

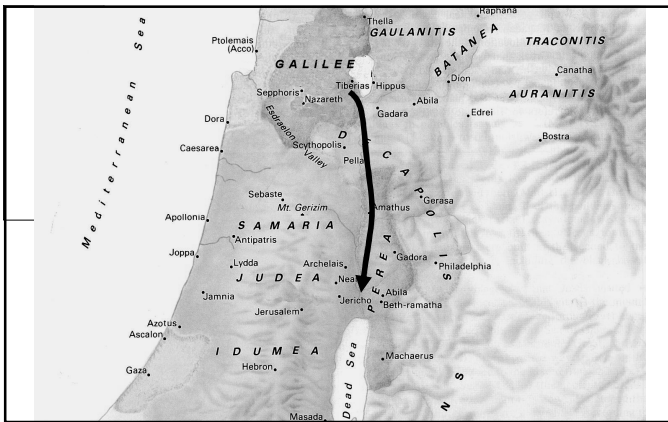


The Gospel of Matthew

“What God Has Joined Together”
Matthew 19:1-6

“And it came about that when Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee, and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.”

Matthew 19:1-2



And some of the Pharisees came to Him, testing Him, saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all?”

And He answered and said, “Have you not read, that He who created, from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

and said, ‘FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?

Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE AND DIVORCE HER?”

He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

The disciples said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”

But He said to them, “Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given.

For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it.”

– Matthew 19:3-12
(NASB)



Sanctity of Marriage

Historical Context:

- rabbi Hillel had made popular the “any cause” divorce – a man could divorce his wife for any reason by giving her a certificate
- rabbi Shammai – taught that Deuteronomy 24 required divorce only for sexual immorality

Sanctity of Marriage

1. Marriage is God's Design

- marriage was His design in the creation of man as male and female
- marriage is not a societal custom but a gift of God for our pleasure and His glory

Sanctity of Marriage

2. Marriage is God's Doing

- becoming one flesh is a union that God Himself performs
- all marriages between a man and woman are established by God

Sanctity of Marriage

3. Marriage is to be Permanent

- any separation of this one-flesh union is against God's design for marriage
 - “leave”; “cleave”; “one-flesh”; “no longer two”

Sanctity of Marriage

3. Marriage is to be Permanent

- marriage is not merely a human contract but a sacred covenant to be kept until death



Sanctity of Marriage

“FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”

Ephesians 5:31-32



Sanctity of Marriage

Ultimate Aim of Marriage:

➤ to serve as a living parable of the covenant relationship of Christ and His people