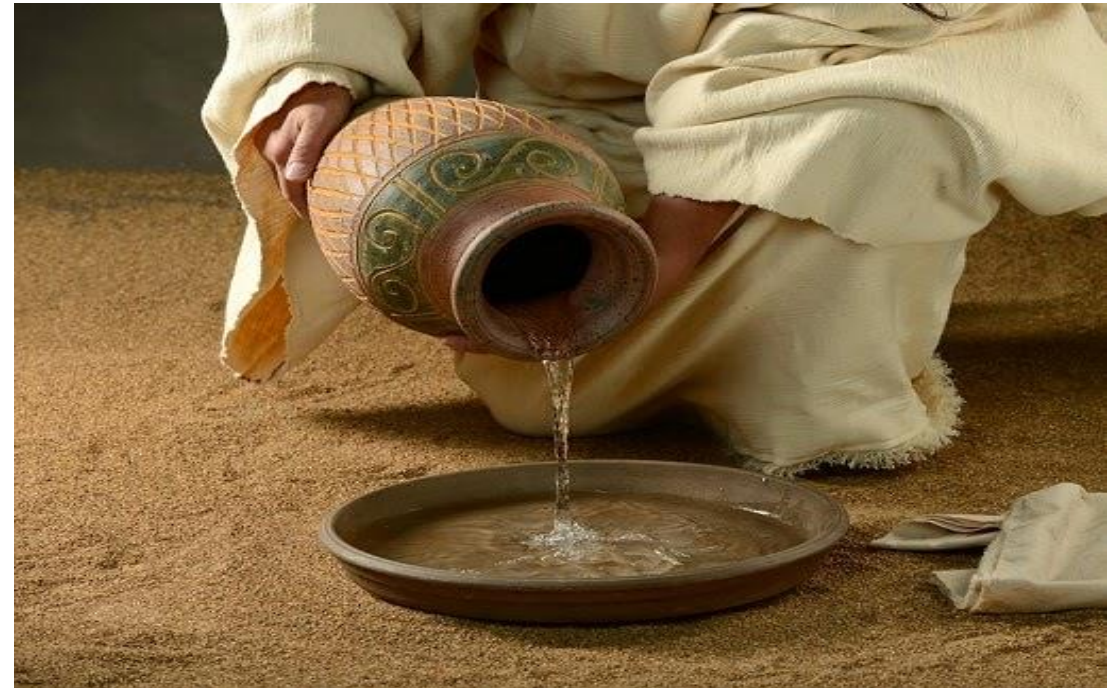

***Marriage, Divorce,
and Singleness***

Matthew 19:1-12



the
Gospel
according to
Matthew



How to Serve in Love and Unity?

Matthew 18 4th Teaching Discourse

Extra-ordinary Kingdom Relationships

- Humility (V1-9)
- Care for Each Other (10-14)
- Resolving Conflicts (15-20)
- Forgiveness (V21-35)

