

Introduction:

In Mark 10:1-12 the Pharisees try to test Jesus while pushing their own personal agenda for marriage. Instead of backing down, Jesus answers plainly saying, “*What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*” You can find pastor Mark’s sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



Scripture:

Please see [Mark 10:1–12](#) for this weeks scripture.

“God’s plan from the beginning of time was one man and one woman for life.”

So What?

To help us see the big-picture, pastor Mark gave a summary of what scripture has to say about divorce. It’s a permanent union between one man and one woman ([Mark 10:6-9](#)). It is allowed in circumstances of unfaithfulness ([Matthew 5:32; 19:9](#)) or desertion by an unbelieving spouse ([1 Corinthians 7:8-16](#)). Remarriage is allowed under the above circumstances, as well as after the death of a spouse ([Romans 7:1-3](#)). A divorce that occurred before someone came to faith in Christ is covered by God’s grace, along with every other sin they committed ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). While divorce is allowed, it is not required or commanded. There is still an opportunity for grace and forgiveness.

Jesus taught that God’s plan from the beginning of time concerning marriage was one man and one woman for life. Since God established marriage in the beginning, he is the one who sets the rules. It is a divine covenant between a man and a woman standing before God. Since God is the one who puts the marriage together and established the rules, we need to stop trying to tear it apart (9). **Don’t un-one what God makes one.** To do so in order to marry someone else sets both parties up for the sin of adultery (10-12).

What Now?

1. While divorce is allowed, it is not required. Concerning divorce, we want to consider if we are looking for loopholes or for an opportunity to forgive and reconcile.
2. For those of us who are married or engaged, let’s remove divorce as an option.
3. For those who may have divorced outside of what God permits, let us remember that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
4. Do we know someone who is considering, going through, or has just completed a divorce? In light of what scripture says about divorce and forgiveness, how can we best counsel and care for them?

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/08/02/dont-un-one-what-god-makes-one/>

² <http://www.firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>