

This Week's Scripture

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 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'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 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. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there 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." **Matthew 19: 1-12**

Putting It Into Practice

Staying Married Depends on Understanding God's Design for Marriage

1. **God's Design for Marriage is Clearly Found in Scripture.**
2. **God Created Males and Females Primarily for Marriage.**
3. **God Joins and Seals Every Marriage Himself.**

"(God) instituted heterosexual, monogamous marriage as the most intimate of interpersonal relationships and as the only relationship in which sexual union was appropriate" **Craig Blomberg** OT use in NT p.59

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that **it refers to Christ and the church.** **Eph 5: 31-32**

"The one who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him" **1 Cor 6: 17**

Questions to Consider

1. We reaffirmed on Sunday that God's design for our lives is found in Scripture. As you read your Bible this week, look for how God is asking you to lead your life.
 2. Husbands, what can you do this week to let your wife know that she is not being taken for granted?
 3. Husbands and wives, what behaviours are strengthening and what behaviours are weakening the bonds of your marriage?
 4. What positive examples of your marriage are you providing as examples for your children to carry into their marriages?
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