

**Leaving a Legacy of Blessing**  
**Part 5: A Loving Marriage**  
Matthew 5:31-32; 19:4-9

## 1. The Principles

<sup>4</sup>“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’<sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)

- a) God created marriage as one man and one woman (“male and female”);
- b) God designed spouses to experience **intimacy** (“the two become one flesh”);
- c) God ordains marriage as a covenant between the husband, wife, and the Lord (“what God has joined together”; see also Malachi 2:13-16);
- d) God intends marriage to last until **death** (“let no one separate”).

## 2. The Provisions

<sup>31</sup>“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’<sup>32</sup> But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 5:31-32 (NIV)

- Biblical provisions for divorce include a) “sexual immorality” (*porneia*, Matt. 5:32; 19:9); b) when one spouse becomes a believer and the lost spouse can no longer live with the believer, Paul says to let him or her go because “God has called us to live in peace” (1 Cor. 7:12-15).
- Nevertheless, God specifically says in Malachi 2:16 that He hates divorce, and Jesus adds that divorce was never God’s original plan (Matt. 19:8). A Christian should always go the **extra mile** in seeking reconciliation rather than permission to divorce.

## 3. The Pardon

<sup>32</sup>But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 5:32

- “Commits adultery” (v. 32) means a **one-time** act. Remarriage does not mean a lifestyle of adultery, for the old bond is broken and a new one has formed.
- We must uphold the sanctity of marriage in one hand and extend grace in the other. Divorce is a **tragedy** that hurts everyone involved. Jesus models a loving response in John 8:7-11.