**SERVE
UNITED**

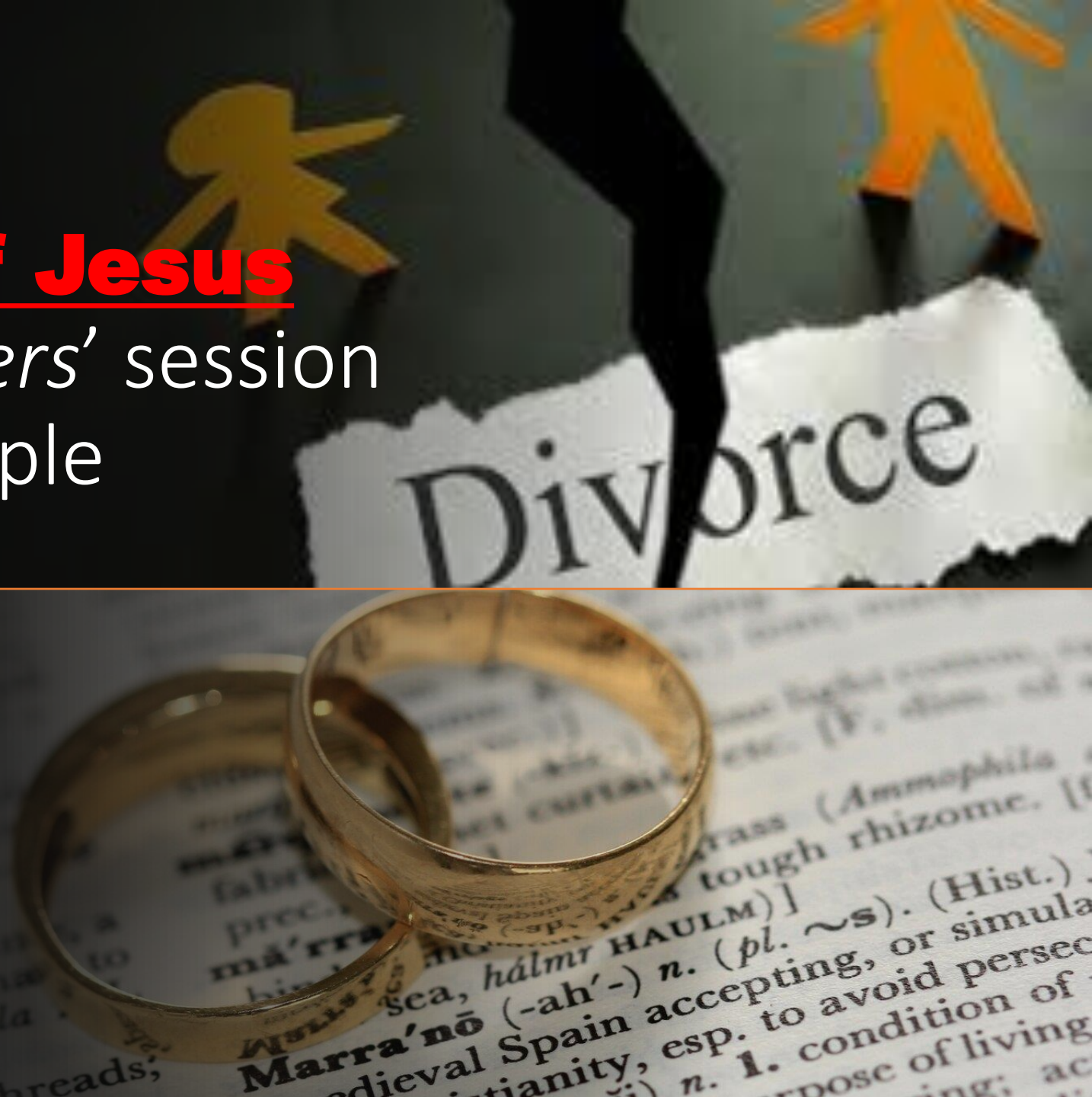


Matthew 19-20

More Teaching of Jesus

'Questions and answers' session
of Jesus with the people

Matthew 19:1-12 *Marriage, Divorce, and Singleness*



Stressful Life Events (6/10 involved family)

1. Death of spouse (100).
2. Divorce (73).
3. Marital separation (65).
4. Detention in jail or other institution (63).
5. Death of a close family member (63).
6. Major personal injury or illness (53).
7. Marriage (50).
8. Being fired (47).
9. Marital reconciliation (45).
10. Retirement (45).



