

COUNTER CULTURE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



COUNTER CULTURE
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Marriage, Divorce, and the Gospel of Jesus

Matthew 5:31–32

Matthew 19:3–9



COUNTER CULTURE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

“I confess to a basic reluctance to attempt an exposition of these verses. This is partly because divorce is a controversial and complex subject, but even more because it is a subject which touches people’s emotions at a deep level. There is almost no unhappiness so poignant as the unhappiness of an unhappy marriage, and almost no tragedy so great as the degeneration of what God meant for love and fulfillment into a non-relationship of bitterness, discord and despair.

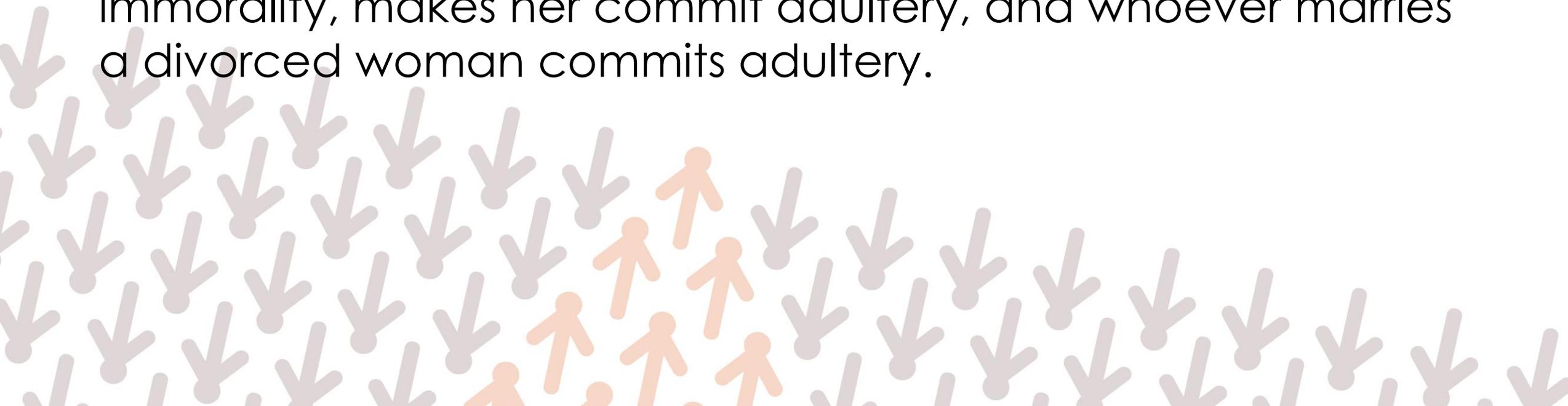
COUNTER CULTURE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

“Although I believe that God’s way in most cases is not divorce, I hope I shall write with sensitivity, for I know the pain which many suffer, and I have no wish to add to their distress. Yet it is because I am convinced that the teaching of Jesus on this and every subject is good—intrinsically good, good for individuals, good for society—that I take my courage in both hands and write on.”

—John Stott

Matthew 5:31–32

³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.



Mark 10:11–12

¹¹ “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”



Luke 16:18

“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”



Matthew 19:3–9

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Matthew 19:3–9

⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

The Rabbinic Debate

Hillel

looser view

grounds: "any cause"

Shammai

stricter view

grounds: sexual immorality



Deuteronomy 24:1

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found **some indecency** in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house...”



1. The Pharisees focused on grounds for divorce, but Jesus focuses on God's design for marriage (Matt 19:3–6)

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

**2. The Pharisees approached divorce as a command,
but Jesus saw it as a sin-caused concession (Matt 19:7–8)**

⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

Deuteronomy 24:1

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found **some indecency** in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house...”



**2. The Pharisees approached divorce as a command,
but Jesus saw it as a sin-caused concession (Matt 19:7–8)**

⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

3. The Pharisees allowed many reasons for divorce, but Jesus allows only one reason (Matt 19:9; 5:32)

Matthew 19:9: ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Matthew 5:32: ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

COUNTER CULTURE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**4. The Pharisees took divorce very lightly,
but Jesus takes it very seriously (Matt 19:9; 5:32)**



1 Corinthians 7:15

But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so.
In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved.
God has called you to peace.



COUNTER CULTURE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 19:9: “Whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Mark 10:11–12: ¹¹ “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Luke 16:18: “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

1 Corinthians 7:10–11

¹⁰ ... the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.



