Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

28 February 2016 Message 7 of 20

NLT 40 Minutes

**When You Say “I Don’t”**

Title

***Matthew 5:31-32***

**Topic:** Marriage

**Subject:** How can you defend marriage?

**Complement:** Guard against divorce.

**Purpose:** The listeners will commit never to divorce their spouse.

**Meditation:** God is faithful

**Reading:** Genesis 2:24

# Introduction

### Interest: Researchers have discovered that kids have interesting views on marriage. This is evident in their answers to some basic questions, such as…

Kids on Marriage

#### How Does a Person Decide Who to Marry?

Stick Family

##### "You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming." Allan, age 10

Allan

##### "No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you got to find out later who you're stuck with." Kirsten, age 10

• God…

No person

• Handcuff

#### How Can a Stranger Tell if Two People are Married?

Sunset Play

##### "Married people usually look happy to talk to other people." Eddie, age 6

Yellers

Dinner

Single or Married

Girl on sidewalk

Lies

##### "You might have to guess based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." Derrick, age 8

#### What Do Most People Do on a Date?

##### "Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough." Lynnette, age 8

##### "On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date." Martin, age 10

#### The Great Debate: Is It Better to Be Single or Married?

##### "It's better for girls to be single but not for boys.

Single Jesus

Single   
Lady

##### Boys need somebody to clean up after them!" Anita, age 9

### Need: These kids don’t seem to be great at defending marriage. How about you? Do you personally defend marriage?

Family Hands

#### As marriage goes, so goes the family. As the family goes, so goes society. As the society goes, so goes humanity.

Saying  
(5 slides)

#### Although single, Jesus knew that the state of marriage is the single most important human relationship.

#### Therefore, when marriage was attacked, we will see today that Jesus was quick to come to its defence.

### Background: Most Jewish teachers of Jesus’ day influenced first-century Jews to justify divorce for many silly reasons.

Jesus & Pharisees

6 Basics

Trouble

#### In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives six ways his teaching goes higher than the mere external observances of the Pharisees (Matt 5:21-48).

#### After warning of anger leading to murder (5:21-26) and warning of lust that leads to adultery (5:27-30), he now turns to protecting the oldest institution ever—marriage (5:31-32).

#### It’s pretty obvious that marriage is in trouble today.

#### Yet one lady said wisely, “I want the kind of marriage that makes my kids want to get married.” Isn’t that great?

Hugging

#### I realize that many of us here are single, but don’t tune out. You need God’s view of marriage as much as the rest of us. In fact, those of us married can’t change that decision, but you singles can do something about the person you marry—so listen in to what Jesus says!

Don’t tune out shadow

### Subject: We know that God has a high view of marriage, but how can you defend marriage?

Rings

• 2 ways

### Preview: Today we will see two ways we can defend marriage like Jesus.

### Text: The two verses of Matthew 5:31-32 are among the most important verses in the Bible on marriage.

• Mt 5

31

MP

Domino on Orange

Free to Remarry

Title

Title

(So what’s the first way that you can defend marriage?)

# I. Don’t let marriage be devalued (5:31).

[Protect marriage from people out to destroy it.]

## Jewish leaders attacked marriage by supporting frivolous divorce (5:31).

Torn   
Family

### Jesus’ listeners knew that the divorce certificate protected wives from frivolous divorce (5:31a).

#### The main OT stipulation on marriage was the command that a man divorcing his wife had to give her a written certificate of divorce (Deut. 24:1). But *why* was this commanded?

#### Some societies think so poorly of women (and marriage) that a simple verbal declaration of divorce dissolves the marriage. This leads to ambiguity on whether a man said it, which persons heard it as witnesses, and a host of other problems. The result was that some wives did not even know if they were married anymore!

#### But God commanded that women needed the protection of a written statement that they were being divorced. This clarified in her mind and her family’s mind whether such a divorce did indeed occur—and it granted her the right of remarriage.

What About Remarriage

### Pharisees used this OT protection to justify their frivolous divorces (5:31b).

Love Cake Divided

#### Also related to this was the question, what were the allowable *grounds* for divorce? By the time we get to the first century, the Jewish leaders had a divided opinion.

#### The rabbinic school of Hillel was quite liberal. They taught that divorce was allowed for just about any reason—sexual unfaithfulness, of course, but also lesser charges such as being a bad cook, looking old, or whatever.

• Hillel  
(2 anim.)

