

What The Bible Says About Marriage & Divorce

The truth about marriage:

Mark 10:5-9, Matthew 19:1-12, Genesis 1-2, Ephesians 5:21-33, 1 Corinthians 7

- God created **marriage**, so he gets to **define it**.
- Marriage is not just a **commitment** between two people; it is the fusion of **two parts** to make **one whole**.

The truth about divorce:

Mark 10:10-12, Matthew 5:31-32, 19:8-9, Malachi 2:16, Deuteronomy 24:1-4

- Biblical divorce can only happen because of **sexual unfaithfulness** or desertion by a **non-Christian**.

The truth about all of us:

Romans 1-3, 3:9-24

- None of us will get to **heaven** because of what we **have done**.
- All of us have at least **one page** in the Bible that we didn't **get right**.

The truth about the cross:

Romans 5:20-6:7, 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

The cross:

- Brings **grace** and **mercy**, not what I **deserve**.
- Allows obedience to **start today**.

Food for Thought for the week of August 18, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. For some of us, this weekend's sermon on divorce was really hard to hear. The good news is that no matter the state of our marriage, we know God absolutely cares for us. In Ephesians 5:21-33 we see how much he cares, as he gives the picture of the church (us) being his bride. Read through the passage and write down anything that points to (or compares) the church to being the "bride" of Christ.

Ephesians 5:21-33 New International Version (NIV)

Instructions for Christian Households

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[a] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."^[b] ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Based on the verses above, how would you say God feels about his bride?

Why do you think people tend to have a negative association with the word "*submission*?"

Several times the passage reminds us to take loving actions towards our spouse, not based on what we feel, but based on what God has asked us to do. Why is that important?

2. God wants us to be an example of love, not just in marriage, but in all relationships. How could Ephesians 5:1-4 help us better follow God's example at loving others.

Can you think of any other relationships where you could be withholding love where God is calling you to love more?

3. We ended this weekend's sermon with an important reminder that God's love and mercy remains regardless of what we've done. Read the verses below and then take a moment to thank God for his great mercy and love for you!

Ephesians 2:4-5 New International Version (NIV)

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Colossians 3:12-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

2 Peter 1:5-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.