



Two Becomes One

Mark 10:1-16

If you are married, what is the best marriage advice you ever received that has strengthened your marriage?

What is our culture's view of divorce?

What is your experience with divorce (your parents? your marriage? your friends? your children?)?

Read Mark 10:1-2. What question did the religious leaders ask Jesus?

Mark says that they were trying to “test” or trap Jesus. How is talking about divorce like a trap still today?

Read Mark 10:3-4. There were various rabbinic traditions about divorce, but where does Jesus direct them? Why is this important?

Why did Moses permit divorce? What is the difference between permitting and commanding?

Read Mark 10:5. How does a hard heart lead to divorce? What can we do to keep our hearts soft toward our spouses and toward God's will?

Read Mark 10:6-8. The question is about divorce, so why does Jesus talk about marriage? Why does he go back to Genesis and talk about the creation of marriage? See Genesis 1:27 & 2:24.

Read Mark 10:9. From this, what would you say Jesus' general view was on divorce? What key reason does he give here in support of staying together instead of divorcing?

Read Mark 10:10-12. According to Jesus, what is the consequence of divorce when it comes to remarriage? What do you think about this?

Mark does not record all the words Jesus taught in this particular teaching. Read Matthew 19:9. What exception does Jesus give that allows for divorce?

Also read 1 Corinthians 7:12-15. What exception does Paul give that allows for divorce?

When people divorce for other reasons than these exceptions (unbiblical divorces), are they forgivable? See 1 John 1:9. In light of this, how should we treat divorced people?

What about when a divorce does not involve clear cut adultery or abandonment? How about other severe situations (domestic violence, illegal activity, extreme addictions, etc.)? What role should the church play in these kinds of situations and why is this essential in light of our tendency to grow hard hearts in hurting marriages?

What can you do to reaffirm your “oneness” commitment to your spouse and marriage?

How can this group pray for you and our church this week?