

# Message Notes

## What God Has Joined Together

Matthew 19:1-12

Gospel of Matthew, Part 65

February 26, 2006

# Message Outline

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### I. What Marriage Is . . .

- A. A Complementing (Gen. 1:27)
- B. A Leaving & A Cleaving (Gen. 2:24)
- C. Two Becoming One Flesh (Gen. 2:24)

### II. Why Marriage Matters . . .

- A. Marriage matters because marriage is God's thing (19:6)
- B. Marriage matters because marriage reflects the Gospel.

### III. Why Marriages Fail . . .

- A. Why divorce happens . . . *"because of the hardness of our hearts."* (19:8)
- B. When Divorce is allowed . . .
  - 1. Divorce is never commanded and never commended, but only allowed.
  - 2. Divorce is allowed in the case of adultery (19:9) and desertion. (I Cor. 17:5)

### IV. What Marriage Takes . . .

- A. Softness of heart!
- B. Hard work, self-sacrifice and self-denial.
- C. Valuing God, marriage and our spouses, more than we value ourselves, our pleasure and our own desires.

### V. Where We Go from Here . . .

- A. A word to the Young . . .
- B. A word to the Married. . .
- C. A word to the Divorced . . .
- D. A word to Singles . . .

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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### ***What God Has Joined Together***

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1. Read Matthew 19:1-12 again. What gives rise to Jesus' discussion of marriage and divorce in this passage? What was the Pharisee's aim?
2. Why does Jesus go all the way back to Genesis in his discussion of marriage? What does Genesis 1:27 and 2:24 teach us about marriage? How does he answer the Pharisees question?
3. Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4. The Pharisees say this is a command to divorce. Is it? What is really being talked about? Is the concession of divorce explicit or merely implied?
4. How do the disciples respond to Jesus' clear teaching in v. 10? What does Jesus say about singleness in reply?
5. How does this text demonstrate that our commitment to marriage is rooted in our submission to the Lordship of God in our lives?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***What God Has Joined Together***

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Why do so many marriages fail today? How does "hardness of heart" show itself between couples?
3. Describe how divorce has touched your life. What are the effects of divorce you've experienced in your own life or your observed in the lives of others.
4. Why does God allow, though not command or commend, divorce in the case of adultery? What is it about adultery that is sometimes irreparable in a relationship?
5. If a person has divorced for unbiblical reasons, what should that person do? Is there forgiveness available? Is divorce an unforgivable sin?
6. How can we value and affirm the sanctity of marriage here at Grace together?