Marriage is Challenging

Marriage is in decline

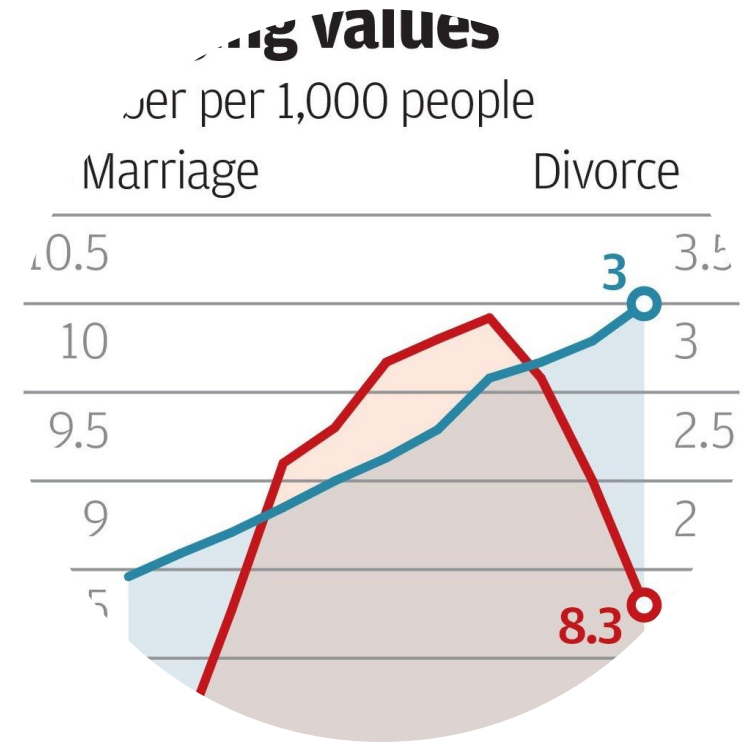
Divorce and Co-habitation on the rise

PARTING WAYS

The divorce rate in Asia has soared over the past decade



Source: TIME Research



Same sex marriage



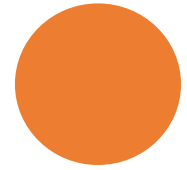
The church is not spared

Among Christians in North America

- 25% of Catholic has had a divorce.
- 39% of Protestant with Pentecostal the most likely and Presbyterian the least likely.

(Barna study)

(Impact Magazine vol 31, no.4.
Aug/Sept 2007)



Matthew 19:1-12

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?'

⁴ 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," ⁵ and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'



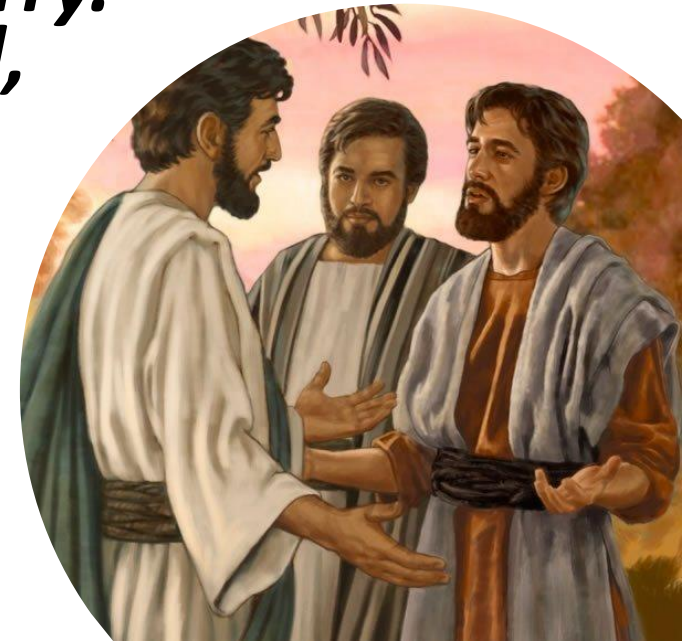
7 'Why then,' they asked, 'did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?' 8 Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.'



10 The disciples said to him, 'If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.'

11 Jesus replied, 'Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.'

12 For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others – and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.'

