

09-28-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:31-32

Title: Divorce

I have been concerned about these verses...

Actually thought about skipping over them

Can't do that – **all** scripture...

Don't want to hurt anyone's feelings

Cause problems...

There has been much misunderstanding and misinformation regarding these verses and many people have been beat up regarding them

As I began studying this week I was reminded...

I/We can trust God's Word

God's Word is true – no matter what

Shouldn't be afraid of it

Seek to fully understand it

Seek to follow it completely...

Talking about divorce

Some recent statistics on divorce..

Nearly 50% of marriages end in divorce...

Comes from – twice as many marriages as divorces in one year

6,646 divorces/day

46,523 divorces/week

Top 5 reasons for divorce

Poor communication
Finances
Abuse
No longer attracted to each other
Infidelity

41% of 1st marriages end in divorce

60% of 2nd marriages

73% of 3rd marriages

Jobs w/ lowest divorce rates

Director of religious activities and education

5.88%

Clergy 5.61%

Transit police 5.26%

Optometrists 4.01%

Agricultural engineers 1.78%

Jobs w/ highest divorce rates

Dancers and choreographers 43.05%

Bartenders 38.43%

Massage therapists 38.22%

Gaming cage workers 34.66%

Extruding machine operator 32.74%

Nevada is state w/ highest divorce rate at 14/%

Then Maine, Oklahoma, Oregon and Vermont

North Dakota state w/ lowest divorce rate at 8.1%

New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and
Hawaii

Most expensive divorce – Mel Gibson \$425 Million

Most marriages – Zsa Zsa Gabor with 9 marriages

Current marriage has lasted 27 years

Shortest marriage – Britney Spears married to Jason
Alexander for 55 hours

There are those today who say that marriage should go

We know there are many negative effects on
society stemming from divorce

This is not the main thing..

The Bible, God says, divorce violates His word

Malachi 2:16

*16 "For I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of
Israel*

He doesn't hate divorced people

God hates the action of divorce

Must always remember to keep these separated...

So... Divorce isn't wrong b/c of what it does

Divorce is wrong b/c God says it is

Marriage

Let's begin in **Genesis 2:23-24**

This is God bringing about the first marriage

One man, one woman

God bringing them together, joining them
together, making them one

This oneness is both physical and spiritual

They are stuck together

Not as in – she's stuck w/ me and can't go
anywhere else...

Stuck as in glued, welded together

Made from two into one

A perfect oneness

Both in the physical and the spiritual

Matthew 19:6

The word used for separate here is also sometimes
translated as divorce – let no man divorce...

Marriage is an institution of God

Marriage is God's invention

He is bringing the two together

The penalty in the OT for adultery – sex w/ someone
that is married to someone else was death

That is how serious God views marriage

God has a very high view of marriage – even included
this in the 10 Commandments

It is forbidden to engage in adultery

And, from last verses, to even think about it

That is how serious God views this

God's view of marriage is a monogamous, life-long, permanent relationship between one man and one woman – that no one interferes with

On Wednesday my wife and I celebrated our 25th anniversary. I wanted it to be special, and I bought her 25 exquisite red roses, one for each year of marriage. I had asked my mother-in-law to drive my wife to work that morning, so that I could deliver them personally, and then take her out to dinner. I had no idea what kind of a reception awaited me at the front door of the rehab centre where she works. One of her colleagues came running out to shake my hand. I wondered what this was all about, and I found out later that when my wife's colleagues learned about our 25th anniversary, they were astounded.

"25 years? Is that even still possible nowadays?"
They had asked.

Unknowingly my wife and I have become a relic of the good ol' days, and this knowledge saddened me to the core. All these young people out there who are blinded by the "I" that is promoted by society, and none of them have any idea how to make their own marriages last!

Too often in our culture today we want our fun and we want it now – pleasure is valued over fidelity, loyalty, generosity and duty

Ultimately...

Ephesians 5 has much to say about marriage...

Ultimately it says **Ephesians 5:32**

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Marriage is a picture of the Lord Jesus and the church

Jesus is the groom, the church is the bride

Is this a permanent relationship?

For sure...

The intention in marriage is permanence

God loved Israel so much, and continues to

Hosea loved Gomer so much

OT minor prophet...

Christ loves the church so much

He is faithful to the end

Loving us when we're unlovable,

Loving us when we're unloving,

Loving us when we're unlovely,

This is God's standard, this is God's pattern.

This is precisely why God says, I hate divorce.

