



## Lessons for Disciples - Marriage (Part 2)

### Key idea:

Jesus taught that God made humans male or female and that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. Therefore any alternative ideas of “marriage” or contexts for sexual activity violate God’s design and intent.

### Key text:

Mark 10:1-12

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. <sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup> “What did Moses command you?” he replied. <sup>4</sup> They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” <sup>5</sup> “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. <sup>6</sup> “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” <sup>10</sup> When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. <sup>11</sup> He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

### Key points:

1. Contrary to what some assert, Jesus positively taught about sexuality and marriage. Quoting Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24, He identified 4 key pillars of all true marriage:
  - a. Human beings are created male or female
  - b. Marriage is the union of a male and female
  - c. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman
  - d. Marriage is the union of one man and woman for life
2. Our culture offers several different alternatives to the biblical teaching on marriage, but all violate at least one of the essential pillars for true marriage.

- a. Living together is not an alternate form of marriage but simply the context for perpetual sexual sin, for by its very nature marriage is a binding legal covenant.
  - b. Same-sex or transgender “marriage” is not marriage, for at its core marriage is always the union of male and female.
  - c. Polygamy and polyamory are not marriage, for marriage is given to allow the intense union of two people - and we are inherently incapable of doing this with many partners.
  - d. No-fault divorce is actually serial monogamy and therefore undermines and destroys the very foundations of marriage in the culture at large.
3. NOTE: For a fuller discussion of some of these alternatives, see the teachings at the end of this guide.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Have I ever heard people say Jesus did not teach about marriage or human sexuality, or that it is not an important topic in the Scripture? How would I respond to someone making this statement?
3. What underlying ideas support living together, same-sex marriage, the transgender movement, polygamy/polyamory, and no-fault divorce? Why are these ideas false? What does Scripture teach about these ideas?
4. Am I tempted to judge one of the alternatives to a biblical view on marriage and sexuality more harshly than the others? Which one? Why?
5. Am I tempted to accept one of the alternatives to a biblical view on marriage and sexuality? Which one? Why?
6. How would I respond to an invitation to a wedding that clearly violated the biblical teaching on marriage (for example a same-sex wedding ceremony, or a ceremony for someone who committed adultery and left their spouse for a new partner)? How do I respond in a way that does not violate biblical teachings but also does not reject the person I care about?
7. In what ways do the current cultural ideas about sexuality and marriage reflect those of the 1<sup>st</sup> century when the New Testament was being written? In what ways does it differ? What can I learn from how early believers responded to the surrounding culture?

8. Is there any area related to marriage and sexuality that the Holy Spirit is bringing conviction to my heart at present? (This might be for current or past practices or beliefs).
9. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Gospel or strengthen their faith?

**Additional Teaching Resources:**

[Teachings on Divorce and Remarriage](#)

[Freedom – Embracing the Limits of Marriage and Sex](#)

[The Covenant of Creation – Part 2](#)

[The Covenant Nature of Marriage](#)

[Is Cohabitation the Same As Marriage?](#)

[Does God Allow Homosexual Marriage?](#)

[Embracing the Limits of Body and Soul](#)

[The Question of Sexuality](#)