

Four Characteristics of Marriages that Get Well

3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'

5 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'?

6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. **Matthew 19:3-11**

Christ

At the beginning the Creator

They intentionally pursue **relationship** with Jesus, the creator of marriage.

Jesus points us back to Himself, His word, and His **purpose**.

Circle

Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard.

They stopped trying to **change** their spouse and started trying to **change** themselves.

Hardness of Heart means becoming unresponsive to the **word** and **will** of God.

Commitment

What God has joined together, let no one separate.

They become **ruthlessly** committed to marriage.

2/3 of unhappy couples who stayed together were happy **5 years** later.

Community

The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

They are fully **known** and **connected** to others within their church family.

The right **people** provide the right **influence**.

Final Thought

The **church** is the only place we'll learn to **live out** the four C's.