**SERMON**  **Mark 10:1-12** Marriage and Divorce May 25, 2019 TN

God’s divine **ideal** for marriage (Jesus quoting Gen 1:27 and 2:24):

1. 1 man, 1 woman
2. Strong bond /strong union
3. One flesh/indivisible/covenantal
4. Created by God/Work of God – we’re not to separate

If you do – you commit or cause to commit adultery.

Jesus was clear on this from His early ministry – Mat 5:32

**1. The Pharisee’s Attack v2**

**2. Jesus’s Answer- v3**

Mark 10:4 “Moses **allowed** a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.”

Matt 19:7 “Why then did Moses **command** one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

They are quoting Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (cf 23:13 re ‘indecency’)

**3. The Pharisee’s Argument v 4**

**4. Jesus’s Affirmation- v5-9**

**5. God’s Divine Ideal v10-12**

**“Because of your** **hardness of heart”**.

“This allowance was an accommodation to human weakness in verse 5. It was because their “hearts were hard” that God allowed for divorce. It indicates insensitivity to God’s purpose resulting in disobedience or rebellion. God’s allowance for divorce was an attempt to bring some sort of order in a society that had disregarded God’s standards.

But God did not intend for marriage to end in divorce. His design in creating man and

woman was that marriage should be an unbroken, lifelong union. A distinction must be made between what is the absolute will of God and what the provisions are that take

into account the sinfulness of human beings and are intended to limit and control its effects. Moses’ permitting of divorce falls into the second category. The rabbis and Pharisee’s mistook God’s gracious provision in allowing divorce as his approval of it”.

*Expositors’ Bible Commentary, Longman & Garland, p857*

**Application Questions:**

1 How has the world changed in the last 50 years with regard to relationships

and divorce? What were the social trends behind those changes? What can

the church do to improve the culture’s view on marriage?

2 What aspects of Genesis 1:27 and 2:24 point to God’s divine ideal for

marriage?

3 What is the definition of marriage? What is the purpose of marriage? How

does this affect our view on the legal definition of marriage?

4 How did the Pharisees twist scripture to make it say what they wanted to to say? What do you think their motives were in doping so?

5 How has the fall influenced God’s divine ideal for marriage? How does it affect the

way a Christian might counsel couples?

6 Where do you see grace in the passage? How does it point dimly to the cross?

7 Where do you see grace in the situation with Joseph and Mary?

8 How would you respond to someone who says, “I’m tired of my spouse and I’ll just get divorced and remarried, then I’ll ask God to forgive me? . . .