

Who's in Charge?

The religious leaders who are eyeing the crowds and watching the healings decide it is again time to try to trip up Jesus. So some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked Him this tricky question about divorce: Is it ever lawful for a man to divorce his wife? Haven't you read that in the beginning God created humanity male and female? Don't you remember what the story of our creation tells us about marriage? "For this reason, a man will leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." If a husband and wife are one flesh, how can they divorce? Divorce would be a bloody amputation, would it not? "What God has brought together, let no man separate." Matthew 19:3-6 (VOICE)

A marriage covenant is based on mutual commitment.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. Ephesians 5:21-22 (NIV)

A Godly marriage is based on mutual submission.

Do not measure marriage by your feelings.

The quality of your marriage relationship will be what both partners decide it will be.

Whether a marriage is "united" or "untied" is based on where the "i" is.

Secrecy is the enemy of intimacy.

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. 1 Peter 5:5b-6 (RSV)

Humbly give grace to one another.

Talk About It

1. What were some lessons you learned about marriage from your parents when you were young? What do you think now about what you learned then?
2. What do you think of the Bible's teaching: "For this reason, a man will leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"?
3. What do you think of the Bible's teaching: "What God has brought together, let no man separate"?
4. Describe what you think Godly mutual commitment in a Christian marriage would look like.

5. What do you think of the Bible's teaching that a Godly marriage is based on mutual submission?
6. How do you think mutual submission in a marriage would work?
7. What do you think of the idea not to measure marriage by feelings? How would that change some of the marriages you know?
8. What do you think of the idea that the quality of a marriage relationship will be what both partners decide it will be?
9. What do you think of the idea that secrecy can be the enemy of intimacy?
10. How do you think the practice of spouses humbly giving grace to one another could transform marriages?