#### However, the opposing rabbinic school of Shammai was more conservative. They taught that sexual promiscuity alone was reason for divorce.

• Shammai  
(2 anim.)

#### Later, in Matthew 19, the leaders put the question to Jesus which school he favored. But here in Matthew 5 Jesus brings the issue up himself and turns the tables on not upholding divorce but upholding marriage.

Rings

## We must defend marriage today from attacks.

Bride Hits Groom

### The best way you can protect marriage from attackers is to live out the life of Christ in your marriage.

Manning Quote

Cuddling Couple

#### Do you show a selfless attitude in your marriage?

#### How do you speak about your spouse before others?

Watch your talk

### You can also teach others what the Bible says about marriage to guard against the misinterpretations others have.

Warning Sign

#### What is marriage? Has God’s original design changed?

Heads  
(2 slides)

No Fault Divorce

#### Is there really divorce where no one is at fault? We have been duped into thinking that the issue is *finding the right person who is compatible* rather than blessing the spouse that we are with.

#### Some teach that Christian marriage is the husband as king and the wife as slave.

#### Tell them it’s more like the difference between the Prime Minister and the President.

Subject

(How can you defend marriage? Don’t let it be devalued, but now we see one of the most important ways to preserve it in the next verse.)

MPI

# II. Defend marriage against adultery (5:32).

MP

[The way to preserve the marital union is by keeping sex within marriage.]

## Jesus defended marriage by prohibiting divorce unless promiscuity had led to adultery (5:32).

32

### Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce leads to adultery unless preceded by sexual unfaithfulness (5:32a).

#### When Jesus said, “But I say…” was he disagreeing with the OT (32a)?

#### No, Jesus didn't actually contradict the Scripture. What Jesus did was to prohibit the Pharisees from using a law that *managed* divorce in order to *encourage* divorce.

### Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce also leads to adultery for the person who marries the divorcee (5:32b).

Arrows

#### How does a man divorcing his wife cause her to commit adultery (32b)?

Man at Sunset

##### God made marriage for life and considers us married to our spouse until death. The only exception is when there exists a biblically allowed divorce.

##### Without such a God-approved reason for divorce, a woman who remarries (which is assumed she will do) commits adultery since she is—in the sight of God—still married to her first husband.

#### What is the exception clause *porneia* referring to (32c)?

Porneia & 5:32a

##### This is obviously different from adultery since it’s a different word.

##### The translations vary on how to refer it (explain).

Translations

##### Those married have made a vow.

Vow

##### The word *porneia* refers to a variety of sexual sins. It includes adultery, but also homosexuality and other types of sexual sins.

Cake

#### How is it that a man who marries a divorcee commits adultery (32d)?

Man & Phone

##### In God’s opinion—which is the one that matters most—a woman who is not legitimately divorced is obviously still married to her first husband.

##### That means that a second man who has sex with her becomes an adulterer, as he enters into a sexual relationship with another man’s wife.

## We need to help marriages in trouble.

Karate

### As singles, we must commit ourselves to sex only within marriage.

Virgins Until Wed

#### In 1900 in the USA about 1% of people fornicated.

Fornication Rate

#### In 2014 the number had increased to 95% who admitted it (*USA Today*).

Song of Songs

• 1%  
• 95%

#### The repeated refrain in the Song of Songs is, “Do not arouse love until it so desires.” That means in simple terms: be patient.

Madison  
(2 slides)

### Realize adultery is a huge problem (Ashley Madison)

Prov 6

### Realize adultery is about the stupidest thing you could do.

### Put safeguards in your own marriage to guard your own purity.

Safeguard Marriage

#### Start with your thoughts (listen again to last week’s message).

Swindoll Quote

#### Use the Google search only on “strict” mode. Train your advertisers not to put suggestive images in your sidebar.

Search   
(3 slides)

### Get close enough to others to really help them.

Relation-ships

#### Ladies Bible Study develops discipline in the Word and relationships of mutual encouragement to help each other.

Ladies

#### Man2Man every other Thursday offers accountability to other men.

Man2Man

#### Meet people individually in this church for prayer and share.

Subj.

(How can you defend marriage?)

# Conclusion

MI

### Guard against divorce (MI).

MPI

MPII

### How can you defend marriage? Remembers these Main Points:

#### Don’t let marriage be devalued (5:31).

#### Defend marriage against adultery (5:32).

### Exhortation: MARRIAGE do the small things for intimacy

Heart from Ring

When I got home that night as my wife served dinner, I held her hand and said, “I've something to tell you.” She sat down and ate quietly.

