

Sermon Outline

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO-ONE SEPARATE | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Mark 10:1-12 (p.1440)

"Every church member wanting to read Mark 1-2-1 evangelistically in 2025"

1. Some reflections on this particular passage

Mk 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "**The kingdom of God has come near.** Repent and believe the good news!"

Mk 1:1 The beginning of **the good news about Jesus the Messiah**, the Son of God ...

Mk 1:12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, **being tempted [lit. tested]** by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Mk 8:11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. **To test him**, they asked him for a sign from heaven. 12 He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." 13 Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

Mk 3:6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

- our "hardness of heart" = "the lesser of two evils" (Deut 21:1-4)

- "leave parents and be united to spouse" forges a bond stronger than biology (Gen 2:24)

- If GOD has joined something together ...

- 2 seemingly contradictory biblical principles:

i. "Marriage ought be for life"

ii. "Divorce can be permissible"

Recommended Reading:

1. Sydney Diocese Doctrine Commission, "The Remarriage of Divorced Persons"
<https://synod.sydneyanglicans.net/s/sfsites/c/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069QI0000EFYD2IAP>

2. John Woodhouse, "Divorce and Remarriage"
<https://paa.moore.edu.au/resources/divorce-and-remarriage-an-exploration-of-my-understanding-of-what-the-bible-teaches-on-this-issue-by-john-woodhouse-03-02-14/>

2. Some reflections more generally

i. Consider what else the bible has to say on this topic

i. an exception in the case of adultery?

Mt 19:8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery." 10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

ii. an exception in the case of abandonment?

1 Cor 7:12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

ii. Consider what else the bible has to say (not just on this topic!)

- what has Jesus come to do?

Mk 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Jesus is BOTH honest about humanity AND hopeful because of God

iii. Do you know HOW to enter the KOG?

Mk 10:13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, **anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.**" 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Where to, from here?

Explore (4 Sundays, starting Nov 16)
60 seconds with ...