

Marriage, a Mystical Union
Mark 10:1-12

Gen 2:18-24 *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, ' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

- I. As believers, we take our directives about how to live life from God, not from man. He alone determines the way we should live as we wait for the Lord's return. Satan on the other hand, works to convince us that man's ways are better than God's ways. The one area he especially works in to create chaos is in the institution of marriage. He'll work to convince men and women that cohabitation is better than marriage. He'll work to defile a marriage through selfishness, sexual immorality, abuse, or just plain apathy so that it collapses in divorce. His goal is to destroy as many marriages as he can to keep the body of Christ compromised and weak in its witness to the world. Therefore, our goal must be to fiercely protect the institution of marriage knowing that it is God who created marriage for our good.

Mark 10:1-1-6

Mark 3:6

Matthew 14:3-5

Duet. 24:1-4a

"Divorce was a volatile issue among the Jews. The Old Testament standard had been lowered to make divorce easy, so the practice became very, very common. The Pharisees were leaders in this, not only by what they taught, but by their example. They were continually divorcing their wives and teaching that it could be done for any reason at all. In fact, this doctrine was very popular among the people as well, especially those who wanted to get a divorce." MacArthur

- II. God established marriage, not man. So what he says about marriage are his rules for living marriage his way. When God unites a man and woman together, he does so for the purpose of making them one. He creates in their lives a mystical union, i.e., a spiritual oneness, a soul union, a heart union, a physical union. It is this supernatural melding of the heart, soul and mind that makes a married couple one in the Lord's eyes. When he looks upon a married couple, he sees them as one entity. When a married couple chooses to look upon one another as one entity created by God, they show how precious their oneness is to not only to one another but also to Christ, and their marriage is better for it.

Mark 10:7-9
1 Peter 3:1-7

συζεύγνυμι syzeúgnymi, sood-zyoog'-noo-mee; to yoke together, i.e. (figuratively) conjoin (in marriage):—join together. To fasten to one yoke, to join together unite, of the marriage tie. Strongs' concordance

"Not only meaning that they should be considered as one body, but also as two souls in one body, with a complete union of interests, and a indissoluble partnership of life and fortune, comfort and support, desires and inclinations, joys and sorrows." Clarke

Ephesians 5:30-32 30for we are members of his body. 31"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church.

- III. Marriage is a promise made to God, the spouse, and the world. It is a covenant made before God, a binding promise that is to be treated with special care and utmost respect. Even though God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16), he gives us two exceptions that allow for the breaking of the marriage covenant. The first exception is found in **Matthew 19:9**, which states that God allows for divorce and remarriage in the case of infidelity. The second exception is found in **1 Cor. 7:15**, which states that he will allow for divorce and remarriage if an unbelieving spouse leaves because they want nothing to do with Christ.

Mark 10:10-12