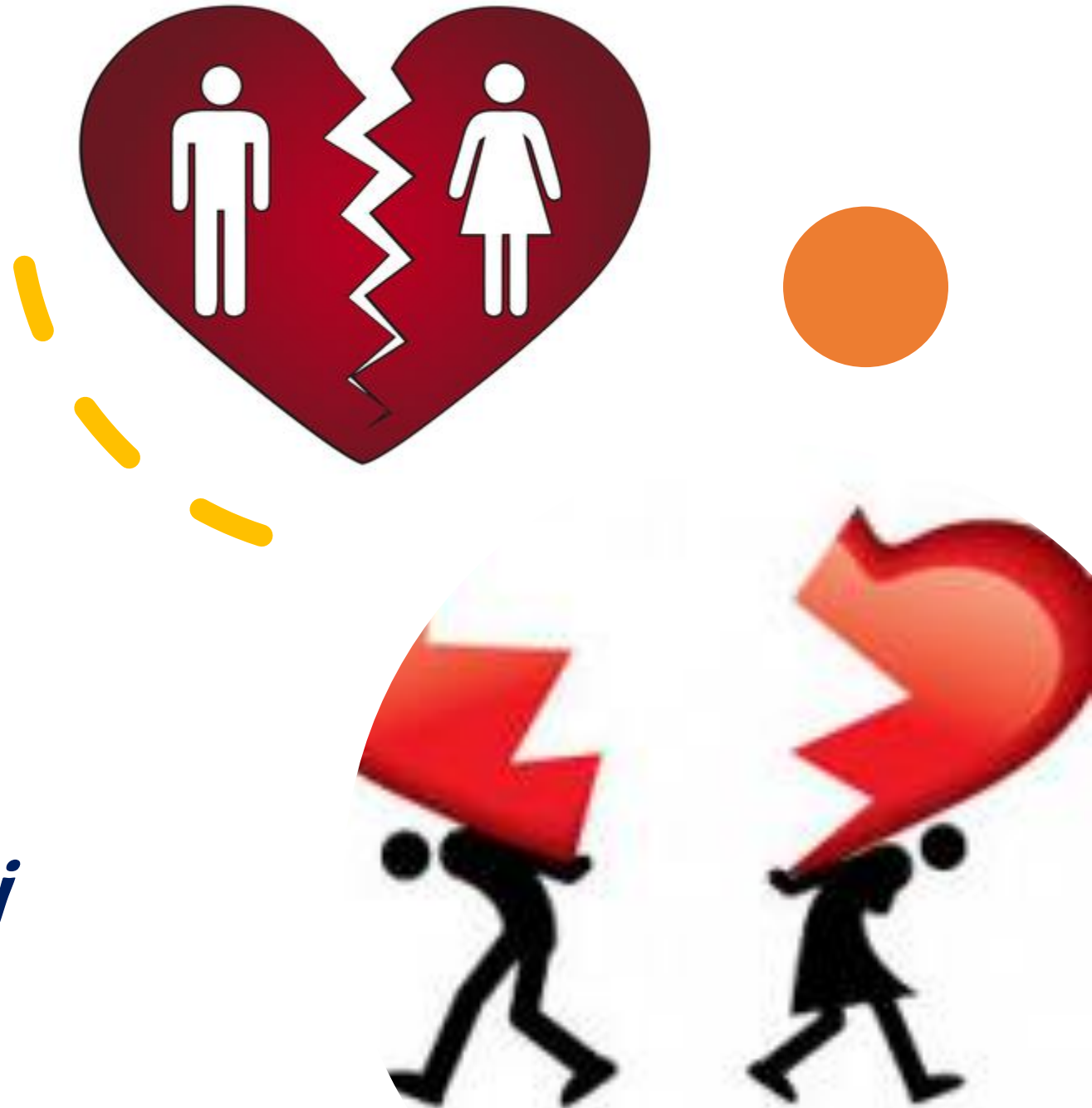


A Test by the Pharisee **Is Divorce Allowed?**

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?'

Two schools:

***Conservative Shammai
vs. Liberal Hillel***



Jesus teaches on Christian marriage

**Marriage is a divine,
binding, and sacred
permanent union
of a man and a woman
by a covenant of
unconditional love
and grace before God**



Marriage is Divine

