

# What About Divorce?

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 10:1-12.

B. Some Jews taught that a man could divorce his wife for any reason.

C. Other Jews taught that divorce was a limited matter—only under extreme matters could it be permitted.

## II. Jesus said that Moses permitted divorce because of the Jews' hardness of heart.

A. Jesus first referred back to the Old Testament as a book with authority about life.

B. Jesus clarified the law in this instance.

1. A divorce could occur to reveal in public what was happening in private—sin.
2. Hardening of the heart occurs when a person decides to do something openly against God's will.
3. Husbands were treating their wives with contempt because they found something they did not like. The husbands should have met the wife with understanding.
4. The softening of the heart occurs when it recognizes its inability to handle something and its need to rely upon God.
5. God gave the law of Moses to reveal the dark problems in marriage.

C. Jesus taught how hardness of heart can be cured with regard to divorce by explaining the purpose of marriage.

1. The actions of God.

- a. He made man and woman in His image.
- b. Man and woman are different on so many levels—they are equal persons in the spirit, but God created them distinct psychologically and biologically.
- c. Only a man and a woman can make up a true marriage.

2. The desire of God.

- a. Marriage is a process of two people becoming one—they are to blend, merge and mix together.
- b. A successful marriage works out problems in a process of which God is a part.

c. Sex is a beautiful picture of what marriage ought to be.

3. The warning of God. Divorce is sin, but grace can bring forgiveness for this.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the hardening of the heart? How did Jesus relate this to divorce?

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2. What does a true marriage look like?

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3. How does understanding the purpose of marriage help one respond appropriately towards the divorce problem in our culture?

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