

“The Superglue of Marriage” Mark 10: 1-12 (Matthew 19:1-12 and Luke 16:18)

TODAY we mark the words of Jesus in Mark 10:9 where he says: **"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."**

- 1 And rising up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; and crowds gathered around Him again, [as before] and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them.
- 2 And some Pharisees came up to Him, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.
- 3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"
- 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY." [*Deut. 24:1 – regarding indecency in the wife*]
- 5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.
- 6 "But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. [*Genesis 1:27 – one of each for each other*]
- 7 "FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER
- 8 AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; [*Genesis 2:24*] so they are no longer two, but one flesh.
- 9 "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
- 10 And in the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again.
- 11 And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her;
- 12 And if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

Divorce and unfaithfulness: one the acutest issues of the day in which Jesus lived, as it is today.

King Herod had divorced his wife and married another. Moses had spoken of divorce in the Law and the Scribes and Pharisees wanted to interpret this issue for the people.

On the one hand, **chastity was held to be the greatest of all the virtues.** The voice of the prophet Malachi was held in high regard when he said a man should not divorce the wife of his youth [Malachi 2:14] Oh that this were true in our day.

On the other hand, **divorce was rampant.** A woman was seen as little more than a “thing.” And the common interpretation of the Law from Deut. 24:1 was that a man could divorce his wife for any “uncleanliness” found in her - commonly taken to mean anything the husband didn’t like about her.

Jesus clearly regards the **divorce provision** in Deuteronomy to be (1) for specific circumstances **because of the sin of man** and (2) subservient to the first and greater truth of Genesis where **marriage is meant to be permanent**.

The similar account in Matthew 19 allows **only adultery as grounds for divorce**. Mark does not include this, but it is implied (v. 11).

Key issue: the loose sexual morality of the day must be mended. Jesus was building a rampart around the sanctity of marriage and the home.

KEY APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY:

1. **The meaning of marriage is being severely tested** (v.2)
2. **God wants marriages to stay together** – virtually “at all costs” - Though divorce may become inevitable because of the sin of mankind, (v.5)
Malachi 2:16 affirms that “God hates divorce.”
3. **Marriage is between a man and a woman** (v.6)
4. **God creates a supernatural bond of marriage** that is the miraculous wedding of two fleshs into one. Malachi spoke of divorce as leaving a ‘remnant of the spirit’ implying that divorce rips apart this supernatural union. [Mal. 2:15] (v.8)
5. **No one is to put a wedge between a married couple** - A warning to all
6. **Adultery is unfaithfulness either while married or after divorce** – meaning that the marriage vow of faithfulness is indeed “until death separate us” not “until marriage separates us”. The only clear Biblical exception is when the partner is sexually unfaithful. [Matthew 19:9]

TODAY we focus on this supernatural bond of marriage of which Jesus warns us not to tamper. Thus, my message title is **THE SUPERGLUE OF MARRIAGE**.

SUPER GLUE It’s generic name is Cyanoacrylate, discovered by Harry Coover at Eastman Kodak during World War II when searching for a way to make plastic gun-sight lenses. It did not solve this problem, since it stuck to all the apparatus used to handle it. Its primary characteristic is that it instantly bonds when contacting tiny particles of water, whereas most other glues bond when the water in the glue dries. This new glue was patented in 1956 as Eastman 910 and demonstrated in 1959 on the television show I've Got a Secret when the host Garry Moore was lifted into the air by two steel plates held together with a drop of Eastman 910. Cyanoacrylates are now a family of adhesives based on similar chemistry. Common names are Krazy Glue, Flash Glue and Super Glue.

God has “superglued” together husband and wife in a supernatural union we call “wedding”. A “marriage” is a ceremony of the state – required by law and affirmed by God. But a “wedding” is God making two become one – Divinely “superglued” together.

Thus, today's message: THE SUPERGLUE OF MARRIAGE

NOTE, regarding MARRIAGE:

1. **Marriage is the foundation of all society** - the first recorded earthly institution. This is true for those both married and unmarried
2. **God's most precious earthly gift is your spouse** – and for those not married: healthy marriages of example
3. **The key to a successful marriage is LOVE, a CHOICE** – not essentially an ATTRACTION or a FEELING
4. **The first duty of LOVE FOR A HUSBAND** is to give himself up for his wife, nourishing and cherishing her as Christ did for the church (Ephesians 5:25, 28-29)
5. **The first duty of LOVE FOR A WIFE** is to respect her husband and submit to his God-assigned leadership (Ephesians 5:24, 33)

2 KEY LESSONS from our “marked words of Jesus” for today:

"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

1. **You are together because of God – don't mess with God's union**
2. **Don't do anything in word or action to break up a marriage**

Your pastors, myself and Daniel, want to make ourselves available anyway we can to help preserve the bond of marriage in Oaks Bible Church.

There isn't one marriage in this church, including mine, that doesn't get strained and tested – largely due to the sin I bring to the table. Yet our God is the DEFENDER and PROTECTOR OF MARRIAGE.

THE MARRIAGE VOW I USE

I _____ take you, _____, to be my lawful and wedded husband/wife. And I do promise before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband/wife, in the strength that Christ will provide – in plenty or in want, in joy or in sorrow, in sickness or in health, for better or for worse – as long as we both shall live.

This ring I give you as a token and in pledge of my vow of love this day, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – AMEN!

MARRIAGE “QUICK TAKES”

1. Marriage is GOD'S IDEA
2. Marriage is for a MAN and WOMAN
3. Marriage is a LEAVING and CLEAVING
4. Marriage is GOD'S MIRACLE OF $1+1 = 1$
5. Marriage is a CHOICE TO LOVE

6. Marriage is SPIRITUAL TYPE (of Jesus and His church)
7. Marriage is a LIFELONG COMMITMENT

TOP 10 WAYS TO SEPARATE A MARRIAGE

1. Re: DECISIONS Make an important decision (including expenditures) not agreed upon by the other
2. Re: CRITICISM Cut your partner down in the presence of others – especially family (whether your partner is present or not)
3. Re: SCHEDULES Keep a schedule that fails to demonstrate first priority to the partner
4. Re: AFFECTION Withhold love and affection as a weapon and fail to give unconditionally
5. Re: DISAGREEMENTS Be unwilling to move quickly toward resolution and reconciliation and recruit others (family or friends) to support your side of an argument
6. Re: AFFIRMATION Demean your partner in word or deed and don't keep him or her "on a pedestal" of appreciation and honor, showing sincere gratitude often
7. Re: CONFIDENTIALITY Share personal and intimate details of your marriage with others without your partner's knowledge and permission
8. Re: RELATIONSHIPS Cultivate any friendships with the opposite sex without your partner's full knowledge and permission
9. Re: ROMANCE Fail to keep romance alive with sensitivity and freshness
10. Re: FAITH Fail to keep God, and thus hope, in the center of your marriage

CLOSING PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Dear Heavenly Father – creator and protector of marriage, and the One who supernaturally wedded together every husband and wife – today I recommit myself to uphold the high estate of marriage – especially cherishing the miracle of my own.

- **May this commitment show in my both my words and actions.**
- **May this commitment show in my freely giving of appropriate respect and submission.**
- **May this commitment show in my daily choice to love unconditionally.**
- **May this commitment show in my refraining to do those things that would cause a wedge between husband and wife**
- **May this commitment rekindle my earnest belief that marriage is for life – for better or for worse.**

I thank You for the precious gift of marriage. And (for those who are married) I thank you for the precious treasure of my beloved spouse. Help me to put him/her back on my pedestal of honor and high respect.

In the name of Jesus, I pray, AMEN