

Marriage is Serious Business

May is the month that Mindy and I got married. This year, we will be celebrating our thirtieth anniversary. Both of us are very glad that God brought us together.

Marriage is probably the most serious commitment a man and a woman can make to each other. Consider what Jesus said to the disciples when the topic of marriage came up. Let me provide some background.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day came up to Jesus and asked him about divorce. The discussion is recorded in the gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 19:3-6 ³And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" ⁴He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (ESV)

Jesus wanted us to know that marriage is a union- a bond that is never to be separated. It is very serious! Marriage is to be forever on earth. The only way marriage is ended is if one's spouse dies. Hearing this, the Pharisees had one more question:

Matthew 19:7-9 ⁷They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" ⁸He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." (ESV)



To summarize, the Pharisees asked why Moses permitted divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1). Jesus said it was because of hardness of heart or, in other words, sin. The only acceptable reason for divorce was unfaithfulness. In other words, marriage is forever unless a spouse destroys the union by having a union with someone else.

When hearing how serious marriage was, Jesus' disciples made an observation about marriage. Jesus' response was rather surprising. Look at what was said:

Matthew 19:10-12 ¹⁰ The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." ¹¹ But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it." (ESV)

The church is called the bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7-8). Marriage is to be taken seriously. It shows God's commitment to His people. God takes His commitment to the church seriously.

We are to do the same. Marriage is forever. Take your marriage seriously, because God does.

In Him and for His glory,

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