

Marriage & Divorce | Family Worship Guide

Matthew 5:31-32

MAIN IDEA: Marriage here on earth, between a man and a woman, is designed by God to display the gospel to the world.



PREPARATION:

Think and talk about the similarities in a marriage (husband and wife) with that of Christ and the church (groom and bride).

EXPLANATION:

As Jesus continues to speak to the crowd, he follows the subject of lust within our hearts with the reality of where sin (such as lust) can take us. We, as Christian men and women in this world, are commanded to flee from sin (1 Cor. 6:18), to be unified (Genesis 2:24), and to remain in a marriage covenant through difficulty (1 Cor. 7:10). The Bible tells us that adultery can destroy a marriage and lead to divorce. We must fight diligently to protect our marriages through faithfulness, sexual purity, and much forgiveness of one another. Sometimes divorce seems like the easier path, but Jesus makes it clear that it has devastating consequences. When someone chooses to divorce it has ripple effects even beyond the husband and wife. It sets them in a position to be much more vulnerable to sin and Satan. It hurts the children, and is a bad witness to the community. Those who have walked through divorce, even on biblically permissible grounds, can attest to the tremendous pain associated with it.

We do know that God uses marriage to sanctify us, graciously allowing us to be pruned and molded to reflect Christ. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” What a calling on us as Christ-followers! The commitment made between a man and woman, before God, in a marriage is a covenant or before God and the world. They are bound together (1 Cor. 7:39) just as Christ, the groom, has committed Himself the church, His bride. Let us declare to others that divorce is not God’s design. The commitment of marriage is teaching us to deny ourselves (Matt. 16:24, Phil. 2:4) and seek Christ above all else. The union of marriage is body, mind, and soul and is a gift to us from the Lord (Ecc. 4:12, Prov. 5:18, Ecc. 9:9, Mal. 2:14-16).

“What God brings together, let not man separate.” Matt. 19:6.

CONVERSATION:

1. Consider how your sin can cause others to sin around you. Give an example.
2. Read Matthew 19:3-6. In God’s view, what happens in marriage?
3. How does your life and family reflect the gospel to the community?

APPLICATION:

- It's clear throughout scripture that we as Christ followers are to flee from sexual immorality/sin. Pray and ask the Lord to help you 'flee' when you are tempted with sin.
- Consider what are some essential characteristics of someone you would be able to commit the rest of your life to.
- Do not focus primarily on finding the right person to marry, instead commit to being the right person who will be faithful until death. (This is true whether God has marriage or singleness in store for you!)

SUPPLICATION:

- Lord, show me where I compromise and convict me of my sin. Lead me in repentance.
- Jesus, guide me day after day to reflect the gospel in my marriage/life to those around me. I desire for you to be glorified in my marriage.
- Dear God, we anticipate the day when our flesh and sin will be no more and we see you face to face! Help me to live with a longing for eternity with you.

EXULTATION:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYjhGeAIG6k>

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow,
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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