

JESUS ON DIVORCE: Part 2

Pastor Nathan Carroll

Matthew 19:1-10 NIV

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

We need to have a _____ view of marriage to start with.

When the disciples heard Jesus talk about marriage and divorce, they were _____.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Hebrews 13:4 NIV

Covenantal vs Contractual Marriage

Marriage is not a human construct - it is God's _____.

MARRIAGE, as God has designed it is established by 3 things:

- The establishment of a _____
 - Vehicle: _____
 - Without it there is an _____.
- _____
 - Vehicle: _____
 - Without it there's _____ which leads to a _____.
- _____ (ongoing)
 - Vehicle: _____
 - Without it there is no _____.

Ultimately, our ascription to marriage as covenant vs contract comes down to a _____ issue.

What do we need to do in order to tell the alternate Kingdom story about marriage?

1. _____ abundant life in marriage (Matthew 5:16)
2. Speak the _____ (Ephesians 4:15 – i.e. John 8:3-11)

God's Restoring Work for Those Who Have Been Through a Divorce

God is able to restore people from the _____ of a broken sacred covenant.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Galatians 3:13 NIV 1984

This restoring work _____ include remarriage.

The world's story tells us that remarriage is an _____.

2 Primary Historical Perspectives on Remarriage:

- _____
- _____

Ultimately, we need to live in a _____ between the _____ of the marriage covenant and the provision made for _____ through Jesus Christ.

How can we navigate this tension? By walking in humility and attentiveness to God's _____ words to us.

If God has spoken to you and you feel the release to pursue a new sacred covenant in the context of remarriage – don't _____!

1. Take time to _____
2. _____ your contribution
3. Get _____
4. Sharpen your identity first as _____

(adapted from Sunder Krishnan)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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1. Jesus' disciples responded to his discussion of marriage with fear and sobriety ("...it is better not to marry!"). Why do you think discussions about marriage illicit such a different response both within and outside of the church?
2. Pastor Nathan talked about how Godly marriages must be established upon 3 things - a covenant, community & accountability and sexual intimacy. Can you think of examples of marriages that you have observed which were lacking in any one of these elements? Describe (as you are able or willing).
3. Who in your life has modelled a marriage that exemplifies God's intent and design? Explain.
4. When, in your experience, have you seen both good and bad examples of the church (or people from the church) speaking the truth in love?
5. Read John 4:4-30 and John 8:3-11. What can we learn from Jesus in his interactions with these two women who are both living outside of God's design for marriage?
6. What has been your story as it relates to your understanding / views on remarriage? How do you interact with the way that Pastor Nathan framed the matter?