Again I observed the hurt in her eyes.  Suddenly I didn't know how to open my mouth. But I had to let her know what I was thinking. “I want a divorce...” I raised the topic calmly.

She didn't seem to be annoyed by my words. Instead she asked me softly, “Why?”

I avoided her question. This made her angry. She threw away the chopsticks and shouted at me, “You are not a man!” That night, we didn't talk to each other. She was weeping. I knew she wanted to find out what had happened to our marriage. But I could hardly give her a satisfactory answer; she had lost my heart to Diane. I didn't love her anymore. I just pitied her!

With a deep sense of guilt, I drafted a divorce agreement that stated that she could own our house, our car, and 30% stake of my company.

She glanced at it and then tore it into pieces. The woman who had spent ten years of her life with me had become a stranger. I felt sorry for her wasted time, resources and energy but I could not take back what I had said for I loved Diane so dearly. Finally she cried loudly in front of me, which was what I had expected to see. To me her cry was actually a kind of release. The idea of divorce which had obsessed me for several weeks seemed to be firmer and clearer now.

The next day, I came back home very late and found her writing something at the table. I didn't have supper but went straight to sleep and fell asleep very fast because I was tired after an eventful day with Diane. When I woke up, she was still there at the table writing. I just did not care so I turned over and was asleep again.

In the morning she presented her divorce conditions: she didn't want anything from me, but needed a month's notice before the divorce. She requested that in that one month we both struggle to live as normal a life as possible. Her reasons were simple: our son had his exams in a month's time and she didn't want to disrupt him with our broken marriage.

This was agreeable to me. But she had something more, she asked me to recall how I had carried her out of the bridal room on our wedding day. She requested that everyday for the month's duration I carry her out of our bedroom to the front door every morning. I thought she was going crazy. Just to make our last days together bearable I accepted her odd request.

I told Diane about my wife's divorce conditions. She laughed loudly and thought it was absurd. “No matter what tricks she applies, she has to face the divorce,” she said scornfully. My wife and I hadn't had any body contact since my divorce intention was explicitly expressed. So when I carried her out on the first day, we both appeared clumsy. Our son clapped behind us, “Daddy is holding mummy in his arms.” His words brought me a sense of pain. From the bedroom to the sitting room, then to the door, I walked over ten meters with her in my arms. She closed her eyes and said softly “Don't tell our son about the divorce.” I nodded, feeling somewhat upset. I put her down outside the door. She went to wait for the bus to work. I drove alone to the office.

On the second day, both of us acted much more easily. She leaned on my chest. I could smell the fragrance of her blouse. I realized that I hadn't looked at this woman carefully for a long time... I realized she was not young any more. There were fine wrinkles on her face; her hair was graying! Our marriage had taken its toll on her. For a minute I wondered what I had done to her.

On the fourth day, when I lifted her up, I felt a sense of intimacy returning. This was the woman who had given ten years of her life to me. On the fifth and sixth day, I realized that our sense of intimacy was growing again. I didn't tell Diane about this. It became easier to carry her as the month slipped by. Perhaps the everyday workout made me stronger.

She was choosing what to wear one morning. She tried on quite a few dresses but could not find a suitable one. Then she sighed, “All my dresses have grown bigger.” I suddenly realized that she had grown so thin, that was the reason why I could carry her more easily. Suddenly it hit me... she had buried so much pain and bitterness in her heart. Subconsciously I reached out and touched her head.

Our son came in at the moment and said, “Dad, it's time to carry mum out.” To him, seeing his father carrying his mother out had become an essential part of his life. My wife gestured to our son to come closer and hugged him tightly. I turned my face away because I was afraid I might change my mind at this last minute. I then held her in my arms, walking from the bedroom, through the sitting room, to the hallway. Her hand surrounded my neck softly and naturally. I held her body tightly; it was just like our wedding day.

But her much lighter weight made me sad. On the last day, when I held her in my arms I could hardly move a step. Our son had gone to school. I held her tightly and said, “I hadn't noticed that our life lacked intimacy.” I drove to office.... jumped out of the car swiftly without locking the door. I was afraid any delay would make me change my mind... I walked upstairs. Diane opened the door and I said to her, “Sorry, Diane, I do not want the divorce anymore.”

