

KINGDOM LIVING: Divorce

As preached on Sunday, September 13th

Read: Matthew 5:31-32, 19:1-12

1. How have you been impacted by divorce? (your own marriage or someone close) Did Christians or the Church have a positive or negative effect on your experience of divorce or the fall-out from divorce? (Explain)
2. What, in summary, does Jesus have to say about divorce in Matthew 5:31-32? Does he say anything different in Matthew 19:1-12?
3. In the message we talked about three rabbinic schools of thought regarding divorce: the School of Shammai, the School of Hillel, and the School of Akiba. What did each school teach about divorce? What do you think of all of this?
4. Three specific circumstances were mentioned which would allow for divorce under the Law. Do you remember what they were? (Hint: Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 7, Exodus 21:10-11)
5. What are your thoughts about Exodus 21:10-11? How can we apply it to divorce today while being sure that we're not going over the top and endorsing divorce for "any and every reason"?
6. What is the positive side of this negative command? What are some practical ways that Christians can emphasize and strengthen the gift of marriage in our church communities?
7. In Matthew 18:21-22 Peter provides the perfect example of the kind of "loophole theology" that we are sometimes tempted to apply to the area of marriage and divorce. How can we protect ourselves against the trap of loophole theology?
8. In approaching a sensitive topic like divorce, we need to be able to simply start where we are, wherever that may be. Where do you find yourself in this? (Not yet married? Considering divorce? Already divorced? Remarried?) What obedient, trusting steps can you take in response to what Jesus has taught in Matthew 5 and 19?