

10 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 13

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the Word of God says about marriage and divorce?
2. What does Genesis 2:24 tell us about marriage? (**A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh.**)
3. What does Malachi 2:14b tells us about marriage? (**...though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.**.)
4. When is divorce allowed according to 1 Corinthians 7:39? (**If her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.**.)

 Let's go deeper

5. When is divorce allowed according to Exodus 20:14 and Matthew 5:32? (**With adultery. The breaking of the covenant.**.)
6. When is divorce allowed according to 1 Corinthians 7:15? (**But if the unbelieving partner separates let it be so.**.)
7. When is divorce allowed according to Matthew 19:8? (**And I say to you whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality...**.)
8. What does Matthew 19:8 tell us is the real cause of divorce? (**Jesus said, "because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives..."**.)

 Let's apply this

9. **Matthew 19:8 – 9;** Jesus said to them, "because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.").
 - What does it mean to have a hard heart? (unwilling to change)
 - Why are addictions dangerous in a marriage relationship?
 - Why can you give your sin to Jesus? (He died for your sin)
 - Invite the Holy Spirit into your marriage and allow Him to help, restore and lead your marriage.

SUMMARY:

Week 13 – Marriage and divorce **Read:** 1 Corinthians 7:10 – 24; 39–40

Genesis 1:27 – 28, God created us male and female. God created us for relationship and marriage is the most intimate and most holy human relationship. v.28; God blessed them and said, "be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth." God created marriage and has the authority to tell us what His plan and purpose for marriage is.

Genesis 2:24, tells us that God made marriage for one man, one woman and for one lifetime – this has always been God's plan and divine design for marriage. Marriage is also for oneness that a man and a woman must become one flesh, and remain one flesh, and not go back to two individuals. One flesh means to become emotionally, physically, mentally, spiritually, financially one – you are one.

Malachi 2:14, tells us that marriage is a covenant (an unbroken promise between husband, wife and God). Marriage is not a contract where one spouse says to the other that if you don't make me happy, I am leaving you. No, covenant is even when you don't make me happy, I am staying, because I am devoted / committed to you.

Ephesians 5:23, tells us that the husband is head of the marriage covenant. The husband is not the boss or bully; he is the servant who loves his wife, children and is willing to give himself fully to the wellbeing of the family. He is responsible for the family, even if it's not his fault, because he is the head. Jesus is head of the church and took full responsibility for the sin of the church in His death, burial, resurrection

Malachi 2:16, tells us that God hates divorce. This is God's emotional feeling about divorce. He does not hate those who have been divorced, but He hates divorce.

When is divorce permitted or allowed?

Death – see 1 Corinthians 7:39. There can be no relationship if a spouse dies.

Adultery – see Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:32.

Greek word is "Moichao" and means to breach or abandon the covenant. Wisdom and biblical counsel are extremely important, because what you are looking for in your spouse is repentance, a willingness to change. If there is repentance don't be too eager to divorce, but if there is a continuation of adultery there is a problem.

Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse – see 1 Corinthians 7:10 – 24.

When two unbelievers are married, and one becomes a believer, and the unbeliever says they want a divorce – divorce will be allowed according to 1 Corinthians 7.

Hardness of heart / sexual immorality / unfaithful – see Matt. 19:8–9; Malachi 2:14
Hardness – pride, stubborn, intimidating, swearing, violent, addicted to alcohol, sex, drugs, unrepentant, habitual sin with no desire for counselling, help or to change. Much wisdom and prayer is needed, divorce should not be the first, but last option.