



What God Has (And Has Not) Joined Together (2)

Husband and Wife for Life

Matthew 19:1-12

Our 2026
Theme

Introduction

- Last week, we introduced our 2026 theme, What God Has (and has not) Joined Together
- This theme is based on **Matthew 19:6**.
- We will be examining some doctrines, specifically things that God has joined together (they complement each other) while many in the world reject or redefine their union.
- Our lesson last week emphasized the importance of “sound doctrine” (healthy teaching).
- Today, we begin with the subject of our text.

Matthew 19:1-12 - Introduction

- We live in a time when divorce is far too common. The marriage covenant is taken too lightly by too many.
- But what does God's word say about the permanence of marriage?
- What does His word say about divorce and who can marry again?
- Our text, **Matthew 19:1-12**, addresses this.
- And while it is unpopular and unpleasant, that does not change His will.

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:1-2** - Jesus is in the midst of His ministry. He is teaching, traveling and healing.
- The Pharisees come to test Him.
- **19:3**, *"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:3**, *"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*
- Possibly seeking clarification from **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**
- Two schools of thought:
 - Rabbi Shammai (50BC-30AD) – a conservative view – divorce only for sexual impurity (unfaithfulness)
 - Rabbi Hillel (???-~10 AD) – advocated divorce for any reason if one's wife displeased him. Progressive and popular view.

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:3**, *"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*
- BUT, they were testing Him. **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**
- Typically, this implied ulterior motives
Matthew 15:1-2 – washing hands
16:1-2 – a sign from heaven
22:15ff – pay taxes
22:35 – greatest commandment

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:4**, *"Have you not read....?"*
- Jesus answers them.
The plain answer is NO!
- But he teaches that with reasoning:
- **Genesis 1:26-27**, God made them in the beginning, male and female. Also **Gen. 5:1-2**
- **Genesis 2:24**, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.
They become one flesh.
 - Marriage was in God's plan from the beginning.
 - NOTE: Culture determines how one marries

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:4-6**, *"Have you not read...?"*
- Jesus answers them. NO!
- **19:6**, *Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.*
- God intends that a marriage be for life! In marriage you enter into a covenant with God.
- When man and woman who HAVE THE RIGHT to do so (Some do NOT! E.g., Herod – **Matthew 14:4**, homosexuals, our text, etc.), God joins them together
- Man has no right to separate what God has joined together.

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:7**, Pharisees ask, *Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?*
- Again, this is likely based on **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**
- **19:8**, *Because of the hardness of your hearts, Moses permitted it.*
- NOTE the intent of **Deut. 24:1-4**, it was partly about protecting the woman put away by her husband. It was not intended as a “blank check” for divorce. Another marriage involved being defiled.

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:7**, Pharisees ask, *Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?*
- **19:8**, *but from the beginning it was not so!*
Jesus is CLEAR this was not in God's purpose!
NOTE: *Beginning* is the same word as **vs. 4**

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:9**, *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.*
- Jesus declares:
 - 1) Divorce is ONLY recognized by God if one has been unfaithful by committing fornication
 - 2) To divorce for any OTHER reason and marry again, THEY are in an adulterous relationship
 - 3) If one is divorced (put away) because he is guilty of fornication, he has no right to remarry.
 - 4) Only the innocent party can marry again without sin!

Matthew 19:1-12 – The text

- **19:9**, *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.*

- Other texts to consider:

Matthew 5:31-32

Mark 10:11-12 (parallel, but both parties)

Luke 16:18 – different occasion, same message

Romans 7:1-3 – only death ends the covenant

Making application

- **First, this passage is about marriage.**
- God intended that marriage be for life!
 - Even if it is not ideal.
 - Are we willing to work to make it work?
- Healthy marriages are the foundation of a good society.
- Marriage is the foundation of a new home
- **Hebrews 13:4**
- It is NOT something to be entered into lightly!
That is why we must carefully choose our mate.

Making application

- Second, God hates divorce!
- **Malachi 2:13-16**
- Whenever there is divorce sin is ALWAYS involved! Often times BOTH parties bear guilt!
- Even if one scripturally divorces their spouse, it is because of serious sin! Someone has broken covenant with God and spouse.
- NOTE: The sin Jesus addressed was divorce!
- It is NOT ok to divorce “as long as I don’t marry again!”
- Marrying another complicates resolving their sins.

Cf. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (cf. 1 Jn. 2:1)

Making application

- Some argue that Jesus was dealing with LOM.
- In one sense yes, He was. BUT was the LOM really His point? , OR was He addressing the new law?
E.g., “But I say to you...” **Matthew 5:32, 19:9**
- Consider **Deuteronomy 22:22,**
Leviticus 20:10. If they were interested in God’s law, BOTH parties would be stoned to death.
- Also, Jesus went back to “the beginning”
(**Mk. 10:6**)
He establishing God intent under the New Law?
Matthew 5:17-18, Colossians 2:13-14

Making application- **Matthew 19:10-12**

- This was about entering the kingdom of heaven
- **19:10**, *His disciples declared, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."*
- They realized the gravity of His teaching!
If marriage is for life, and you cannot divorce, aren't you better off not being married?
- Not necessarily – **cf. 1 Corinthians 7**. BUT you must UNDERSTAND the commitment!
How much effort are putting into finding/being the right spouse?

