
THE KING &
HIS Cross

What God has joined together

Matthew 19:1–15

Can the covenant of marriage be broken?

We must honor God’s covenants by remaining faithful to our promises and valuing those Christ considers important in his Kingdom.

Matthew 19

1 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he departed from Galilee and went to the region of Judea across the Jordan.
2 Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.
3 Some Pharisees approached him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?”

Deuteronomy 24

1 If a man marries a woman but she becomes displeasing to him
because he finds something indecent about her,
he may write her a divorce certificate,
hand it to her, and send her away from his house.

Matthew 19

4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, 5 and he also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?
6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Biblical marriage is an exclusive, consensual covenant between one man and one woman, joined together by God and intended for lifelong faithfulness.

Not every union conforms to God’s design for marriage:

- Same-sex unions
- Polygamous unions
- Forced marriages
- Certain remarriages

Matthew 19

7 “Why then,” they asked him, “did Moses command us to give
divorce papers and to send her away?”
8 He told them, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives
because of the hardness of your hearts, but it was not like that from
the beginning.
9 I tell you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual
immorality, and marries another commits adultery.”

Matthew 19

10 His disciples said to him, “If the relationship of a man with his wife is like this, it’s better not to marry.”
11 He responded, “Not everyone can accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given. 12 For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb, there are eunuchs who were made by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves that way because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who is able to accept it should accept it.”

1 Corinthians 7

1 It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.
2 But because sexual immorality is so common,
each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and
each woman should have sexual relations with her own husband.

Matthew 19

13 Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.
14 Jesus said, “Leave the little children alone, and don’t try to keep them from coming to me, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
15 After placing his hands on them, he went on from there.

1. Honor your marriage covenant.
2. Pursue forgiveness and reconciliation when possible.
3. Value those whom Jesus values in his Kingdom.

Whether you are a child, a single adult, unmarried, or married, our relationships should reflect the faithfulness Christ has shown to us.