



Two Becomes One

Mark 10:1-16

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Mark 10:1 Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. 2 Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 "What did Moses command you?" he replied. 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." 5 "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. 6 "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (NIV)

Marriage is a divine institution, but divorce is a human innovation. (1-4)

The cause of divorce is hard hearts. (5)

The Paradox is that Two becomes One.

Marriage is a commitment of:

▪ **Exclusivity: Between one man and one woman** (6)

▪ **Priority: To put each other first** (7)

▪ **Loyalty: To stay together** (7)

▪ **Intimacy: To grow together** (8)

Mark 10:13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. (NIV)

▪ **Sovereignty: Established by God** (9)

Malachi 2:14 ...the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth...the wife of your marriage covenant. 15... So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD... (NIV)

God forbids divorce in most circumstances.

Mark 10:10 When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. 11 He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. 12 And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." (NIV)

God allows divorce for:

▪ **Adultery (violates intimacy)**

Matthew 19:9 "I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." (NIV)

▪ **Abandonment (violates loyalty)**

1 Corinthians 7:12 ...If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.... 15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. (NIV)

Closing Thoughts on Divorce

All divorces involve sin, but this does not mean that all divorces are sinful.

One person cannot save a marriage if their spouse is unwilling.

Guard your heart toward your spouse and God. Try to stay together if you can.

Divorce should be decided within the church, not apart from it.

Divorces that are unbiblical are sinful, but God forgives sinful divorce. The church needs to show grace.