

**The Journey to Eternity**  
**Week 4 | Feb. 2, 2014**

**Why Is Jesus So Harsh Concerning  
Divorce?**  
**Mark 10:1-12; 12:18-27**



In this section the religious leaders try to get Jesus in trouble again by asking Him about divorce. Jesus puts *them* to the test by raising the conversation to another level and confronting their view of marriage.

**Read Mark 10:1-12; 12:18-27.**

[Q] What does Jesus mean by *hardness of heart* in this situation (Mark 10:5)?

[Q] How would you describe someone who is hard-hearted? Have you ever been this way? Explain.

The Pharisees want to talk about acceptable reasons for a divorce. Jesus wants to talk about the sanctity of marriage. They want to talk about when a marriage can be broken. He wants to talk about why marriages shouldn't be broken.

Jesus goes back to Creation (Gen. 1:27; 2:24) and affirms the original design and purpose of marriage. (Mark 10:6-9)

[Q] From the weekend message, of what were you reminded concerning the purposes of marriage?

**Read Ephesians 5:25-32.**

In Mark 12, Jesus explains that marriage is actually temporary – for this life only. Paul expounds on the purpose of marriage in Ephesians 5:25-32:

*<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. (NIV)*

[Q] God designed marriage to demonstrate the relationship Christ has with the church. What kind of relationship is that??

[Q] What advice would you give someone about how to stay married when it's hard?

[Q] In what kind of situations are you tempted to take the easy way out even though it is not the right way?

**\*\*Divorce is a complicated and emotionally loaded topic. For marriage enrichment or counseling referrals, please contact Steve Aaron, Pastor of Family Discipleship or Steve Johnson, Pastor of Care & Counseling.\*\***

### Pray for marriages.

*God of Grace:*

*Your compassion is overwhelming.*

*Knowing how sinful and impure we are, You still refuse to walk away from us. Your unconditional love keeps us going. Thank You for not giving up on us, even when we've attempted to alter Your original blueprint for [life].*

*Sin has had its shattering effect on our homes. There has been indifference toward You and offense toward others. Only on very few occasions have we stopped to listen... to pray... to think of Your will in our disharmony.*

*Please forgive us!*

*We now ask that Your grace provide us with an abundance of tolerance we've never known before. Replace blame with forgiveness, resistance with acceptance, and stubborn pride with genuine humility. Our wounded homes need to be healed by Your divine power. May your peace return... soon.*

*We ask this, believingly, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Charles Swindoll

### Quote:

"In the world's estimation, Christians do seemingly ridiculous things:

They move their families thousands of miles away to share the gospel.

They adopt children when they already have a full house.

They forfeit jobs that would require them to sacrifice their integrity.

They give to others financially at cost to themselves.

They are labeled as foolish and ignorant because they believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God.

*They get involved in messy relationships and keep pursuing peace, even when it would be much easier to let the relationship go.*

Why do Christians make their lives more difficult instead of pursuing comfort and ease? They follow Jesus, who left the comforts of heaven to enter into the difficulties of this broken world. Jesus came to provide abundant life for his followers. However, the full life promised in the gospel isn't found by making our lives easier; it's found by laying down our lives. "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it," Jesus said (Luke 17:33). Christians don't lead safe lives. They lead joyfully purposeful ones."

Melissa Kruger at [thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2014/01/30/jesus-is-better/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2014/01/30/jesus-is-better/)