It destroys the picture of His love for us

Divorce

Matthew 5:31

The Scribes and Pharisees were saying – divorce is OK whatever the reason and whenever you feel like – just write a paper – get divorced

This is what they were saying

They thought they could be righteous by their actions – by what they did

Whoever divorces his wife – just has to give her “the paper”

Just do the paper work – you’re OK

Their idea of marriage had so diminished – that a simple paper was all it took and the marriage was done

They began shedding their wives

Makes you think of a snake and its skin...

It had become common place...

They thought it was OK

They say – I don’t commit adultery

Jesus says – yes you do

By looking/lusting and by divorcing and remarrying so easily

They were committed adultery

God has a very high view of marriage

God has a clear command of marriage and divorce

Scribes and Pharisees knew they couldn’t live up to God’s standard so they made their own

They brought God down to their level

Made standards they could keep – called
them God's

They decided you should be able to divorce your wife
whenever you wanted – just write it down...

They made up their own view

Used scripture to support it

Now they declare themselves righteous

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

You have heard it said...

Matthew 19:8

*8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of
heart Moses permitted you to divorce your
wives; but from the beginning it has not been
this way.*

The verse says, if you find some indecency...

Anything obnoxious about your wife

Who defines that???

Even went so far as to say, by Jesus day, that it was
commanded to divorce your wife if anything found...

This was not a command it is merely permission based
on their sinfulness

Because God knew this would happen...

Provision was made

Think for a minute...

OT penalty for adultery was death
In Jesus' day couldn't do that – Roman law...
Joseph and Mary – ready to divorce Mary
If death doesn't take place – divorce is alternative
 W/ this, and verse above – Bible allows divorce
 It is not the standard – it is allowed

Jesus is correcting their traditional view
 He is setting things straight
 He is placing marriage back in its place
 Setting the standard high

They had come to tolerate divorce for any reason
But Jesus says – I don't tolerate it for any reason
 They tolerated divorce for any and all reasons
 And, they tolerated remarriage for any
 and all reasons

But, Jesus did not

Jesus is getting rid of their self-righteousness
 They said they hadn't divorced
Or... They got the paperwork done
 So they were OK

The prevailing view of the Scribes and Pharisees –
divorce her whenever, why-ever you want
 Burned your dinner...
 Didn't dress right...

Find a prettier, younger wife...

Just do the paperwork and it's OK

This is not the Biblical teaching

But Jesus says...

Matthew 5:32

Jesus says here the only legitimate grounds for divorce is adultery – not that you have to divorce...

Hosea continued to love Gomer

After returning to prostitution

God continued to love Israel

God continues to love us...

God never advocates divorce;

God allows it in the case of adultery,

...in any other case it leads to adultery beyond the divorce.

So the Lord and Moses, God Himself is endeavoring to prevent the further sin of adultery being added when the inevitable remarriage occurs

Divorce leads to adultery

B/c remarriage is inevitable

The exception

Except...

For what it says here...

Matthew 5:32

32 *but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity,...*

Unchastity, fornication – basically sex w/ someone other than your spouse

This is a broad term – applies to any and all situations

But from the beginning this was not meant to be

Divorce isn't being advocated here

There are times when you're the innocent party in a divorce – you've tried every way you can

There was adultery...

Then you're free to remarry w/o adultery

Conclusion:

I heard about a television interview with Billy Graham and his delightfully honest wife, Ruth. The host, David Frost, said something like, "So you two pray together and read the Bible together on a regular basis. But tell me the truth, Mrs. Graham: In all these years of living with Billy, have you never had problems or disagreements? Have you never even once contemplated divorce?"

"Not once," she fired back. "Murder, a few times-but not divorce!"

When we look at this whole section – if you're angry
then you are a murderer

We all get angry – we are all murderers
We need Jesus' righteousness
We need Jesus' forgiveness
We can't do this on our own
Sadly, we continue to get angry w/
each other

Last week – if you lust you are committing adultery

We all lust – we are all adulterers
We need Jesus' righteousness
We need Jesus' forgiveness
We can't do this on our own
Sadly, we continue to lust...

Why should this week be any different...

Many of us have divorced
We all need Jesus' righteousness
We all need Jesus' forgiveness
We can't do this on our own
Sadly, it does continue to happen...

Need to understand...

God has an incredibly high standard for marriage
One that we cannot reach on our own
We have all blown it
But God in His grace, in His mercy, He has made the
way for us to be forgiven...

1 John 1:9

When we confess our anger, our murdering – He is faithful to forgive us

When we confess our lusting, our adultery – He is faithful to forgive us

When we confess our divorcing – He is faithful to forgive us

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Philippians 3:13-14

...forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Benediction:

Titus 3:5

5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

M_____

U_____...

D_____

But J_____ says...