

DISCUSSION IDEAS

BACK TO BASICS

Mark 1:1-12

January 31st, 2016

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THOUGHT: Take a moment to think what it means to truly "become one flesh". ("For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."¹ Gen. 2:24)

What attitudes might sabotage that relationship?

How much do we truly value that aspect of marriage?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: DISTORTING THE WORK OF GOD.**

In Mark 10:1-2, understanding that Jesus was in Herod's territory and that the Herodians and Pharisees had ongoing efforts to trap Jesus, what did the Pharisees mean by the question, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

They got the justification for their views from Deuteronomy 24:1, but what does the context of that verse actually say (Deut. 24:1-4)?

How do the words, "When...if...and he writes her a certificate of divorce...." differ from saying that the husband is approved to divorce her?

How does this use of Scripture actually miss God's intent?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: BECOMING ONE FLESH.**

Back to Gen. 2:24: What does God clearly intend for the marriage relationship?

Look at Mark 10:9: What are the two parts of Jesus statement?

WHO performs the process of joining husband and wife?

Who is it that has no right to break this union?

(Interesting note: The word translated "man" is actually the word also used to say "human". There is a different word available in Greek to strictly intend the command to apply to the husband only and not include the wife's involvement.

Some translations say "no man" and others say "no one".)

Dave Gettis sent me some great discussion questions:

What are some of the ways man can separate what God has made (to be) one, i.e., how do we separate from our spouses?

What are the ways we fail to live in the reality that we are one?

Or, in a positive sense, how can we honor the reality that we are one flesh?

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* (1995). (Ge 2:24). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: MARRIAGE – AN ILLUSTRATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

Look at Eph. 5:25-33. What kind of attitude are we to have in marriage?

How does our relationship with each other illustrate the character of God Himself?

Consider Eph. 5:21 and Phil. 2:5-8.

How does God's character as a Trinity place the idea of mutual submission at the core of His being?

Compare Phil. 2:7 with Mark 10:45.

Consider our future as the Bride of Christ! Look at Rev. 19:6-9.

How close will be our relationship with Jesus?

♦ **CHALLENGE:**

In your study this week, review and mull over the following passages.

Think about the perspective they add to our view of godly marriage.

John 14:18-21

John 15

John 17:11 & 20-21

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Ephesians 5:25-33

Why do the details of our marriages matter to God?

What is God's purpose, not only for us individually, but for our marriages as well?

If our attitudes are in sync with God, what will our relationship to others look like?

♦ **PRAYER:**

Pray for God to help us reflect Him in our marriages.

Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's power to be continually shown in the Barangonan Island, as well as at Shelter Valley.