

Matthew 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Analysis

Jesus declares marriage permanence: 'Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder' (Greek: ὥστε οὐκέτι εἰσὶν δύο ἀλλὰ σὰρξ μία, 'so they are no longer two but one flesh'). This quotes Genesis 2:24, establishing marriage as divine creation ordinance. The phrase 'one flesh' (σὰρξ μία) indicates profound union - physical, emotional, spiritual. 'What God has joined' makes God active agent in each marriage, not merely original institution. 'Let not man put asunder' (μὴ χωριζέτω) prohibits human dissolution of divine union. Marriage transcends human contract - it's covenant before God.

Historical Context

Jewish debate between Rabbi Hillel (divorce for any reason) and Rabbi Shammai (only for sexual immorality) forms background. Greco-Roman culture practiced easy divorce, especially men divorcing wives. Jesus returns to creation design (Genesis 1-2) before law's accommodation for hardness of heart (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). His teaching elevated marriage as sacred, permanent covenant, protecting women vulnerable to arbitrary divorce. Early church maintained high marriage standards despite cultural pressure, though debating remarriage exceptions.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's active role in marriage joining affect commitment?
2. What does 'one flesh' union mean beyond physical intimacy?
3. How should this teaching shape Christian approach to marriage struggles?

Interlinear Text

ὥστε	οὐκέτι	εἰσὶν	δύο	ἀλλὰ	σὰρξ	μία·	ὃ	οὖν
Wherefore	no more	they are	twain	but	flesh	G1520	What	therefore
G5620	G3765	G1526	G1417	G235	G4561		G3739	G3767
ὁ	θεὸς	συνέζευξεν	ἄνθρωπος	μὴ	χωριζέτω			
G3588	God	hath joined together	man	not	let			
	G2316	G4801	G444	G3361	G5563			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 10:9 (References God): What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Hebrews 13:4 (References God): Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Romans 7:2 (Parallel theme): For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

Ephesians 5:28 (Parallel theme): So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Malachi 2:14 (Parallel theme): Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Proverbs 2:17 (References God): Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

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