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Section: Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q29. What is marriage?**

Marriage is a covenant relationship whereby God joins together one man and one woman into a one-flesh union designed to be faithful and last until the couple is separated by death.

**Quick Answers *(Try to get through this section quickly, one-word answers.)***

1. Fill in the blanks: Your pastors and group leaders are here to walk with \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you with current marriage struggles or past hurts stemming from divorce. We do this according to what God’s expressed will is, as found in His word (Scripture).
2. Fill in the blanks: The Core Pillars about Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage Found in Scripture:

-The one-flesh union created in marriage is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until the death of one of the spouses.

-Initiating or longing for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is never lawful.

-Remarrying after divorce is an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if a former spouse is living.

1. When considering the topic of divorce and remarriage, why is it important to understand that marriage is a Creation Ordinance?
* In what verse do we see marriage established as a Creation Ordinance?
* Fill in the blanks: In the Creation Ordinance, God declared that a married couple must “\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_” to each other because they have “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
1. When Paul explains the law of marriage in Romans 7:1-3, what does he teach is the one and only thing that releases spouses from the marriage covenant?
2. When Paul speaks to the ending of a marriage in 1 Corinthians 7:39, what does he teach is the one and only thing that releases spouses from the marriage covenant?
3. In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul teaches that the one-flesh union created in marriage is permanent until death and that initiating or longing for a divorce is never lawful. Whose teachings is Paul restating in this?

**Closer Look**

1. What audience is Matthew’s Gospel written to first and foremost?
* When Jesus was ministering and teaching before His death on the cross, what covenant was in place with Jews?
* What did the Old Covenant prescribe for those caught in sexual immorality?
* When the Jewish audience hears/reads what’s in Matthew’s Gospel, “whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery,” or the like in chapter 5, what would they think would end the marriage of one who has committed sexual immorality?
1. Why is it important to see all the verses we looked at tonight when considering marriage, divorce, and remarriage? What common truth/foundation do all of these inspired writers/speakers share and reassert?
2. Why is Eph. 5:31-32 extremely helpful when considering divorce & remarriage?

**Application**

1. The most important thing we can know about why we exist is that God made us to glorify Him. And we do that by trusting in Jesus, enjoying Him, treasuring Him above all else, growing in our knowledge of Him, obeying His commands, and by showing and telling the world how great He is.
* Why is this the most important thing we can know about why we exist?
* How does this help us live not for our own desires, but for God?
1. Based on what we see Scripture teaches, what should a married person do if their marriage is really difficult (or when their marriage gets really difficult)?
2. When Paul speaks very specifically to Christians who are married to unbelievers, he comforts them by saying you can have a clear conscience about now living single if an unbelieving spouse abandons you (i.e. forces a divorce that you don’t long for).
* Does he then give any permission for them to marry another? With the Creation Ordinance reality, does having a divorce forced on you actually end the one-flesh union created in marriage?
* If abandonment divorce happens, how should that Christian live? (Honor the marriage covenant on their end, or long for/seek a new spouse?)

Based on what we see Scripture teaches, what should a not-yet-remarried person who has had any *other* type of divorce do:

* about that past sin of divorce, in regard to God (their gracious Father)?
* about their current situation and heart/desires?
1. Based on what we see Scripture teaches, what should a person who has remarried while a former spouse was still living do:
* about that past sin of the act of committing adultery in the becoming married, in regard to God (their gracious Father)?
* about their current situation (the new marriage they are in)?