

March 14, 2021

Jesus on Marriage & Divorce Matthew 5:31-32 / 19:1-12

The Truth about Marriage:

Matthew 5:31-32 / 19:1-12 / Genesis 1-2 / Ephesians 5:21-33 / 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

- God created **MARRIAGE**, so he gets to **DEFINE IT**.
- Christian marriage is not just a **COMMITMENT** between two people, it is a **COVENANT** resulting in a fusion of two becoming one.

The Truth about Divorce:

Matthew 5:31-32 / 19:8-9 / Malachi 2:16 / Deuteronomy 24:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 7:10-24

- Biblical divorce is only permissible because of **SEXUAL IMMORALITY**, **ABUSE**, or **DESERTION BY A NON-BELIEVER**.

The Truth about All of Us:

Romans 1-3, 3:9-24

- All of us have at least **ONE PAGE** of the Bible that we didn't **GET RIGHT**.
- None of us will get to **HEAVEN** because of what we **HAVE DONE**.
- Grace allows obedience to start **TODAY**.

Life Group Questions

- 1) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

1) For some of us, this weekend's sermon on divorce was really hard to hear. The good news is that no matter the state of our marriage, we know God cares for us. In Ephesians 5:21-33 we see how much he cares, as he gives the picture of the church (us) being his bride. Read through the passage and write down anything that points to (or compares) the church to being the "bride" of Christ.

Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- Based on the verses above, how would you say God feels about his bride?
- Why do you think people tend to have a negative association with the word "submission?"
- Several times the passage reminds us to take loving actions towards our spouse, not based on what we feel, but based on what God has asked us to do. Why is that important?

2) God wants us to be an example of love, not just in marriage, but in all relationships. How could Ephesians 5:1-4 help us better follow God's example at loving others.

Can you think of any other relationships where you could be withholding love where God is calling you to love more?

3) Good communication is one ingredient in a healthy sexual relationship with a spouse. It is also an important part of all other relationships. What principles about communication do you learn from each of the following passages?

Proverbs 15:23

*A man finds joy in giving an apt reply--
and how good is a timely word!*

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

James 1:19

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...

James 3:3-12

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸ but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Take a minute and think about your pattern of communication with a spouse, family member or friend. What would it look like for you to apply any of the principles you jotted down above in that relationship?

4) Like sexual intimacy, spiritual and emotional intimacy in all of our relationships thrives in an environment of love. And love is more than a feeling; it's a choice we make to behave in helpful and encouraging ways towards others. Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-6** and make two lists of the words used to describe love in these verses. One list should be the words that are primarily emotions, and the other list should be the words that are primarily actions we can choose to take. What do you notice about each list?

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

How can the following verses help us further understand what it means to choose to love others?

Romans 12:9-10

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

TAKING IT HOME

1) Is there anything from the Homework that you would like prayer for?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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