She looked at me, astonished, and then touched my forehead. “Do you have a fever?” she said. I moved her hand off my head. “Sorry, Diane,” I said, “I won't divorce. My marriage life was boring probably because she and I didn't value the details of our lives, not because we didn't love each other any more. Now I realize that since I carried her into my home on our wedding day I am supposed to hold her until death do us part.”

Diane seemed to suddenly wake up. She gave me a loud slap and then slammed the door and burst into tears. I walked downstairs and drove away. At the floral shop on the way, I ordered a bouquet of flowers for my wife. The salesgirl asked me what to write on the card. I smiled and wrote, “I'll carry you out every morning until death do us part.”

That evening I arrived home, flowers in my hands, a smile on my face. I ran up the stairs, only to find my wife in the bed—dead... I cried and cried uncontrollably and carried her for the last time from the room to the hall with tears streaming down my face and gazing at my only son. Seeing his tears rolling from his eyes made me cry even more. I had lost my love, my wife and a loving and caring mother and I could do nothing now to put the clock backward. I had all the time now to look at her motionless body in detail but I knew it was going to be only for a short while until she made her last journey... I held my son and wept again and again, thinking of all the things I did not do for her when she was still alive... and gently placed the flowers in her hands with my tears trickling on them... She was gone forever; all my tears would not bring her back.

The small details of your lives are what really matter in a relationship. It is not the mansion, the car, property, the money in the bank... blah... blah… blah. These create an environment conducive for happiness but cannot give happiness in themselves. So find time to be your spouse's friend and do those little things for each other that build intimacy.

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives six ways his teaching goes higher than the mere external observances of the Pharisees (Matt 5:21-48).

### After warning of anger leading to murder (5:21-26) and warning of lust that leads to adultery (5:27-30), he now turns to protecting the oldest institution ever—marriage (5:31-32).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### As marriage goes, so goes the family. As the family goes, so goes society. As the society goes, so goes humanity.

### Although single, Jesus knew that the state of marriage is the single most important human relationship.

### Therefore, when marriage was attacked, Jesus was quick to come to its defence.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The main OT stipulation on marriage was the command that a man divorcing his wife had to give her a written certificate of divorce (Deut. 24:1). But *why* was this commanded?

#### Some societies think so poorly of women (and marriage) that a simple verbal declaration of divorce dissolves the marriage. This leads to ambiguity on whether a man said it, which persons heard it as witnesses, and a host of other problems. The result was that some wives did not even know if they were married anymore!

#### But God commanded that women needed the protection of a written statement that they were being divorced. This clarified in her mind and her family’s mind whether such a divorce did indeed occur.

### Also related to this was the answer to the question, what were the allowable *grounds* for divorce? By the time we get to the first century, the Jewish leaders had a divided opinion.

#### The rabbinic school of Hillel was quite liberal. They taught that divorce was allowed for just about any reason—sexual unfaithfulness, of course, but also lesser charges such as being a bad cook, looking old, or whatever.

#### However, the opposing rabbinic school of Shammai was more conservative. They taught that sexual promiscuity alone was reason for divorce.

#### Later, in Matthew 19, the leaders put the question to Jesus which school he favored. But here in Matthew 5 Jesus brings the issue up himself and turns the tables on not upholding divorce but upholding marriage.

# Questions

### Where was this written certificate mentioned (31a)?

### Could a Jewish woman divorce her husband (31b)?

#### The OT actually does not address this issue.

#### However, this was not allowed by tradition in a matriarchal society.

### Why did God command men to produce a written certificate (31)?

### What did the people of Jesus’ time think about this law (31)? Was it being followed?

### When Jesus said, “But I say…” was he disagreeing with the OT (32a)?

#### Jesus didn't actually contradict the Scripture.

#### What Jesus did was to prohibit the Pharisees from using a law that *managed* divorce in order to *encourage* divorce.

### How does a man divorcing his wife cause her to commit adultery (32b)?

#### God made marriage for life and considers us married to our spouse until death. The only exception is when there exists a biblically allowed divorce.

#### Without such a God-approved reason for divorce, a woman who remarries (which is assumed she will do) commits adultery since she is—in the sight of God—still married to her first husband.

### What is the exception clause *porneia* referring to (32c)?

#### This is obviously different from adultery since it’s a different word.

#### The word *porneia* refers to a variety of sexual sins. It includes adultery, but also homosexuality and other types of sexual sins.

### How is it that a man who marries a divorcee commits adultery (32d)?

#### In God’s opinion—which is the one that matters most—a woman who is not legitimately divorced is obviously still married to her first husband.

