

Truths About Marriage & Divorce

“Case For Christ”, part 34, Insights from Mark 10:1-12
Pastor Bob Johnson, September 18th, 2022, GPC

Three Truths From A Judean Trap:

1. In OT, Divorce was sadly ...

(Mark 10:1-5, Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

2. Divorce was and is never ...

(Mark 10:6-9)

3. Divorce is usually ...

(Mark 10:10-12, Matthew 5:27-28; 19:9, Jeremiah 3:6-8)

Two More Truths For Today:

1. A Bad Marriage is never ...

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

Four Danger Signs:

- C (An attack on the person)
- C (An attitude of disgust)
- D (The Blame Game)
- S (The Cold Shoulder)

2. Divorce is always ...

(Romans 3:20-24)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our fourth week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 10:1-12, some Pharisees came up to Jesus and asked him a question "to test him". Speaking of taking tests :) ... looking back, what was one of the harder tests or classes or courses you ever took?

Looking back, are you glad you took it ... or was something you could have skipped all together?

The question that Jesus was asked about was if a Jewish man could divorce his wife according to Jewish law.

What is a question ... light or not so light ... that you have been asked recently?

Was it from a stranger, co-worker, family member?

Was your answer helpful or did you have to say ... you don't know the answer?

If you could ask anyone that is currently alive any question you wanted to ... who would it be and what would you ask?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 10:1-12)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. For some of us, last Sunday's message on divorce was hard to hear. Most likely, we have all been impacted by divorce one way or another. The good news is that no matter the state of our relationships including those of us who are married, 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 (which we are part of) being his bride.

Let's read through this passage and highlight anything related to the church being the 'bride of Christ'.

What insights or questions from this passage would you like to share?

How does it feel when you are described as the bride of Christ?

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.

In all our relationships, why is it important to not be driven by our emotions and feelings?

2. God wants us to be an example of love, not just in marriage, but in all our relationships.

How could Ephesians 5:1-4 help us better follow God's example at loving others.

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

3. The last emphasis from last Sunday's message was an important reminder that God's love and mercy remains regardless of what we've done.

Let's read the following passages and reflect on God's mercy and love for us!

Ephesians 2:4-5, Colossians 3:12-14, 2 Peter 1:5-9, Romans 3:20-24

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?