

*I. The Creator's Intention for Marriage is Male-Female, Leaving-Cleaving Permanence (19:3-6)*

**Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"<sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'<sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."**

Application: (1) Never ask questions of Jesus in order to test Him; (2) Men: Pray and study to know what you must do to biblically leave your parents, to be united to your wife, and to be one flesh; (3) Women: strategize how can you encourage the men in your life (spouse, brother, son, nephew, friend) to biblically leave and cleave in their current or future marriages; (4) Take action to make sure you do not have an ever-widening distance between you and your spouse that grows into divorce.

*What God wills & wants for marriage does not always hold sway, as hard hearts get in the way.*

*II. Man's Corruption of Moses' Permission is Hard-Hearted and Adulterous (19:7-9)*

**<sup>7</sup> "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.<sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."**

Application: If you have committed adultery, there is hope and forgiveness for you in Christ. How can a person obtain this hope and forgiveness? *You must:* (1) cut off the relationship immediately (Pro 5:8; 7:25); (2) humble yourself (1 Pet 5:6; ); (3) thoroughly confess your sin to God and seek His forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Psa 51); (4) confess your sin to your spouse and seek the forgiveness of your spouse, children, and others hurt by your sin; (5) return to your spouse—if she will have you (1 Chr 16:43); (6) diligently develop the spiritual disciplines of constant meditation on scripture (Psa 1), and constant prayer (1 Thes 5:17); (7) be accountable in tangible ways to your spouse (Pro 31:26-27); (8) obtain godly counsel (Psa 32:8; Pro 15:22); (9) meet with a friend who will tell you what you do not want to hear (Pro 27:6, 17); (10) believe on, receive, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ—be saved (Acts 16:31; John 1:12; Matt 4:19).

On the final point, one may argue that he or she is already saved. But saved people do not commit adultery. Or if they do, they repent as described above. If one refuses such a biblical process, then that person does not presently possess salvation (Matt 6:24 and 7:16).

*If God's intent for marriage is going to be ignored and hearts hardened, staying single is a better option.*

*III. A Given Situation May Warrant Kingdom-Focused Singleness (19:10-12)*

**<sup>10</sup> The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."<sup>11</sup> Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.<sup>12</sup> For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."**

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The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Jesus proclaims the Creator's intention for marriage, man's corruption of marriage, and situational singleness.

The Big Story: "From the beginning" of time people were accountable to keep God's laws for marriage; now that "the end of all things is near" (1 Pet 4:7) we are no less accountable to keep the permanence and heterosexuality of marriage for all, and the gift of singleness for some.

The Big Question: Will you bow to the Creator's intention for marriage—that it is permanent, it is for one man and one woman, it is not to be terminated without adultery, and it is not for everyone?

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