#### That means that a second man who has sex with her becomes an adulterer, as he enters into a sexual relationship with another man’s wife.

### Does the adultery here refer to a constant *state* of perpetual adultery or a single *act* of adultery?

#### It argues more than the text is saying to refer to this as a continual state of adultery.

#### The idea is that this first sexual act is adulterous. However, it seems to me that subsequent sex is not deemed adulterous to God.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

MARRIAGE bonding with God bonds with one another

[The Science of Romantic Relationships](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=c802aec8de&e=aa849ca33b)

Contributor: [Illustration Exchange](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=f038ae3e79&e=aa849ca33b)

Topics: [Romance](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=11bc06e4ef&e=aa849ca33b) - [Relationships](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=8310192ceb&e=aa849ca33b) - [God's Love](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=2f13255805&e=aa849ca33b)

In her newly released book, *Love Sense: The Revolutionary New Science of Romantic Relationships*, psychologist and popular relationship therapist Sue Johnson suggests that feeling like a team of two is generally the key to happiness. “She makes the case,” reports Laura Landro for the WALL STREET JOURNAL, “that adult romantic love is an ‘attachment bond’ just like the one between mother and child, but one that can be securely cemented without the genetic link.”

As a part of her “Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy,” Johnson will often have couples engage in bond building exercises. In one, for example, she asks couples to stand facing each other, noses touching. She then instructs them to try to bring their breathing into sync with one another.

**Application**:

Do you and your significant other work together like a team? If breathing exercises can be effective in bringing a couple into greater harmony with one another, imagine how "securely cemented" their relationship might be if the bonding agent were the shared experiences of God's love. It's the spiritual science of romance--two people who breathe in sync with God automatically begin to breathe in sync with each other.

 "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).

Illustration Exchange 14 Feb 2014

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# Possible Applications

### Text

# Life of Christ Outline of Christ's Authority to Interpret the Law

**§§ 54-56**

# *Exegetical Idea*: In response to the crowds' interest in the righteousness necessary for kingdom entrance, Christ's Sermon on the Mount shows the holiness of God by teaching the characteristics of the kingdom's subjects, His superiority over the Law, and instruction to those entering the kingdom in order to discredit Pharisaic righteousness and to offer Himself as the sole basis for kingdom entrance (Matt 5:1–7:29; Luke 6:17-42).

# *Exegetical Idea*: The traits of those who trust Christ as King in the Sermon on the Mount are holiness and trust in Christ’s authority over the Law and oral tradition (Matt 5:1–7:29; Luke 6:17-42).

# I. The Subjects of the Kingdom § 54: People entering Messiah's kingdom should show holiness instead of mere Pharisaical observances (Matt 5:1-16; Luke 6:17-26).

## The response a holy believer should have to the benefits and persecution related to trusting Christ as King is joy (Matt 5:1-12).

### The setting of the sermon shows Jesus taking the role of a rabbi to teach the disciples the response of those embracing him as king (Matt 5:1-2; Luke 6:17-19).

#### Jesus saw the crowds and sat down on a mountainside (1a).

#### Jesus began teaching his disciples who showed initiative to listen (1b-2).

### The benefits of trusting Christ as King are many (Matt 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26).

#### *Depending on God* leads to a **rich experience of life** (5:3).

#### *Admitting our needs* leads to **receiving God’s comfort** (5:4).

#### *Humility* now brings **honor in the millennial kingdom** (5:5).

#### *Holiness* gives a **deep satisfaction** in life (5:6).

#### *Showing mercy* to others leads to **receiving mercy from God** (5:7).

#### A *pure lifestyle* results in **seeing God in our lives** today (5:8).

#### *Making peace* with others enables us to **be God’s channel** (5:9).

#### *Persecution for Christ* gives us a **rich experience of life** (5:10-11).

### The response a believer should have towards persecution is joy over his heavenly reward and identification with persecuted OT prophets (5:12).

## The way believers should bless others is to direct them to God (Matt 5:13-16).

### The way believers should bless others is by helping them hunger for God (5:13).

#### Christians function like salt to create hunger for God in others (5:13a).

#### Christians who don’t create a hunger for God in others are useless (5:13b).

### The way believers should bless others is by helping them praise God by the good works they do (5:14-16).

#### Christians are lights to show people to God (5:14a).

#### A city on a hill and a lamp help others see the way to go (5:14b-15).

#### Be “light” through good deeds to help others praise God (5:16).

# II. The Relation of the King to the Law § 55: Christ rejects the Pharisaic views of the law that the disciples might know the proper type of righteousness necessary to enter the kingdom (Matt 5:17–7:6; Luke 6:27-42).