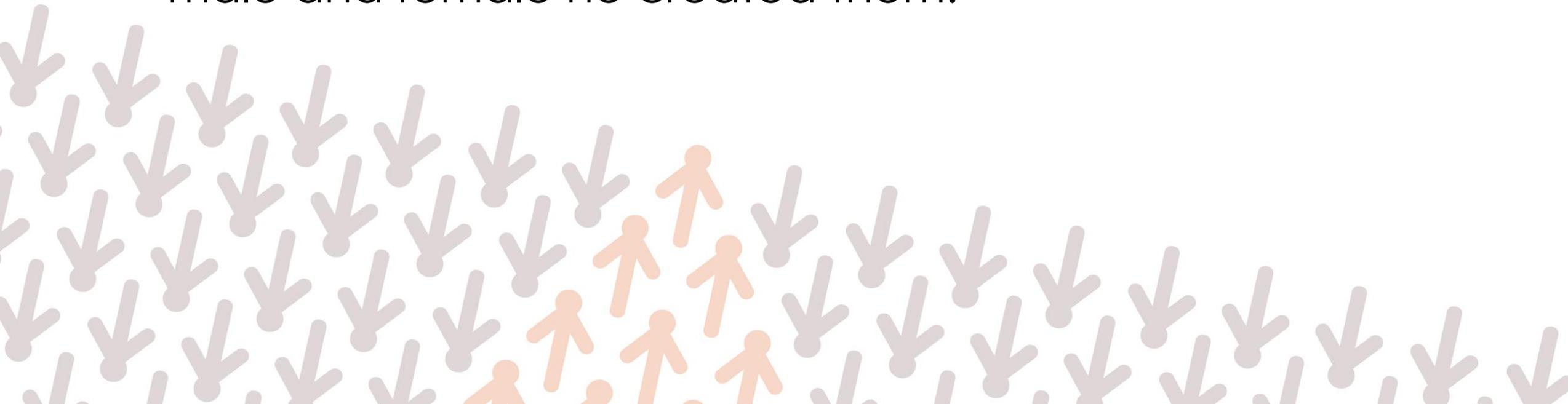
1. Thank God for marriage (Gen 2:18)

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”



2. Always show respect (Gen 1:27)

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.



3. Don't grow distant (1 Cor 7:5)

Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.



4. Fight as a team (Heb 12:14)

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.



5. Learn how to apologize (Luke 15:21)

“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”



6. Keep short accounts (1 Cor 13:5)

Love... does not count the wrongdoing...



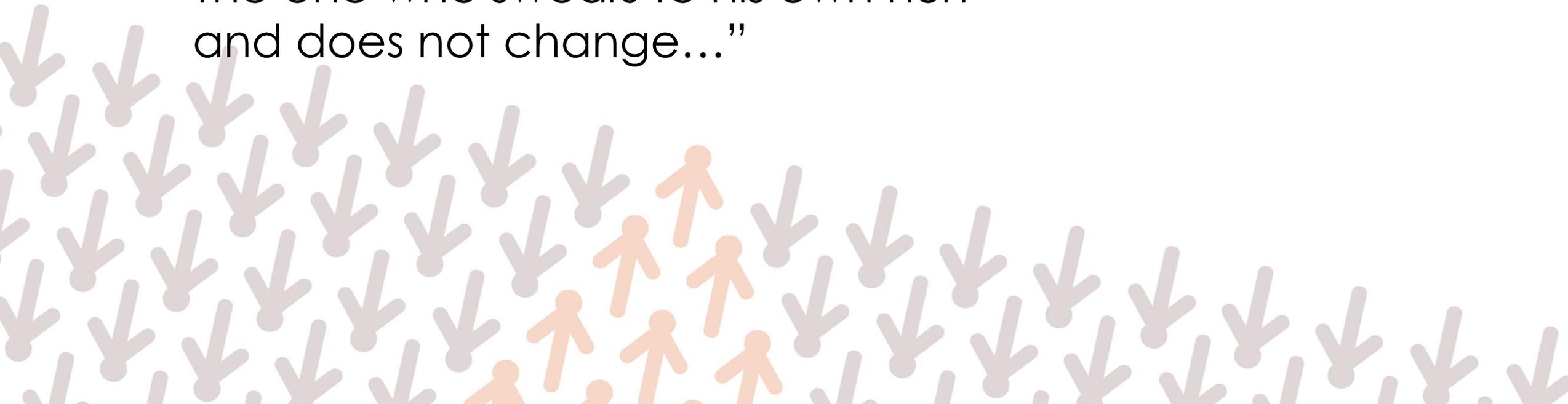
7. Ask for help early (Prov 18:24; Eccles 4:9–10)

Proverbs 18:24: A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10: ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

8. Remember your vows (Ps 15:1,4)

¹ O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
The one who swears to his own hurt
and does not change..."



9. Drink lots of gospel (Eph 4:32)

Ephesians 4:32: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



10. Remember the mystery (Eph 5:25)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...



COUNTER CULTURE
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Marriage, Divorce, and the Gospel of Jesus

Matthew 5:31–32



COUNTER CULTURE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

