

Alderwood Community Church
January 22, 2017

Honoring Marriage
Matthew 19:3-12

(Page 975 or 986 in chair Bibles)

*"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." **Hebrews 13:4***

Big Idea: We honor marriage when we see marriage as being sacred and we hold marriage as being sacred.

1. _____ marriage as being a sacred relationship.

A. We live in a culture that has _____ marriage.

B. Jesus clearest teaching on the _____ and _____ of marriage. (**Matthew 19:3-12; Genesis 1-2**)

C. Why has God designed marriage to be _____?

(1) For the benefit of the married couple

(2) For the benefit of the children

D. There are only two Biblical reasons for divorce:

(1) Adultery (**Matthew 19:9**)

(2) Abandonment by an un-believer (**1 Corinthians 7:13-15**)

- (3) In all other cases, a believer is to remain single or be reconciled to their spouse. (**1 Corinthians 7:10-11**)
- (4) Divorce can be forgiven, but God's grace should not be exploited. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*"

2. _____ marriage as being a sacred relationship.

A. We must develop a _____ mindset!

"Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." **Romans 12:2**

B. We must develop an _____ mindset!

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ." **Philippians 2:3-5**

Sermon Questions:

1. What was the best marriage advice you ever received?
2. How has divorce touched you personally? Who was affected? In what way?
3. What do we mean when we say marriage is "sacred"?

4. Read **Matthew 19:1-12**. What were the Pharisees looking for from Jesus?

How did He respond to them?

5. What do these verses have to say about God's design for marriage?

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:24-25

Proverbs 5:1-23

Ephesians 5:22-30

Hebrews 13:4

Why do we tend to talk about "loopholes" (like the Pharisees in **Matthew 19**) rather than God's ideal?

6. Is it true that divorce will not hurt the children? How would you respond to someone who says, "My divorce will not hurt my children, they are better off without their father/mother in their life"?

7. Upholding the sacredness of marriage starts at home. What can you do to hold your own marriage as sacred?

What can you do to uphold the sanctity of the marriages of your friends?
Or, of your adult children?

If you are single, what can you do to uphold the sanctity of marriage?