

# **FAITHFUL FOR A LIFETIME**

## **Ephesians 5:31**

**Today we will consider what God's Word says about the permanence of marriage and being faithful to your marriage partner for a lifetime.**

### **I. GOD'S DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE** - Genesis 2:24

A. COMMITMENT: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother"

1. God's Design

- A man announces his intentions of breaking away from his parents household

2. The Married's Declaration

- I am permanently leaving my parents and announcing my intention of establishing a new home with this person.

B. COVENANT: "Be joined to his wife"

1. God's Design

a. This is covenant language and not so much the idea of physical union

b. By means of this covenant language we enter a permanent contract relationship

c. This permanent relationship is a three-way agreement and arrangement between you and God and your partner

2. The Married's Declaration

- I am vowing myself to a permanent bond with this person and God.

C. CONSUMMATION: "And they shall become one flesh"

1. God's Design

a. This is physical and practical

b. They blend their identities

c. There is an indissoluble kinship

2. The Married's Declaration

- I will consider myself one with my partner, forever united in a kinship relationship.

### **II. CHRIST'S DEFENCE OF MARRIAGE** - Matthew 19:3-6

A. GOD'S WILL (3-6a)

1. The Pharisee's Question (3)

- Based upon Duet. 24:1-4

2. Christ's Answer (4-6a)

a. He goes back to the beginning and bypasses the law

B. CHRIST'S WARNING (6b)

- "What God has joined together, let no man separate."

Over please >

### III. MAN'S DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

- Mark 10:2-9, Matthew 19:9 and I Corinthians 7:10-15

#### A. MOSES' ALLOWANCE - Mark 10:2-9

1. Jesus' Question (3)
  - What did Moses command?
2. Pharisee's Answer (4)
  - This is from their understanding of Dt.24:1-4
3. Christ's Commentary (5)
4. Christ's Correction (6-9)
  - Back to the beginning (6) > Genesis 2:24

#### B. JESUS' EXCEPTION - Matthew 19:9

1. When "sexual immorality" ('porneia') is present the divorcing person does not commit adultery when they marry another.
2. The difficulty comes in how one understands "sexual immorality" ('porneia').
3. A narrow understanding of the term could be meant here.
  - Understood narrowly the term would be used to describe someone who was engaged but during the engagement had sexual contact with another person so that they were no longer pure (or a virgin) when they married the one to whom they were engaged.
4. In reality Jesus may have been allowing an "out" only for an engaged couple to break off their planned marriage if one were found to be immoral.
5. Note that in Mark 10:11-12 and Luke 16:18 Jesus does not include any exception.

#### C. PAUL'S PROVISION - I Corinthians 7:10-15

1. For a believing couple (10-11)
2. For a 'mixed' couple (12-15)
  - a. The believer is not to divorce the unbeliever (12-13)
  - b. Staying together sanctifies the husband, children and home (14)
  - c. If the unbeliever departs (15) > Commonly referred to as a "desertion clause"
    - 1) "Let him depart"
      - Don't force the departing one to stay > Don't tie them down.
    - 2) "Not under bondage"
      - You are not obligated to prevent the breakup.
  - d. This may be a situation where the divorce would be allowed to take place
    - But the text says nothing about remarriage.

#### IV. A CHRISTIAN DEVOTION TO MARRIAGE

##### A. REJOICE

- God graciously allows divorced people second chances.

##### B. RECOMMIT

1. Don't bail out of what you see as a bad marriage > Stay committed to your lifetime covenant
2. Think biblically and correctly about your marriage covenant
3. Get help through marriage counseling if needed.
4. Be the spouse you are supposed to be - Eph.5:33

##### C. RECONNECT

1. Spend time together .... Be together.
2. Communicate
3. No withdrawing or withholding from each other - I Cor.7:1-9

##### D. REVIVE - See Song of Solomon

1. Spark it up: Put some spark and excitement into your marriage
2. Talk it up: Talk well of your partner and your relationship

#### CONCLUSION:

**Let us be filled with romantic and committed love, a love that binds husbands and wives together for a lifetime.**

**Let's defend God's definition of marriage and remain faithful for a lifetime.**