

Sunday Morning in the Word



Matthew 19:1-12



SIGNS and SAYINGS

Seeing and Savoring the Beauty of
Jesus in What He Did and Said

Matthew 19:1-12

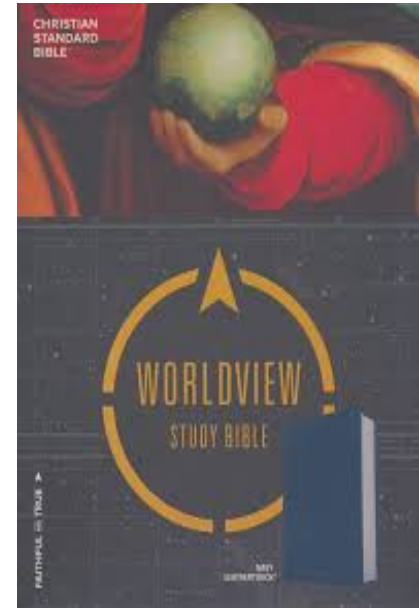
Jesus' Straight Talk on Marriage



Redefining marriage

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision, legalized same sex marriage in all fifty states!

“Same-sex marriage presents a great cultural challenge to the Christian worldview. As it becomes increasingly normalized throughout Western culture, Christians will face a great temptation to grow indifferent toward biblical teaching on marriage, to fear culture’s disapproval of Christian teaching about it, or to reluctantly accept same-sex marriage as a reality of civil life. But because the Bible’s teaching on marriage is connected to the gospel and to God’s vision for human flourishing, Christians committed to the authority of the Bible must reject these temptations and **remain committed to the biblical teaching that defines marriage as a union of two opposite-sexed persons.**”



The BACKGROUND of the Passage

Matthew 19:1

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from **Galilee** and entered the region of **Judea beyond the Jordan**.

Judea



Galilee

**Beyond the
Jordan
("Perea")**

The BACKGROUND of the Passage

Matthew 19:1-3a

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And **large crowds** followed him, and he healed them there. And **Pharisees** came up to him

The AMBUSH of the Pharisees

Matthew 19:3

And **Pharisees** came up to him and **tested** him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?”

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To **DISCREDIT** Jesus!



SCHOOL OF HILLEL -- divorce for
any reason at all



SCHOOL OF HILELL -- divorce for any reason at all

SCHOOL OF SHAMMAI -- divorce only for the reason of marital unfaithfulness



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To DISCREDIT Jesus!

To DESTROY Jesus!

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Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the **region of Judea beyond the Jordan.**



**Beyond the
Jordan
("Perea")**

**Ruled by Herod
Antipas**

The Ambush of the Pharisees

Matthew 14:3-4

For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,
4 because John had been saying to him, **“It is not lawful for you to have her.”**

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To **DISCREDIT** Jesus!

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The ANSWER of Jesus

Matthew 19:4-5

He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, **5** and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?

The ANSWER of Jesus: One Man, One Woman

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The ANSWER of Jesus: A Strong Bond

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The ANSWER of Jesus: One Flesh

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The ANSWER of Jesus: A Work of God

Matthew 19:6

So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”**

God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



From the very beginning of human existence marriage is:

God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



From the very beginning of human existence marriage is:

- **One man, one woman**

God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



From the very beginning of human existence marriage is:

- One man, one woman
- **A strong bond**

God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



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God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



From the very beginning of human existence marriage is:

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The ARGUMENT of the Pharisees

Matthew 19:7

They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

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Deuteronomy 24:1

When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some **indecentcy** in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house. . .

