

Teaching about Divorce

Matthew 19:1-12

MARRIAGE
Teaching about ~~Divorce~~

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- The teachings of Christ restore marriage to its original meaning of a lifelong bond between a man and a woman.
- Male and female: by its nature, marriage and marital love exist for the good of the spouses and for the purpose of bearing and raising children.
- No longer two but one flesh: with these words Christ affirmed that marriage is a union of persons which can never be truly dissolved.
- What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder; It is God who creates a marriage, and therefore man ought not attempt to undo God's work.

Matthew 19:7-9

- But what about divorce....

- See verse 8

They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” **8** 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. **9** And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:7-9

- but from the beginning it was not so
- This passage, and especially these sayings, place the Christian understanding of marriage firmly in the definition of Genesis 1-3 where:
- Male and female are intentional creations of God
They are intentionally designed for complementarity – the different intellectual, emotional, and willful characters of the two genders are as complimentary as are the sexual organs.
- Fruitfulness (procreation) is of the essence of the marriage relationship

Side Note

- Because of the way in which we were created – or because of the purposes we were created to fulfill, homosexual desire is the result of a disorder of the whole person. It is not simply a matter of sexual preference – it is a misunderstanding of the design of the human body, of natural male / female existence, and of the Creator’s design for human happiness. This extensiveness of the disorder is one reason that it is called “grave”. Homosexuality is a grave disorder of the Human person.

Side Note (Continued)

I point this out so that we may recognize that the problem of homosexuality is extraordinarily difficult, because it results from the disorder of the intellect, the will, the affections, the body and the soul.

- Christ offers forgiveness to all sinners, including those who act on homosexual inclinations, and those who divorce-and-commit-adultery, and every other sin – except the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.....

Side Note

blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.....

which is the sin of telling the Holy Spirit that you don't want his offer of Salvation through Jesus.

Forgiveness is available to all who, with contrition and repentance, confess their sin and turn to Jesus.

Matthew 19:11-12

- The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”
- If these things seem difficult for you to hear, take comfort in knowing that it was also difficult for the disciples to hear.
- Yet, notice that Jesus does not back down from the power of his statements. Rather, he shows them another excellent way.
- For those who do not marry...

Matthew 19:11-12

- **12** *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."*
- For those who are not married, God's will is that we be as celibate as a eunuch.
- Eunuch: A male of the human species castrated. (Webster 1828)