

INTRODUCTION

- * Jesus has been challenging His disciples, and the multitude, to change the way they think regarding various issues.
- * Today, we see Jesus respond to the testing of the Pharisees with authoritative instruction regarding the sanctity of marriage.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE PHARISEES' QUESTIONS****A. The R_____ for their Questions****B. The R_____ for their Questions**

1. IS IT P_____?
(permissible - cf. Mt 12:2,4,10,12; 1 Cor 6:12; 10:23; cause - cf. John 18:38; 19:4,6; Mark 15:26)
2. WHY DID MOSES C_____?

II. THE MESSIAH'S RESPONSE**A. The Institution of Marriage (v. 4-6)**

1. JESUS POINTED THEM TO THE A_____ OF GOD'S W_____ (cf. Gen 1:27)
2. JESUS POINTED THEM TO THE I_____ OF GOD'S C_____ (cf. Gen 2:24; Eph 5:22-33)

B. The Dissolution of Marriage (v. 7-9)

1. THE A_____ OF DIVORCE
 - a. Because of the H_____ of Your H_____ (v. 8)
 - b. Because of the A_____ of Your S_____ (v. 9; Deut 24:1-4)
2. THE C_____ OF DIVORCE (v. 9)

C. The Seriousness of Marriage (v. 10-12; 1 Cor 7:1-9)**INTROSPECTION**

- * WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF MARRIAGE? HAVE YOU BEEN TAINTED BY THE THINKING OF THE WORLD?
- * ARE YOU COMMITTED TO YOUR SPOUSE ... AS UNTO THE LORD?
- * DO YOU CONSIDER YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE AS "ONE" FLESH – ONE ENTITY?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND THEREFORE ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Consider again how our roles as husband and wife reflect the relationship between Christ and the church. How well are we, as a church, doing as the "bride of Christ"?
- * Consider the line of argumentation of the pharisees. Read Galatians 5:1-14. How does the believer's struggle with the selfish use of liberty mirror the Pharisaical abuse/misuse of the law?