The AFFIRMATION of Jesus

Matthew 19:8

He said to them, “**Because of your hardness of heart** Moses **allowed** you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

The AFFIRMATION of Jesus

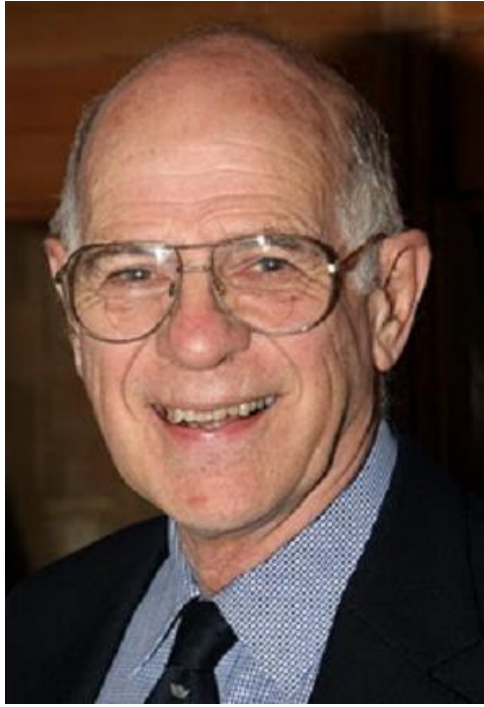
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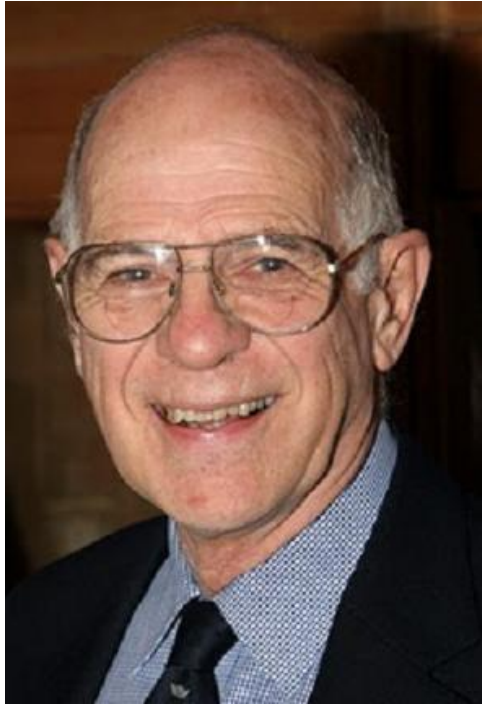
Matthew 19:9

And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery.



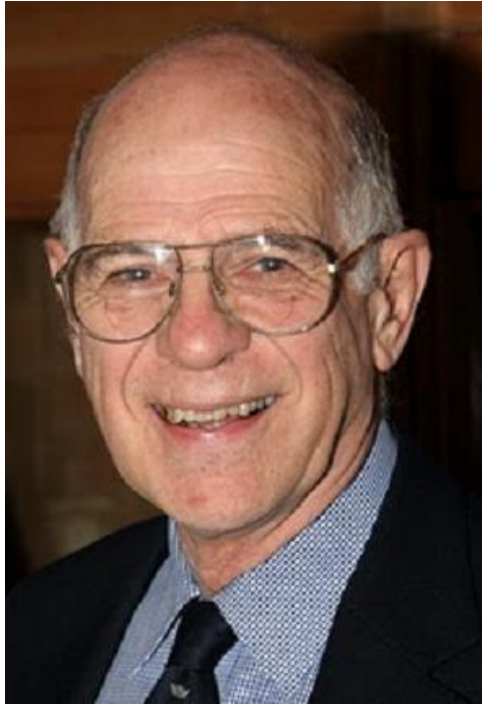
Michael Green

“Jesus has forcefully drawn their (the Pharisees) attention to the original purpose of marriage, and has taken his hearers back to the Garden of Eden. There was no divorce then, before the fall, and accordingly there should be none for members of the kingdom, in whom the ravages of the fall are being restored.”



Michael Green

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Michael Green

“What is manifest is that he is in principle against divorce and remarriage, and would be appalled at the ease and frequency with which it takes place today. **One of the most powerful Christian witnesses possible these days is the eloquent example of a warm, forgiving, hospitable, united and happy Christian home.**”

The AFFIRMATION of Jesus

John 8:11

And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

“Adultery is a terrible sin
but it is not the
unpardonable sin. It does
not cast a person outside
the love of God.”



