulness in marriage and help others do the same.

Quotations and Cross-References

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 ¹ "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, ² "when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's *wife*, ³ "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, ⁴ "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that *is* an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you *as* an inheritance. (NKJV)

Matthew 19:3-8

Malachi 2:16a ¹⁶ "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce ... (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 7:12b-15 ¹² ... If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. ¹³ And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*. But God has called us to peace. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 ¹⁰ Now to the married I command, *yet* not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from *her* husband. ¹¹ But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband. And a husband is not to divorce *his* wife. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 7:27-28 ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But even if you do marry, you have not sinned ... (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:22-33

Genesis 17:7 ⁷ "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. (NKJV)

Hosea 2:19a ¹⁹ "I will betroth you to Me forever ... (NKJV)

RP Pastor "[The reason] divorce is so heinous is because it tears apart the picture of the unbreakable union between Christ and His Bride."

John Piper "Marriage is not mainly about being or staying in love. It's mainly about telling the truth with our lives. It's about portraying something true about Jesus Christ and the way he relates to his people. It is about showing in real life the glory of the gospel."

Jay Adams "Every legitimate effort, therefore, ought to be made to help persons contemplating divorce to reconsider alternatives, and to assist divorced persons to become reconciled to one another (whenever possible) before they really marry another and it is too late to do so."