

Truth about Divorce According to Jesus (Mk10:1-12; Matt 19:1-12)

- The pursuit of self-fulfillment is high in the mindset & life of the unbeliever
- The result of self-fulfillment as the guiding principle broken relationships follow
- Even among Christians self-fulfillment has taken the place of obedience to God
- The elevation of self-fulfillment reduces God's Word to an optional handbook
- More important than our happiness is the holiness of God & obedience to His Word
- What does Jesus say about marriage & divorce? How do His words teach us to live?
- A controversy concerning marriage & divorce centered on a phrase in Deut 24: 1
- It taught that a man could divorce his wife if he found something indecent about her
- In the Old Testament adultery was punished by death, so this was not about adultery
- In order to understand Jesus' words in Mark we need to look carefully in Matt 19

I. Jesus' Teaching about Divorce (Matthew 19:4-12)

- Jesus starts his answer, stating the ideal from the creation ordinance (Gen 2:23,24)
- In the beginning divorce was inconceivable & impossible, Genesis stresses the point
- Jesus highlights the two became one, thus stressing the intimacy of the relationship
- Jesus emphasis 2^{ndly} the permanence of the relationship in what he says. Matt 19: 6
- God's ideal was & is a monogamous, heterosexual, intimate, enduring marriage
- Jesus responded to the Pharisees by saying, divorce was never part of God's plan
- The reason God allowed divorce, was because of the hard hearts of the men of Israel

II. The So Called Exceptional Clause (Matthew 19: 9)

- Everything rests on a right interpretation of the word 'unfaithfulness' in Matt 19: 9
- Jesus is clear that the only reason for divorce is continued marital unfaithfulness
- If you divorce & remarry for any other reason, it is you that commit adultery
- Jesus says that divorce is permitted not commanded. Divorce is never mandatory

III. The Radicalness of Jesus' Teaching (Mark 10:10-12)

- Jesus did away completely with the loopholes of the Mosaic divorce provision
- Jesus' teaching was radical, and the disciples response shows how radical it was (10)
- If the only ground for divorce was marital unfaithfulness, better not to marry at all
- The radicalness of what Jesus taught is further stressed by his statements in Matt 5
- According to Christ, marriage demands total commitment which only death, or the most flagrant, ongoing sexual infidelity, can bring to an end.