

婚姻如何成功——马可福音 10:1-12 (下)

How to Have a Successful Marriage—Mark 10:1-12 (Part 2)

Introduction, Outline

- Bible reading: Mark 10:1-12; Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33.
Mark 10:1-12
1 Getting up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them. 2 Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. 3 And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?” 4 They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” 5 But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. 6 But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. 7 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, 8 and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” 10 In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. 11 And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; 12 and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”
- Oftentimes, we Christians fail to grow in a God-glorify way because we have not **learned to ask the right questions**. Instead of asking, “Can a Christian marry an unbeliever? Is it okay to get divorced?” what we really should ask is, “What is God’s good will for marriage? How can I behold God’s glorious beauty through marriage?” This is really the starting point for a correct understanding of marriage.
- Husband and wife are “**fellow heir[s] of the grace of life**” (1 Pet. 3:7). This is a “**favor from the Lord**” (Prov. 18:22), not a *curse*. If anyone thinks marriage is more like a curse, it is because his understanding of marriage is not from the Bible, but from the world. What the world shows us about marriage is not anything favorable, but all kinds of ugly lusts, quarrels, bitterness, complaints, manipulation, and conflict.....
- Outline:
 - Title: How to Have a Successful Marriage
 - 1. Correct Your Perspective (vv. 1-5)
 - 2. Go Back to Creation (v. 6)
 - 3. Know You’re Joined Together by God (vv. 7-9)
 - 4. Break Away from Culture (vv. 10-12)

Correct Your Perspective (vv. 1-5)

- “Whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife”: As if marriage were a painful purgatory! The Pharisees completely missed the beautiful meaning of marriage. Sometimes when

Christians ask similar questions, it is because they do not see the beauty of marriage, not knowing that marriage is a precious, cherished gift of grace.

【Think】 Why doesn't Jesus give the classic theological answer: only these two kinds of divorce are allowed (Mt 5:32; 1 Cor 7:15)? Because their problem isn't simply a misinterpretation of a particular verse, but their whole perspective is fundamentally wrong! Their problem is the "hardness of heart" (v. 5) that does not accept the good will of the Bible, and so they cannot see marriage as God's good will, but rather as a painful purgatory which people should get out of by any easy excuse.

【Principle】 Correct your perspective to see that marriage is God's good will.

Go Back to Creation (v. 6)

- "But from the beginning of creation": To rightly discuss the issue of divorce, we must go back to God's creation in the beginning. Marriage is God's creation, not man's invention.
- "God made them male and female": Why? Remember? Because God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18).

【Think Deep】 Why is it not good? Sin had not yet entered the world back then. The "not good" here has nothing to do with any moral sin, but because Adam alone could not perfectly reflect the glory of God! That's why God created a spouse to help him. Although creation was already perfect before the creation of Eve (Gen. 1:31), it was not until the creation of marriage that mankind became a more complete expression of God's perfect design. Why? Because God is a triune God, and the relationship between the Persons is part of God's perfect image, and man was created in God's image. Singleness is not God's design!

【Think Further】 What was Adam's reaction when he woke up and saw Eve? Love at first sight! Immediately, he waxed poetic: "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh!" (Gen. 2:23, the first love poem in human history) His life was finally complete!

【Conclusion】 Did God establish marriage just to impose a bondage on man? Is marriage meant to be a bondage? Absolutely not! Marriage is a wonderful gift of grace! When God created all things in the beginning, He established this wonderful institution for our benefit and to reflect His image through us. And yet, when the disciples heard that they couldn't get divorced, their first reaction was this: "it is better not to marry." (Mt 19:10)

【Lament】 How sad! Completely missed the point of marriage! Marriage is meant to be an immensely beautiful grace-gift, and yet they totally missed the good part and all they got was stone-cold rules. This is quite consistent with their **overall spiritual condition**, isn't it? This is typical legalism: completely ignorant of God's goodness, knowing only a bunch of stone-cold rules with which to self-boast and to judge and manipulate others! Total ignorance of God's good will!

【Note】 If marriage had been instituted by man, then man would have the right to make changes; but since marriage was not instituted by man from the beginning, man has no right to change its institution anyway he wants.

