

IT'S ONLY A PIECE OF PAPER!

Mark 10:1-12

the gospel of
mark

Mark 10:1-7

“And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ Therefore a man shall leave his ...”

Mark 10:7-10

“‘father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’” (ESV)

THE BACKGROUND OF THE PHARISEES' TRAP

Mark 10:1-2

the gospel of
mark

Mark 10:2

“And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked,
‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’” (ESV)

What did he come to do?

Observation #1

- Understand that Jesus is responding to hostile questioners who are bent on trapping him.
 - The purpose of this passage is not pastoral or therapeutic in nature.

Two opposite schools of thought

- Rabbi Hillel
- Rabbi Shammai

What did he come to do?

Mark 10:1

“And he left there and went to the region of Judea and
beyond the Jordan ...” (ESV)

What did he come to do?

THE BACKGROUND OF THE LAW OF MOSES

Mark 10:3-5

the gospel of
mark

Mark 10:3-4

“He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’
They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of
divorce and to send her away.’” (ESV)

What did he come to do?

The Purpose of the Law of Moses

- **To place restrictions on divorce to limit its occurrence.**
 - It required a written certificate, making it part of the public record.
 - It prohibited a man from taking back his original wife after being married to another.
 - It required that a woman be found guilty of indecency.

Observation #2

Divorce, in the 15th century B.C. was frivolous and rampant. Divorce continued to be an issue in the 1st century A.D., and it is an issue in the 21 century A.D. as well.

Mark 10:5

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.’” (ESV)

What did he come to do?

THE BACKGROUND OF MARRIAGE

Mark 10:6-12

the gospel of
mark

Mark 10:6-9 (cf. Gen 1:27; 2:7)

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (ESV)

Joined (*suzeugnumi*)

- **Glued together**

- Used only here and in Matthew 19:6.
 - “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (ESV)

Mark 10:11

“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her.”

(ESV)

What did he come to do?

Mark 10:12

“If she divorces her husband and marries another, she
commits adultery.” (ESV)

What did he come to do?

A Reversal of Values

- A man who divorces (contrary to God's intention in creation) and remarries another commits adultery against his wife.
- A woman who divorces (contrary to God's intention in creation and Jewish culture) and remarries another also commits adultery.
 - There are exceptions! But as a rule, marriage is only biblically terminated by death or adultery.

Observation #3

- Jesus proclaims that God's reign is to break into our world and our lives in every area.
- We are to make decisions not just based on what is permitted or allowed, but on what God desires.



MUCH MORE THAN

IT'S ~~ONLY~~ A PIECE OF PAPER!

“What God has joined together,
let man not separate.”

the gospel of
mark

Areas of Support

- **Family Life Groups**
 - **Merge** (setting a Christ-centered foundation for marriage)
 - **Re:engage** (enrichment for every marriage—healthy, struggling, or broken)
 - **Divorce Care**
- **Men's and Women's Ministries**
- **Small Groups**
- **Counseling and Stephen Ministry Care**
- **Prayer after services**
- **Etc.**



MUCH MORE THAN

IT'S ~~ONLY~~ A PIECE OF PAPER!

“What God has joined together,
let man not separate.”

the gospel of
mark

Next Steps

- I am thankful that Jesus is in the restoration business.
- I will uphold and honor marriage as a miracle of God.
- I will seek to understand God's original intent for my relationships and commitments.
- I will pray for God to intercede with marriages and families in crisis.