



MARRIAGE,
THE MARRIAGE
BOND, &
DIVORCE

"WHAT GOD HAS JOINED
TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN
SEPARATE"

MARRIAGE

The Institution in its Original Context

- ❖ Jesus' response was an appeal to the original context of marriage at the beginning - **Matthew 19:3-6**
- ❖ He made them male and female (v. 4):
 - ❖ Man made first - **Genesis 2:7**
 - ❖ Man impressed with need for a helper - **Genesis 2:18-20**
 - ❖ Woman made from man - **Genesis 2:21-23**

MARRIAGE

The Institution in its Original Context

- ❖ Jesus' response was an appeal to the original context of marriage at the beginning - **Matthew 19:3-6**
 - ❖ Man shall leave his parents, be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh (v. 5):
 - ❖ *"Therefore"* - purpose noted by God for creation as stated.
 - ❖ *"leave his father and mother"* - not permanent.
 - ❖ *"be joined to his wife"* - indicative of permanency.
 - ❖ *"they shall become one flesh"* - fulfilling unity created for.

MARRIAGE

The Institution in its Original Context

- ❖ Jesus' response was an appeal to the original context of marriage at the beginning - **Matthew 19:3-6**
 - ❖ What God has joined together, let not man separate (v. 6):
 - ❖ By design - specifically made woman to compliment man.
 - ❖ Joined - "*what*" = "*they*" (specific man and woman who cleaved to each other)
 - ❖ Permanence - God is the designer; man is the participant (no right to alter).

MARRIAGE

The Rule

- ❖ One man, one woman, for life.
- ❖ The exception - a distinct ruling concerning the violation of the first, original rule.
- ❖ **Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18** - highlighting the rule, these accounts do not include the exception.

MARRIAGE

The Subjects of the Rule

- ❖ (v. 4) - "*at the beginning*" - includes everyone of mankind.
 - ❖ Marriage is an institution designed inseparably from the creation of humanity.
- ❖ (v. 9) - "*whoever*" is used pertaining to the sin of divorce because the rule of marriage applies to "*whoever.*"

THE MARRIAGE BOND

God Has Joined Together

- ❖ *"man shall leave his father and mother"* - man does.
- ❖ *"and be joined to his wife"* - man does.
- ❖ *"and the two shall become one flesh"* - man does.
- ❖ *"God has joined together"* - God does.
 - ❖ Bound by God's marriage law - **Romans 7:2-3**

THE MARRIAGE BOND

A Distinction Between Marriage and the Marriage Bond

- ❖ **Romans 7:3** – speaks of a real marriage, yet one that is unlawful because of the missing marriage bond.
 - ❖ Bound and lawfully married – **Romans 7:2**
 - ❖ Unmarried but bound to another – **1 Corinthians 7:10-11**
 - ❖ Unmarried but bound to another; Unmarried and unbound, thus, free to remarry – **Matthew 19:9**
 - ❖ Bound to first mate, but unlawfully married to another – **Mark 6:17-18; Romans 7:2-3**

THE MARRIAGE BOND

Only God Can Separate

- ❖ God does all the binding and loosing - **Matthew 16:19** - not any other person, thing, circumstance, etc.
- ❖ There are two circumstances upon which God will loose the marriage bond:
 - ❖ Death - **Romans 7:2b, 3b**
 - ❖ Sexual Immorality - **Matthew 19:9**

DIVORCE

Divorce Has Never Been God's Will

- ❖ God hates divorce - **Malachi 2:16**
- ❖ Pharisees' question - **Matthew 19:7**
 - ❖ (v. 8b) - not so from the beginning (vv. 4-6)
 - ❖ Command (v. 7)? - cf. **Deuteronomy 24:1-4** - divorce is not commanded but noted as something already occurring.
 - ❖ (v. 8a) - because of hardness of heart.
 - ❖ Permitted - *epitrepo* - to allow someone to do someth., allow, permit (BDAG) (No reference to approval.)

DIVORCE

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- ❖ God hates divorce – **Malachi 2:16**
- ❖ Pharisees' question – **Matthew 19:7**
 - ❖ **Deuteronomy 24:1-4** – Moses' words offer a series of hypotheticals (**vv. 1-3**) and then states the consequence (**v. 4**).
- ❖ His words represent an effort on God's part to restrain and reduce an ungodly practice already occurring in Israel.

DIVORCE

There is One God-Given Exception for Divorce

- ❖ Jesus gives “*sexual immorality*” as the one exception -
Matthew 19:9
 - ❖ Sexual immorality - *porneia* - unlawful sexual intercourse (BDAG) (cf. Hebrews 13:4)
- ❖ To divorce and remarry is to commit adultery - Mark 10:11-12
 - ❖ “*except for sexual immorality*” - to divorce for this cause and to remarry is NOT to commit adultery.

DIVORCE

There is One God-Given Exception for Divorce

- ❖ The exception for divorce is "*sexual immorality*" as the REASON/CAUSE - **Matthew 5:31-32**
 - ❖ I.e. not simply that sexual immorality has occurred, but that the divorce is for that exact reason.
- ❖ Sexual immorality itself does NOT loose the marriage bond.
 - ❖ Only God can loose the bond - **Matthew 16:19; 19:6**
 - ❖ If sexual immorality occurs and the innocent party decides to divorce, THEN God will loose the bond for the innocent.

DIVORCE

There is One God-Given Exception for Divorce

- ❖ The proper response to the strict law of God on marriage and divorce – **Matthew 19:10-12**



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