Making application- **Matthew 19:10-12**

- This was about entering the kingdom of heaven
- **19:11**, *But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:*
- Jesus is NOT saying what He taught was optional. His point is: Not all are willing to make the necessary commitment to follow Him!
Will you fully repent? **Acts 2:38**,
2 Corinthians 7:10-11
Cf. Matthew 19:16-26 – the rich, young ruler!

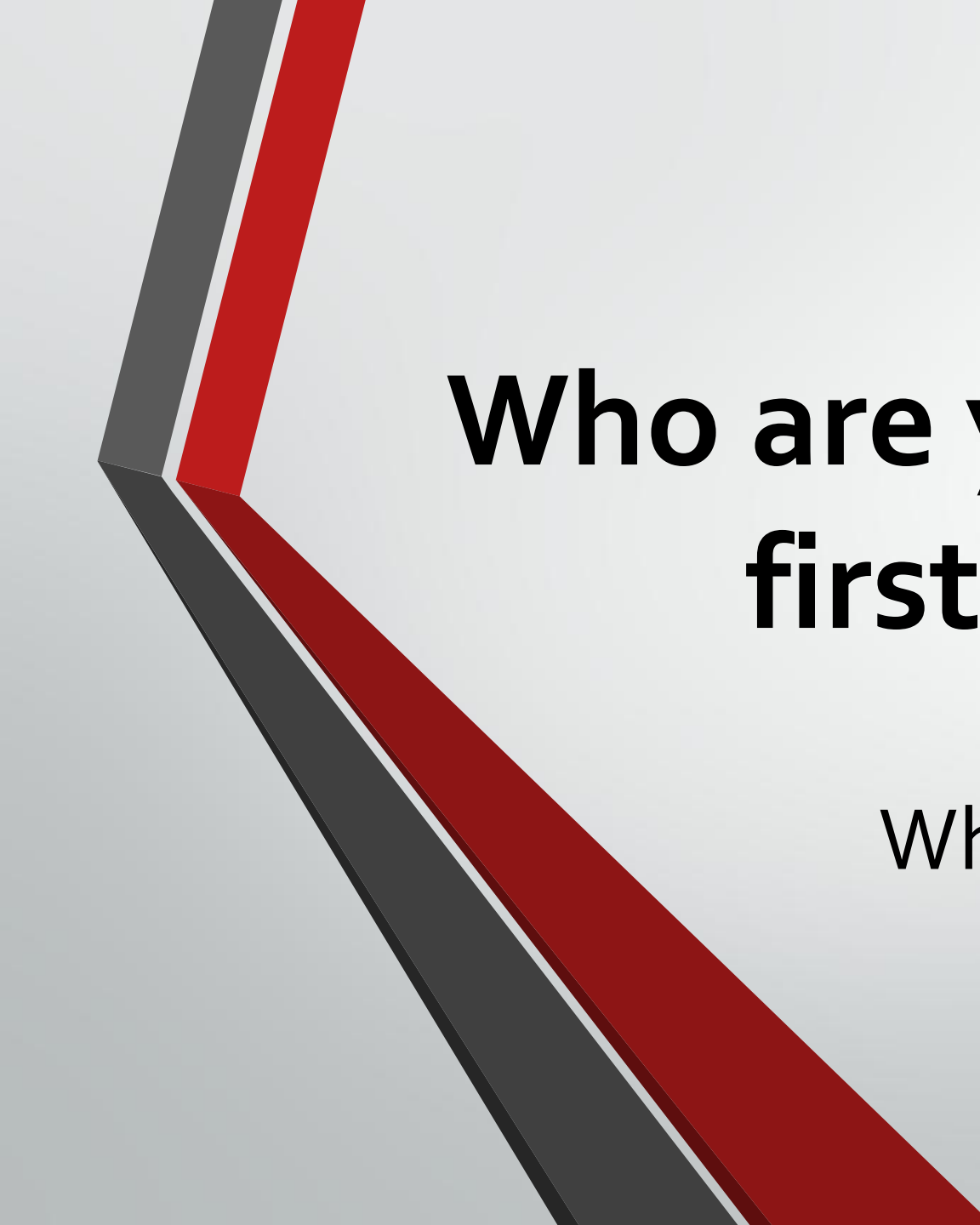
Making application- **Matthew 19:10-12**

- This was about entering the kingdom of heaven
- **19:12**, *For there are eunuchs...*
- Jesus categorizes 3 different classes of Eunuchs (one unable to have sexual relations)
 - Those born that way – birth defects, etc.
 - Those made (physically) eunuchs
 - Those who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake – do whatever is needed to be faithful to Him –

Cf. Mark 10:29-30, Luke 14:26-27

Concluding thoughts

- These are hard sayings:
 - It is personal and unpopular. It affects families and lives!
 - It is so unpopular many are looking for a way around it! And if you look hard enough you will find someone to validate your desires.
- BUT, if we desire to make Jesus Lord in our lives, we will accept His teachings, even if it means ending an unscriptural relationship.



**Who are you willing to put
first in your life?**

What God has joined together,
let us not separate!

A decorative graphic in the top-left corner consisting of several overlapping diagonal lines. The lines are in shades of dark gray, red, and white, creating a layered, geometric effect.

Let us pray!