



## “The Two Become One”

September 14, 2025

Mark 10:1-12



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### Introduction:

Which part of your marriage ceremony do you cherish the most?

Did your ceremony include unity candles or sand? What do you think of those illustrations now as you look back?

### The Pharisees Test Jesus (Mark 10:1-2):

*And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test Him asked “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”*

- Jesus, this time, travels to the east side of the Jordan, bypassing Samaria.
- Jesus is likely in an area east of the Jordan called Perea, the region where He cast demons out of man (Mark 5:1-20) and fed 4,000 people (Mark 8:1-10)

### Jesus Responds (Mark 10:3-9):

*“He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

- Jesus directs them back to scripture.... What does scripture say? (The passage referred to is Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- Jesus lays out God’s design and intention for marriage, referring back to the account of creation (See Genesis 1:27, 2:23)
- God’s established marriage as a lifelong, covenant relationship where man and woman become one flesh - forsaking all others. Ideally, marriage is a relationship of humility, deep intimacy and Christlike love.

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### **Jesus and His Disciples (Mark 10:10-12):**

*And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”*

- The disciples ask Jesus, in private, about what he just taught.
- In Matthew 19:9, Jesus states the exception in the event of a divorce is “sexual immorality”.

### **God’s Design for Marriage:**

Jesus’s response to the Pharisees lays out God’s design and intentions for the marriage relationship. We can draw several principles from His statement in Mark 10:3-12

#### **1. Marriage was created and established by God.**

- In verse 9, Jesus says “what God has joined together, let not man separate”.
- It is not a human invention but began with God.

#### **2. Marriage is a relationship where we are to be completely devoted, and fully known by our spouse.**

- In verse 7, a man “holds fast” to his wife and becomes one flesh with her.

#### **3. Marriage is intended to be a life-long relationship.**

- In verse 5, Jesus states that divorce was only *permitted* because of the hardness of the human heart.
- Divorce, according to Jesus, is only permitted, *not commanded*, in the case of sexual immorality (See Matthew 19:9)

### **Guard Your Heart(Proverbs 4:23)**

#### **Keeping a soft heart of humility towards your spouse is critical.**

- Humility is at the core of a heart that is soft, moldable and responsive
- Pride is a the core of a heart that is hard, inflexible and unresponsive

#### **Does God heal hard hearts?**

Yes, He Can! But not normally without acknowledging, confessing and repenting as part of the healing process.(1 John 1:7-9)

#### **What does it look like to guard your heart in the marriage relationship?**

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