



April 30, 2023

Dan Reid

Mark 10:1-12

***God's intention is that marriage lasts a lifetime and divorce is a rare exception***

1. Discuss the feelings that surface when you consider the effects of divorces or unhealthy marriages? Why is the gospel of Jesus Christ so important when we talk about subjects like this?
2. Read Mark 10:1-5 and Matthew 19:7-10. Why do you think Jesus talks about "hardness of heart" in the context of divorce in Mk 10:5 and Mt 19:8? On what basis can we hope for softening hearts and saved marriages?
3. Why does Jesus consider adultery as a rare exception for permitting divorce?
4. Read Mark 10:6-8. What do these verses tell us about God's intention for marriage?
5. Read Mark 10:9. How does the idea that God is sovereign help us understand the meaning of marriage and strengthen a marriage? Do you agree that we should consider our marriages to laboratories for our discipleship?
6. Read Mark 10-12. Dan mentions that verse 11 shows that Jesus blows up the ancient double standard and elevates women. What do these verses teach us about divorce, remarriage and the heart of God?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-15. Discuss the teaching Paul adds to Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce?
8. Discuss some of the "Pastoral issues" related to struggling marriages and from the fallout of a divorce. How can we provide care with grace and truth for those who are asking the following questions?
  - What can I do to help a person who confides in me that they are suffering physical or emotional abuse inside their marriage?
  - What if I divorced before I became a Christian? What do I need to do now?
  - What if my marriage is a struggle?
  - What should I consider as a single person in light of this teaching?
  - What is the role of CPC to support the married and divorced? What resources does CPC have to help couples in need?
9. What couple can you specifically pray for? What is another step you can take to encourage a couple in a struggling marriage? A divorced person? A single person?