Know You're Joined Together by God (vv. 7-9)

- “Shall leave his father and mother”: Clarification - it doesn't mean living strictly apart on the surface (it's sure good to live apart when you can); nor abandoning one's parents altogether (honoring parents is a lifelong commandment); nor is it about complete financial independence (buying a house with parental sponsorship is not a sin). The leaving here is a matter of the **mindset**; or, a change in the order of priority of relationships. Before marriage, the relationship with parents is the most important one in your life; after marriage, this order must change! For **the relationship with spouse is the most important human relationship in the Bible!** After marriage, both parties **must be mentally and emotionally detached from their dependence on their parents, for only then can they put their whole heart into their love for the spouse.**
- “Be joined to his wife” (Gen 2:24): literally means “stick together,” like being glued together, inseparable. The key is **faithful commitment**. It's not just about external actions, but the commitment of the heart. Loyalty is the key. There's nothing more important in a marital relationship than faithful commitment. **Don't do anything that might make your spouse suspect your loyalty.**

【Application Example】 Don't ever hint to your spouse in any way that someone else has a better spouse! Don't even think that way. When people hear that, the natural reaction is: if he/she is so good, go live with him/her; why are you still with me? From the **mindset** to the **emotions, will, words, and actions**, your entire person must be **tightly bound to** your spouse.

- “The two shall become one flesh”: In all practical matters, there must not be any “yours versus mine” kind of thinking. Even the things where there is a division of labor are things that are owned together by both the husband and the wife.

【Application Example】 **Finance** certainly cannot be separate. **Raising children** is usually the wife's work, but ultimately the responsibility falls on the father. **Any joy** is the joy of both, and **any pain** is the pain of both. And, of course, a special expression of being one flesh is **sexual intimacy** (1 Cor. 7:4-5).

【Think】 Now that two have become one, can they be separated? Consider the story of Solomon judging the two women's case (1 Kings 3:16-28). In God's eyes, divorce is splitting a living person in two! Anyone who easily talks about divorce does not have the concept of “two becoming one flesh” in mind. Either they don't know God's will, or they have a hardened heart that won't let God's will become theirs. The Pharisees were those with hardened hearts who knew God's Word on this and yet would not let it become their own will.

- “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate”: “Joined together” is literally “yoked together”, depicting two oxen plowing under the same yoke. Husband and wife carry the load of the family together, a yoke that God puts on every couple. If the yoke image feels a bit heavy to you, remember that Jesus’ yoke is easy and His burden is light. **If the yoke you bear is Jesus’ yoke, that you imitate Jesus in your marriage, then your marital relationship should be the sweetest kind of burden.**

【Emphasis】 **The sanctity of marriage.** Marriage is God’s work of joining two people together; man has no right to separate it. Divorce is a blatant undoing of God’s work.

【Balance】 Even the two kinds of divorce permitted by the Bible are really a last choice option when there’s no other option available. In Jesus’ words, it is because of the hardness of heart that divorce is allowed. Sometimes, after much struggle and all the efforts one can make, the other spouse still has a hard heart that refuses to repent; the innocent spouse, after countless agonizing prayers and self-examination, genuinely thinks that maintaining the marriage will only cause further damage to God’s glory. In order to minimize damage to God’s glory, he or she is forced to make this painful decision as permitted by the Bible. But God’s overall principle for marriage is: no divorce!

Break Away from Culture (vv. 10-12)

- “In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again”: the disciples could not believe that this was true, for it was so far removed from the culture in which they had been brought up. They even said: if that’s the case, “it is better not to marry.” (Mt 19:10)
【Note】 Beware of those who claim that the biblical standard for marriage only applies to the culture of that time. The biblical concept of marriage has always been counter-cultural, and it shocked people even at that time. Secular culture has always been anti-biblical when it comes to marriage.
- “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her...”: because God never accepts their divorce in the first place. In God’s eyes, the divorce is invalid, and they’re still married. So remarriage in this case amounts to polygamy, which of course is adultery.

Summary

Although no one today can perfectly live out God’s original creation design, don’t forget the power of the gospel. Not only does the gospel renew our spiritual lives so that we can live more and more in obedience to God, **but it also infuses the marital relationship with a new level of exceedingly wonderful meaning:** when a husband imitates Jesus to love his wife sacrificially, and when a wife willingly submits to her husband’s leadership, their relationship is a beautiful picture of Christ and the church. Such a relationship is a living testimony of the gospel.