*'that at the beginning
the Creator "made them
male and female,"*

God's Institution & Plan

To Reveal His Glory and Grace

Follow God's Blueprint

He makes the rules.

He tells us how it works.

**Happiest holiest enduring
union celebrated in the
perfect Garden of Eden**



God's Blueprint for a Healthy Marriage

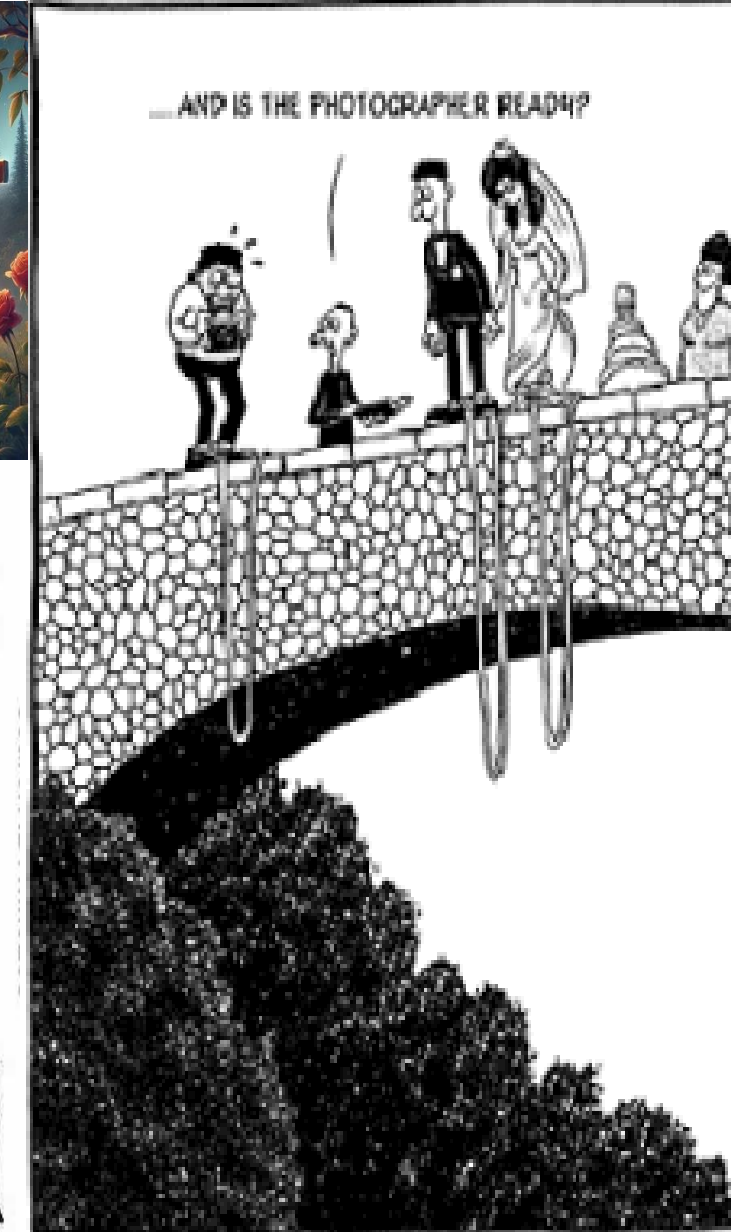
“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”