Alistair Begg

God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



From the very beginning of human existence marriage is:

- One man, one woman
- A strong bond
- One flesh
- A work of God

God's Plan for Marriage according to Jesus



From the very beginning of human existence marriage is:

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For life!

The APPLICATION of the Disciples (and Jesus' Response)

Matthew 19:10-12

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.”

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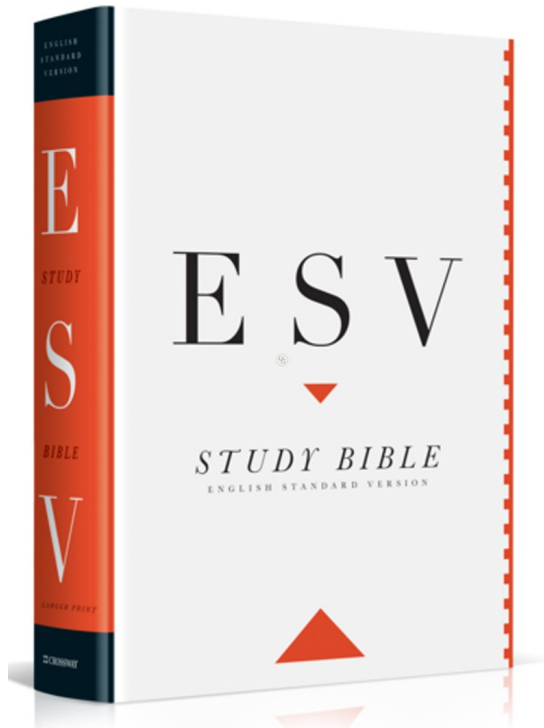
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The APPLICATION of the Disciples (and Jesus' Response)

1 Corinthians 7:7

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.



Both marriage and celibacy have their own benefits, and both should be considered “gifts.” Paul is happy that God has given him the gift of being content with remaining unmarried, since this permits single-minded devotion to the Lord’s work (vv. 32–33, 40). Paul recognizes, however, that his situation is not the norm. Remaining unmarried is a gift that many others do not have.

So how should we **APPLY** this
teaching of Jesus about marriage?



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We who choose to follow Jesus must take a stand for God's definition and blueprint for marriage.

So how should we APPLY this teaching of Jesus about marriage?



We who choose to follow Jesus must take a stand for God's definition and blueprint for marriage **AND live it out in our homes!**

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So how should we APPLY this teaching of Jesus about marriage?



We should be as upset about the wreckage of heterosexual marriage as much as we are upset about the legalizing of homosexual marriage!

We who choose to follow Jesus must take a stand for God's definition and blueprint for marriage AND live it out in our homes!



- **Take stock of your own marriage.**

We who choose to follow Jesus must take a stand for God's definition and blueprint for marriage AND live it out in our homes!



- Take stock of your own marriage.
- **Consider the cost of taking God's side on this issue.**

“Being a convictional Christian (especially in matters related to sexuality, morality, and marriage) will mean the loss of cultural clout and respectability. We will pay a personal and social cost for our beliefs, and we need to be prepared.”

Trevin Wax, Managing Editor
of the Gospel Project

We who choose to follow Jesus must take a stand for God's definition and blueprint for marriage AND live it out in our homes!



- Take stock of your own marriage.
- Consider the cost of taking God's side on this issue.
- **Be encouraged for as the dark grows darker, the light shines brighter!**

Our APPLICATION

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



Russell Moore,
President of the Southern
Baptist Ethics &
Religious Liberty
Commission



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“Same-sex marriage is headed for your community. This is no time for fear or outrage or politicizing. It’s a time for forgiven sinners, like us, to do what the people of Christ have always done. **It’s time for us to point beyond our family values and our culture wars to the cross of Christ as we say: ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.’ And that’s good news.”**