

The Big Idea: Marriage pictures a profound spiritual reality, it's a sacred covenant. We do well to ponder these mysteries as we promise our lives to each other.

I. Review – God's design for marriage

- A. MONOGAMOUS
- B. PERMANENT
- C. UNIQUE
- D. EXCLUSIVE
- E. Anything less is a FAILURE to meet God's standard

II. God's provision for our weakness vs. 31-31; 19:3-9

A. A DISINGENUOUS question

- 1. Tried this BEFORE
- 2. TEST Jesus
- 3. Put Him at ODDS with the people/Herod

B. A DIFFICULT but necessary answer

- 1. Four main views with evangelical circles
 - NO divorce – NO remarriage
 - Divorce for CERTAIN reasons, NO remarriage
 - Divorce and remarriage for MANY reasons
 - Divorce and remarriage but only for CERTAIN reasons

2. PERMISSION given, but...

- Not COMMANDED
- EXCEPTION clause
- PAUL on divorce (1 Corinthians 7)

III. What we take away...pastoral counsel

Single – most important decision you'll make...

Married – take the “D” word out of your vocabulary...

Divorced – don't have biblical grounds to marry...

Remarried without biblical grounds...

All of us -

Resources: When Sinners Say I Do, Dave Harvey; Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage, Lee Strobel; Life After Divorce, Jim Talley