

Series: Book of Mark
Sermon title: “*Stay glued*”
Scripture text: Mark 10:1-12
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
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Today’s message from Jesus is a very sensitive topic in our culture and in the church. For this reason I want to give some very important disclaimers.

- I am not choosing this topic for any special reason. This just happens to be the text we come to in Mark.
- My main responsibility before God as a Pastor is to speak the truth of God’s word..And..
- I also must speak the truth in LOVE. Please, please know that I love every person in this room and in no way want to hurt anyone.
- It is important for us to read God’s word and seek the truth from it....and be careful that we don’t just believe what we hear...from others and the culture. We need to study and search for the truth ourselves. I encourage you to read these texts for yourself in careful study and explore the truth of God’s word on your own.
- You should know that I have studied these passages objectively for many years because divorce has

affected my own extended family and those in the church that I've had to counsel. My life is not untouched by these things. My own family has experienced much pain due to divorce.

- Lastly, you should know that the view that I hold to in scripture is conservative and most Christians take a more liberal view.
- Lastly, if you want to discuss this more, contact me. I'd love to share with you more in detail or answer any questions that you might have. Please don't just get mad at me and avoid me or leave the church.

*In fact, today at lunch I will get a table and if anyone wants to talk about these things....you are welcome to sit with me and ask any questions you'd like.

Let's pray.

The passages that I would encourage you to read on your own are these:

Mark 10:1-12

Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 19:1-12

Luke 16:18

Romans 7:1-4

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

1 Corinthians 7:39-40

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

Let's look at our Mark passage.

10 And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. 2 And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3 He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” 4 They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” 5 And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. 6 But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ 7 ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” 10 And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

There were two schools of thought among the Pharisees when it came to interpreting the Law on divorce.

Some were conservative and believed that there were no grounds whatsoever and others were liberal in their views...believing there were many factors that could give man an excuse to divorce his wife.

Not unlike today.

By the way, the passage the Pharisees have in mind is **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

Let's look at the Mark passage at what Jesus says. I want to give some simple statements and conclusions that we get from his answers.

Let's dive right in.

1. God's definition of marriage is between a male and female.

We need to say this because Jesus said it. In verses 6-9 he makes it very clear that a marriage is between a man and woman. God joins them together and they become one flesh..

Marriage is between a man and a woman.

2. God's design from the beginning is for a man and woman to 'hold fast' or 'be joined' or 'be glued' together till one of them DIES.

Verses 7-9.

They are no longer two but one. They should not separate. This has been God's design from the beginning and Jesus starts there- in Genesis. The two are one and they should be for life.

If we look at the full counsel of God's word we see this in other passages.

1 Corinthians 7:39 says "A wife is bound to her husband as long as he LIVES."

Likewise [Romans 7:2](#) says, “A married woman is **bound by law to her husband while he LIVES, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.**”

Do you see the words that are used here?

Hold fast- which means ‘glued’.

Joined.

Bound. (This word means tied or chained).

One!

While he lives. While she lives.

If someone dies, there is a release from marriage.

Only God can end a marriage.

But....

3. The reality is that there will be divorce due to ‘hardness of heart’ and sin.

verse 5

Sometimes it is unavoidable. Someone runs off. Like a man who was married to a lady in my family....He literally went for a jog and never came home. Gone. Someone commits adultery. Someone is physically abusive. No matter how hard the other party tries, someone just says, “I am done. Sorry.”

What do you do then?

4. Man’s certificates don’t undo God’s joining.

10 And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits

adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Jesus says here some very radical things. Things that the majority of the world then and now don't believe.

Notice the key words here:

- Divorce (the marriage is legally dissolved)
- Marries another
- Commits adultery.....**ADULTERY?**

Why?

How?

What is adultery?

Definition: *voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not his or her spouse.*

Well, how can you commit adultery against someone you've divorced?

I thought the divorce made you **NOT** married!

It does in the world..... but does it with God?

Jesus says there that...**Man's certificates don't undo God's joining.**

The crucial phrase is this: "and marries another."

So, if you get a divorce and **DON'T** have sexual relations with someone else, in a married relationship or unmarried, you've NOT committed adultery. Stay single and pure and you don't commit adultery.

If you remarry someone, you commit adultery. (The assumption is that remarriage involves sex).

Man's certificates don't undo God's joining.

Now to get the full understanding of God's word on this, we need to go to a few other texts.

Does Paul agree with Jesus or do they contradict one another?

Turn to **1 Corinthians 7:10**.

10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

Notice that Paul says **the Lord** says this. Paul is referring to Jesus' teachings on this and interpreting them.

A man and a woman should not separate, meaning divorce. If they do, they are to reconcile or remain unmarried.

Look at **Romans 7:2-3**

2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she

is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is ALIVE. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Also....1 Corinthians 7:39

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

Romans and **1 Corinthians** both say almost the exact same thing...that “A wife is bound to her husband as long as he LIVES. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married [to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.]

So, closing thoughts before I summarize Jesus’ teaching in Mark and the other passages.

Some closing thoughts:

• **Closing thought number 1.**

You may ask about the Matthew text where Matthew records Jesus giving an exception clause. “Whoever divorces his wife, [except for immorality], and marries another, commits adultery.”

All I can say about that is that it’s a long discussion on why Matthew uses the Greek word ‘*Porneia*’ for immorality. It’s not the same word as adultery. Even if he

did use the word 'adultery', we would have to hold it up to the other texts of scripture.

It will take a lot of time for me to explain it and we don't have time in this sermon. But, I can explain it to you over lunch.

- **Closing thought number 2.**

Divorce and an unlawful remarriage are not unpardonable sins. God forgives and the marriage that you are now in can be blessed by God, whether it is the 2nd or 3rd or 5th. You should not think that you have blown it. God gives grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ.

- **Closing remark number 3.**

Let me say that there is a kind of divorce that you should **absolutely** get. If there's a same sex marriage, you should get a divorce. It's not a marriage in God's eyes. So, when we talk about not getting a divorce, we don't mean a same sex union.

Marriage is between a man and a woman and anyone in a same sex union should get a divorce.

- **Closing remark number 3.**

Don't give up on God to heal your marriage whether it's struggling or you've already separated or divorced. Keep praying. Keep trusting. I've seen God restore the worst cases and I've seen people get remarried to one another.

If you are hanging on, don't give up. Stay glued to your spouse.

- **Closing remark number 4.**

One thing that I do struggle with is this. What if two people get divorced and there's no hope for reconciliation **BECAUSE** the other person has remarried?

Can they not remarry now that there's no hope for reconciliation?

*All I know is what God's word says. Bound, joined, glued, ONE....till someone dies.

I've chosen to stand on what the Bible says and not what it doesn't say.

Now, in closing let me summarize God's word for us in a way that hopefully, we can remember.

1. Don't come **unglued** from your spouse. Stay glued and keep praying.
2. If you are **unglued**, seek to get **RE-GLUED** to your spouse or stay glued to Christ. You cannot get glued to someone else as long as your spouse is alive.
3. If your spouse dies, you are free to become **glued** to someone else, with these stipulations.....
 - (1) It must be someone who isn't **glued** to anyone else.
 - (2) It must be someone who is **glued** to Jesus.