



Part 29

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

Mark 10:1 – 12

¹ Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them.

² Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

³ “What did Moses command you?” he replied.

⁴ They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

⁵ “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. ⁶ “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸ and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

¹⁰ When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹ He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹² And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.” (NIV)

Two opposing views

Deuteronomy 24:1 – If a man marries a woman and she does not please him because he has found something offensive in her, then he may draw up a divorce document, give it to her, and evict her from his house. (NET Bible)

- The “Liberal” view – Rabbi Hillel said that a man could divorce his wife for _____.
- The more “Conservative” view – Rabbi Shammai believed that divorce was permissible only if his wife _____.

Implications for how we should live

1 Peter 2:11, 12 – ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. (NLT)

1. Jesus' teaching does away with the notion of _____

Marriage is **one man** and **one woman**, united in a **monogamous, sacred, permanent union** and **partnership**.

2. Marriage is the _____ in life and _____
over all other relationships.

3. People are to become _____ before
they become _____

4. Marriage is about being _____

5. Marriage is the _____

6. God does _____ the _____

7. God is _____ to be _____ and

Our time will surely go down in history, at least as far as the West is concerned, as the age of the God-shrinkers . . . the God-shrinking trend has long prevailed. Its result is that belief in God's sovereignty and omniscience, the majesty of his moral law and the terror of his judgments, the retributive consequences of the life we live here and the endlessness of the eternity in which we will experience them, along with belief in the intrinsic trinity of God and the divinity and personal return of Jesus Christ, is nowadays so eroded as to be hardly discernible. For many in our day, God is no more than a smudge.

But the plan of salvation, which tells me how my Creator has become my Redeemer, sets before me in fullest glory the transcendent majesty that the churches have so largely forgotten. It shows me a God who is infinitely great in wisdom and power . . . and who is infinitely worthy to be honored and obeyed. (J. I. Packer, *Rediscovering Holiness*, p. 68 & 69)