

Honor Marriage

Matthew 19:1-12

Main Point:

Because you are the Bride of Christ, honor marriage as God has designed it, despite the difficulties.

1. Marriage is full of difficulties.
2. Some people respond to the difficulties of marriage by getting a divorce.
3. Marriage is a lifelong commitment of faithfulness to your spouse.
4. Others respond to the difficulties of marriage by avoiding it altogether.
5. Marriage is the normal state for mankind.
6. Because you are the Bride of Christ, honor marriage as God has designed it, despite the difficulties.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 ¹ "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, ² "when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's *wife*, ³ "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, ⁴ "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance. (NKJV)

Malachi 2:16a ¹⁶ "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce ... (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 7:12b-15 ¹² ... If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. ¹³ And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*. But God has called us to peace. (NKJV)

R.C. Sproul "Someone who divorces unbiblically and remarries ... has entered an adulterous relationship."

1 Corinthians 7:7 ⁷ For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:31-33 ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (NKJV)

Genesis 17:7 ⁷ "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. (NKJV)

Hosea 2:19a ¹⁹ "I will betroth you to Me forever ... (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:22a ²² *He who finds a wife finds a good thing* ... (NKJV)