

THE KING'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE, PART 3

MATTHEW 19:7-9

Marriage is not a mere civil thing, but is partly spiritual and Divine, and therefore God alone has the power to appoint the beginning, the continuance, and the end thereof.

-A.W. Pink

I. The Pharisee's Challenge

II. The King's Correction

Into the Bible:

1. The Pharisees showed up to test Christ by seeking to force him into an interpretation of Deuteronomy 24:1. Jesus though had already faced this type of challenge (Matthew 4:6-7). The Pharisees' interpretation of the passage is a misguided attempt to turn a specific instance into a general rule—a logical fallacy. How many of our arguments with God run along the same lines—arguing semantics with the author of Scripture (Genesis 3:1) or trying to find exceptions that favor our desires? What does Christ do to cut through their “test”?

Application:

2. Christ sets an admittedly severe limit on divorce in verse 9 by appealing to God's ideal and original design for marriage. We can almost hear the Pharisees respond as Jesus' disciples did on an earlier occasion, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Sometimes God's standards for us seem not just difficult but impossible (Matthew 5:48). Where does this leave us? (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:1-2, I John 1:9)

For Families:

3. Talk with your children about the specialness of God's design for marriage and the family.