

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

You crown us with glory & honor. (v5)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:1-12

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful & steadfast, & teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 10:1-12

¹He left that place & went to the region of Judea & beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them. ²Some Pharisees came, & to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal & to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male & female.' ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife & marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband & marries another, she commits adultery."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

This is delicate topic & we're not here to judge one another or hurt each other's feelings. Paying careful attention to the words on the page will help organize our thinking. Only after understanding the texts as they are can we take a next step. Pastor is happy to talk further with you about a specific thing in your life.

1. Read the following passages carefully then decide what is being prevented or disallowed: all divorce? Divorce for specific reasons? Divorce for any reason ("no fault")? All remarriage? Remarriage while ex-spouse is living? Remarriage to the ex-spouse? Something not listed? Cite evidence in the text. See *Genesis 1:27, 2:24, 5:2; Leviticus 18:1-30, 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Jeremiah 3:1; Matthew 5:31-32, 19:1-9; Acts 15:28-29; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 6:12--7:16, 25-40; Ephesians 5:21-33. The word "pornea" (Matthew 5:31, 19:9; Acts 15:29; 1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2; root of pornography) includes all kinds of sexual immoralities & infidelity, not solely adulterous intercourse; use your Bible's study notes*
2. Dr. Jordan B. Peterson said, "When you make a moral error, the consequences ripple out beyond you & add to the pathologies of [all those around you]. Your moral insufficiency corrupts the world*." How do 2 *Samuel chs 11-12, Psalm 51, Matthew 5:23-24, 2 Corinthians 5:20--6:1* show you how to begin the process of healing that corruption? [*https://www.artofmanliness.com/character/advice/podcast-335-using-power-myths-live-flourishing-life/](https://www.artofmanliness.com/character/advice/podcast-335-using-power-myths-live-flourishing-life/)

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Draw a genogram (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genogram) with your spouse/partner. It's a family tree that pays special attention to lines of relationship, not only kinship. In addition to the genogram symbols (*no pets*) mark relationships of cohabitation, engagement, marriage, separation, divorce & affairs. Let them dictate their family for you to draw, then switch. Fill in as much family history as you know for yourself, your relatives & their families. *Don't fret over unknown info; focus on "living memory," not the Mayflower, DAR, DRT, UDC, etc.*
4. Now, what patterns do you see? What commonalities do you find with your spouse/partner? How does what looks "normal" on one genogram tree compare to the other? What personal insights do you get about your relationship with your spouse/partner? What was enjoyable about the exercise?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How does getting real, getting honest, being authentic about our own relationship challenges & failures, as well as what's required before success could happen, make us more relatable & useful to our neighbors?
6. Our culture has a loneliness epidemic*. Family dissolution contributes heavily to it. How can you be a friend to someone who has lost their family? People often comment that following tragedy they felt forgotten as the world moved on faster than they could. See *1 Kings 5:1; Job 6:14; Proverbs 17:9, 17, 18:24, 27:10*
*cf. www.artofmanliness.com/people/relationships/connection-in-a-lonely-world-vivek-murthy/ Podcast #618

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20th Sunday after Pentecost

10.06.24

Series: It's Not About Me

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Your faithful life doesn't revolved around you

My Relationships

People aren't disposable, like Amazon boxes & grocery bags

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. (*1 John 4:12*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

If we love one another, God lives in us
and God's love is perfected in us. (*1 John 4:12*)

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