



## LESSON 4

# MARRIAGE REDEFINED

For a deeper study, read Chapter 12 of Rev. William Monday's book: [Rainbow Savior](#), pp.139-159.

1. **Agree or Disagree:** It's safe to assume that most Christians are united on the definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman for life.

### READ DEUTERONOMY 24:1-4

*If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, <sup>2</sup>and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, <sup>3</sup>and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, <sup>4</sup>then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the Lord. Do not bring sin upon the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.*

2. These verbally inspired words of Scripture don't seem to mesh with our Christian view of marriage and divorce. Why would God allow for this redefinition of marriage?

### READ MARK 10:1-12

<sup>2</sup> *Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"*

<sup>3</sup> *"What did Moses command you?" he replied.*

<sup>4</sup> *They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."*

<sup>5</sup> *"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. <sup>6</sup>"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

<sup>10</sup> *When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. <sup>11</sup>He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup>And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."*

3. How does Jesus explain the reason for this redefining?
4. Did you know that there are two schools of thought among LGBTQs about marriage? One is that it is good and right that marriage should be redefined, as we have now seen in our country. What do you suppose is the other thought and why might it be even more dangerous?
5. Why might many see the Bible as being outdated and no longer relevant on the topic of marriage?

6. Many today try to pit Scripture against Scripture, rather than simply letting it speak. This in fact is nothing new. The apostle Paul ran up against this in the form of the Judaizers, who were kinda-sorta Christians but kinda-sorta Old Testament law-abiding Jews. How is this half Christianity similar to what we see in the church today?

### **READ GALATIANS 3:24-25**

*<sup>24</sup> So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.*

7. What is the proper understanding of the purpose of Israel's Old Testament Laws?
8. Some would argue that Old Testament Laws were too cruel, inhumane, or just simply strange, and that this is reason enough to disregard any law found in Scripture. How would you respond to this claim?
9. Some will argue that the Bible is inconsistent and should be questioned because it allows for the redefinition of marriage through polygamy. How would you respond to this claim?
10. How do we determine what from the Old Testament applies and does not apply to Christians still today?

### **READ GENESIS 2:24**

*<sup>23</sup> The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

11. Compare this verse to Mark 10:6-9 which we read earlier. How do we apply #11 to marriage?

### **READ ACTS 17:30**

*<sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*

12. If anything, what should the comparison be to the Old Testament as far as attempts go to redefine marriage? (see also John 16:8)

### **READ GALATIANS 5:31-32**

*<sup>31</sup> "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>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*

13. Why, among other reasons, is it vital that we not try to ever redefine marriage?