

Growth Group Questions

“Stay Married! Don't Divorce!”

1 Corinthians 7:10-24

Messy Church 16

Week of May 16, 2010



1. What stereotypes or negative preconceptions did you grow up with regarding divorce and divorced families? What attitudes and feelings might be more honoring to God and loving toward those who have suffered divorce?

2. Marriage between a man and a woman is to be a picture of Jesus and His church. Read and discuss what God shows us in Ephesians 5.21-33.

3. Even though it's not too popular today, God hasn't changed his mind: the husband is still to be the head of the wife, as Christ is still the head of the church, Ephesians 5.23-24. From this passage and John 13.1-5, what does this headship look like in marriage?

4. Marriage is hard work because it's really two *sinners* saying, "I do." But God does not leave us to our own; He gives us His Holy Spirit, the Bible, and fellow believers. Read Galatians 5.22-23. Whether you are married or single, which fruit of His Spirit do you need more of?

5. If you could grow in one area of character, what might it be? What would make you a healthier spouse? A healthier single person? (If you have trouble with this one, ask your spouse or a close friend!)

6. Think of a very specific way you could pray for, love and encourage someone who has suffered from a divorce. Talk about it, pray for them, and act.

Message Notes

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A. First, some thoughts about marriage

Matthew 19.1-12 (Genesis 2.15-25, Ephesians 5.21-33, Colossians 3.18-19)

B. And then, some thoughts about divorce

Matthew 19.1-12 (Deuteronomy 24.1-4, Malachi 2.16, Mark 10.1-12, Matthew 5.31-32)

What does God hate about divorce?

C. Back to our teaching passage

1. Stay married 1 Corinthians 7.10-11
2. Don't divorce 1 Corinthians 7.10-11
3. If you do divorce, remain single, or preferably reconcile 1 Corinthians 7.10-11
4. “Will my staying married to an unbeliever foul up my faith?” 1 Corinthians 7.12-16

D. What about remarriage?

1. “OK,” in the case of death 1 Corinthians 7.39
Romans 7.1-2
2. “No,” in the case of divorce 1 Corinthians 7.11
3. A couple of permissions in certain cases of divorce
 - a. The unbelieving spouse deserts the believing spouse because of the believing spouse's faith 1 Corinthians 7.15
 - b. You were an unbeliever when you married and divorced 1 Corinthians 5.17
 - c. Hardness of heart Matthew 19:8
 - d. Ongoing, unrepentant adultery Matthew 19.8-9