**“WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER”**

**Mark 10:1-12**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the Sermon did you find to be the most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. What do you think makes a marriage strong and lasting?
2. Why do you think so many marriages fail?
3. How do the people you work with view people with struggling or failed marriages?

**Mark 10:1–12 (NLT)**

1Then Jesus left Capernaum and went down to the region of Judea and into the area east of the Jordan River. Once again crowds gathered around him, and as usual he was teaching them.

2Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?”

3Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”

4“Well, he permitted it,” they replied. “He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.”

5But Jesus responded, “He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts.

6But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation.

7‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife,

8and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one,

**9let no one split apart what God has joined together**.”

***EXPLORE***

1. Why did the Pharisees go to see Jesus? (10:2)
2. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees’ question? (10:3)
3. Why do you think Jesus brought Moses into this discussion? (10:3)
4. What did Moses allow in the area of divorce? (10:4)
5. How did Jesus explain Moses’ instructions? (10:5)
6. What was God’s original plan for marriage before sin entered the picture? (10:6–9)

***APPLY***

1. How has the world changed in the last 50 years with regard to relationships and divorce? What were the social trends behind those changes? What can the church do to improve society?
2. What is significant about Jesus referring back to the “beginning of creation” in this debate?
3. How could a person separate “what God has joined together”?
4. How can the church help its members strengthen and even save their marriages?
5. Why do you think so many marriages fail?
6. What can you do to strengthen your own marriage or encourage a couple who is experiencing difficulty in this area?

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