

Three Way Contract

Mark 10:6-9
Charlie Brackett

Having considered three principles for a good marriage in this text, we now come to the fourth in verse 9. Let's put it all together and begin our reading at verse 6. "...from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female'. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh." Now listen carefully. "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

The word 'therefore' indicates a conclusion being drawn from all that has gone before. God made both. He made them male and female. They are His creation, and designed that they leave parents to be joined together for the purpose of becoming one. It should be easy to see that marriage is God's handiwork. When two come together in marriage, God does the joining. He makes them one flesh. No man has a right to separate them without God's permission. Jesus spoke plainly, and He meant what He said. There is no excuse for misunderstanding. No one has a right to separate what God has joined together. No legislator who has drafted and voted for no-fault divorce legislation. No judge who presides in our divorce courts. No husband who thinks he has fallen out of love with his wife. And no wife who thinks she can't live with him any longer.

Look at it this way. God is a partner in every lawful marriage. Marriage is a three-way partnership. An agreement has been made among three parties. God doesn't join two people without their mutual consent. Likewise, no two people are legitimately married without God's approval and participation as the one who joins them.

We recognize that no outsider can break a contract that three people have entered into. We also know that one of those three can't break it without the other two agreeing. Even two can't. A husband and wife don't have the right to terminate a marriage agreement without the consent of God Almighty. It takes all three, the same three who made the agreement, to break it.

God has nowhere sanctioned no-fault divorces. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). He allows divorce in only one situation which we will come to at verse 11 below. We need to come back to the Creator's way of doing things. He told us how to have a happy marriage. Let's listen to Him. You know, it's amazing how knowing that marriage is permanent can make you work harder to make your marriage succeed.