A Covenant of Grace and Unconditional Love Not a Contract

No ‘if’ or ‘escape’ clauses as in a contract



THE NOVICE



It is holy, binding, permanent

*So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined
together, let no one separate.'*

Vow of a Lifetime

Faithfulness

*God joins them together
as one to love and loyalty*

A Covenant of Grace

Mutual Submission and Love



Jesus Teaches on Divorce

*7 'Why then,' they asked,
'did Moses command that
a man give his wife a certificate
of divorce and send her away?'*

**Moses' instructions about
divorce in Deut. 24:1-4**

**To protect the woman and
preserve her rights in society**



God never intends for divorce

⁸ Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.'

A man's stubborn heart

Permitted it to regulate marriage

Malachi 2:16

God hate divorce



**God still regards
the marriage
as undissolved**

⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.'

The Exasperated Disciples

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, 'If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.'



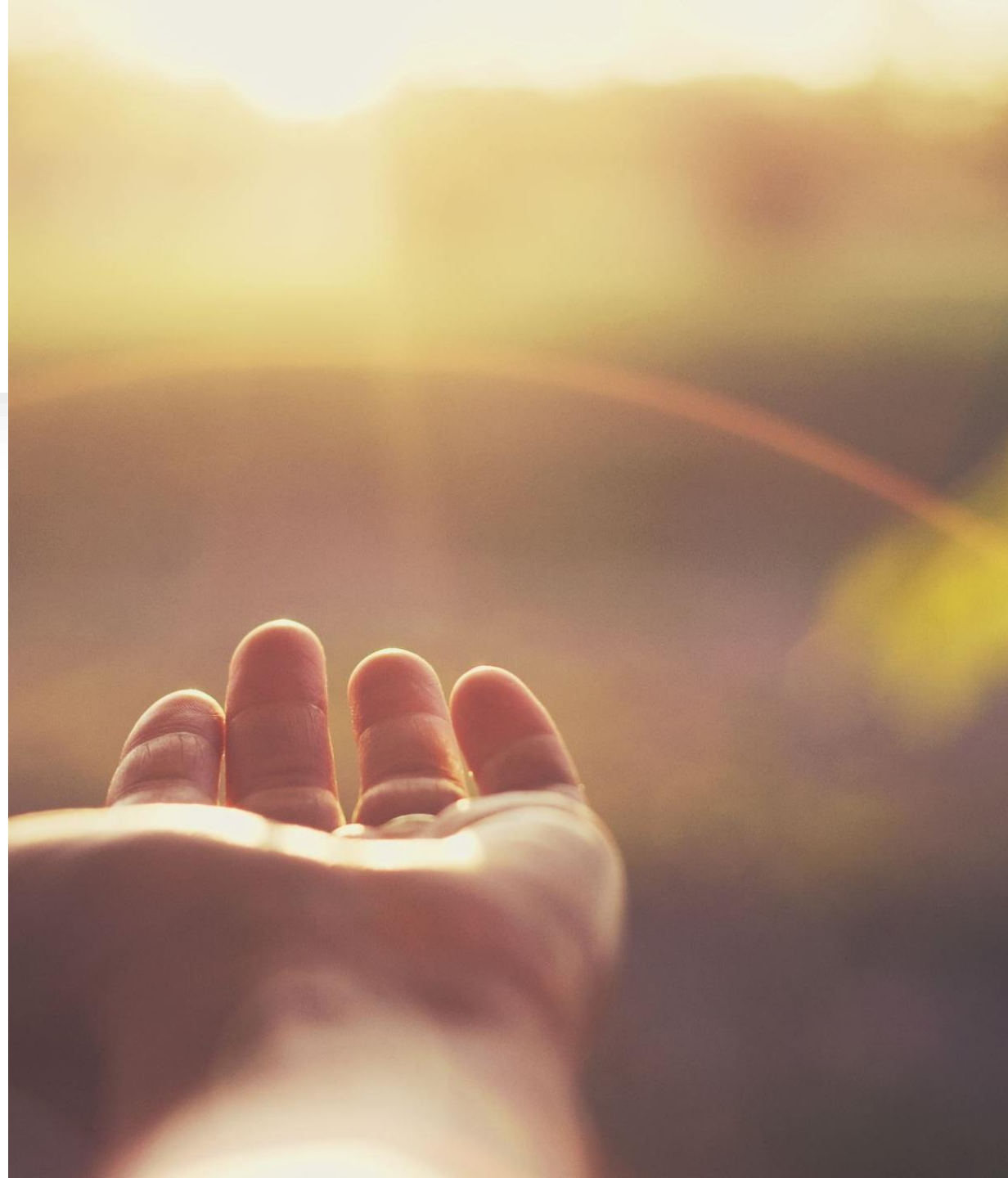
Jesus teaches about singleness/celibacy

*“If it is so difficult, one might
as well don’t get married!”*

*¹¹ Jesus replied, ‘Not everyone
can accept this word, but only
those to whom it has been given.*

**Singleness is not
meant for everyone**

*It is given by God according
to His good plan and purpose*



There are various reasons for singleness

- Some were born that way
physical disability at birth
- Some were made that way
Eunuchs who were castrated
- Some chose that way for God
For kingdom work priority



Marriage and Singleness are Both Gifts from God

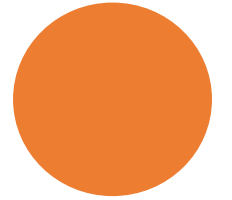
*The one who can accept
this should accept it.'*

**Paul shared about
his gift of celibacy**

1 Corinthians 7:1-7-8

I wish that all of you were as I am.

*But each of you has your own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that.⁸ Now
to the unmarried and the widows I say:
it is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.*



CONCLUSION

Whatever station you are in today...

Know that God loves you.

He has not forgotten you.

He has a good plan for you.

If you choose to be single

Take it as a great calling like Paul

If you are single or divorced

*The best way forward is to seek
his kingdom first and trust him
to take care of the rest.*



If You are Married

Work on your Marriage!

**It is a life journey not an event
Both need to give 100%**

When it hit a rough road for whatever reasons, forgive each other as Christ has forgiven you, God will give you a wonderful joyful marriage together!

**A Covenant of
Grace and
Loyalty for
a life time**



Marriage is for Mutual Enjoyment

Ecclesiastes 9:9

Live happily with the woman you love through the fleeting days of life, for the wife God gives you is your best reward down here for all your earthly toil.

**For Grown up to Grow up
reflecting His Glory and Grace**

*Breakdown can become
the Breakthrough!*

GOD'S PLAN
FOR

MARRIAGE



Challenges Along the Way

- **Marriage**
- **Birth/adoption of one child**
- **Birth of youngest child**
- **Children growing up**
- **Children choosing career & marriage**
- **Departure of last child from home**
- **Grandparenting**



The Marriage Course

The Parenting Children Course

Nurturing for life

Alpha Parenting Children Course
Parents of children aged 6

HLCE FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY





The
Parenting
Children
Course

Nurturing for life

Alpha Parenting Children Course
for parents of children aged 0-10 years

Sundays
6 April – 11 May
(5 sessions, except Easter)
3.00-5.30pm

**Berea, 11 Jalan
Gertak Merah, JB**

RM120 per couple
(refreshments provided)

More info
or register:



***Come Follow Jesus
Love and Serve Him!***

We are all married to Christ as a church



Work on our Marriage to Christ – Love and Serve Him!