## The way believers will be rewarded is by obeying and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament until all it says about Jesus comes true (5:17-20).

### The time the OT will disappear is when all it prophesies about Jesus comes true (5:17-18).

#### Jesus came to fulfill the OT rather than abolish it (5:17).

#### The OT won’t disappear until every prophecy about Christ is fulfilled in the eternal state (5:18).

### The way believers will be rewarded is by obeying and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament (5:19-20).

#### Our level of millennial rewards depends on practicing and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament (5:19).

#### We won’t even enter the millennium apart from internal holiness in Christ rather than external piety of the Pharisees (5:20).

## Christ rejected the Pharisaic righteousness as unable to bring one into the kingdom to teach that the second table of the law demanding proper conduct towards others should also be followed (Matt 5:21-48).

### **Murder**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only preserve life but will avoid the anger, hatred and poor relationships that eventually lead to murder (Matt 5:21-26).

### **Adultery**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only be faithful to his spouse but will shun the lust that causes adultery (Matt 5:27-30).

### **Divorce**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only never divorce his wife without legal documentation but will never divorce his wife at all lest this cause her and her future husband to both commit adultery when she remarries (Matt 5:31-32).

### **Oaths**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only take oaths when affirming something which could be taken in more than one way but will have trustworthy speech at all times so oath-taking becomes unnecessary (Matt 5:33-37).

### **Retaliation**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not demand his right for retaliation but give up such rights as a characteristic of righteousness and godliness (Matt 5:38-42).

### **Love**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only love his neighbor who will repay favors but will love his enemy as well who will never repay favors (Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-30, 32-36).

## Christ rejected six Pharisaic practices of the law that misconstrued its real intent to instruct why Pharisaic righteousness is not able to bring one into the kingdom since their hypocritical practices were directed man-ward for a reputation of piety rather than God-ward in true righteousness (Matt 6:1–7:6; Luke 6:37-42).

### Almsgiving: Public almsgiving of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed to **demonstrate** piety rather than to demonstrate the love of God by meeting a need (Matt 6:1-4).

### **Prayer**: Public prayer of the Pharisees for human approval is repudiated for being performed to demonstrate piety and private prayer is encouraged which includes worship, supplication for God's work and personal needs, confession, prayer for protection and a forgiving spirit (Matt 6:5-15).

### **Fasting**: Public fasting of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed to demonstrate piety rather than done privately before God to receive reward only from Him (Matt 6:16-18).

### **Eternal Investments**: Hoarding wealth as a sign of God's approval by the Pharisees is repudiated for being only temporary and making eternal investments is encouraged since they last into eternity and cannot be lost (Matt 6:19-24).

### **Worry**: Lack of faith by the Pharisees shown in trusting accumulated money is repudiated by an encouragement to replace worry about food and clothing with trust in God's daily provisions as one seeks the kingdom's arrival (Matt 6:25-34).

### **Judging**: Setting oneself up as judges and as the standard of judgment of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed by claiming knowledge of the motive behind the action whereas God's righteousness demanded that one not judge until his own life has been purified (Matt 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42).

# III. Instruction to Those Who Would Enter the Kingdom § 56: Christ knew that, in spite of the Pharisees' rejection, some would receive His teaching and would want to know how to enter the kingdom so He instructs those who desire to enter the kingdom in some pertinent areas (Matt 7:7-29).

## **Persistent prayer** will be answered because of God's nature as a Father makes sure His children's needs are met, not because of the endless repetitions of the Pharisees (Matt 7:7-12; Luke 6:31, 43-45).

## **The invitation to receive Christ** and enter the kingdom is given by declaring that He alone is the true, narrow way of access, not the false, broad way of the Pharisees that ultimately ended in exclusion from the kingdom and destruction (Matt 7:13-14).

## **False prophets** like the Pharisees have unrighteous lifestyles and will be judged because, while outwardly they fulfilled the requirements of the law, inwardly they lacked the relationship with the King that was the requisite for entrance into the kingdom (Matt 7:15-23).

## **Another invitation** to reject Pharisaism and accept Christ is given in a contrast between one who accepts the King's word and trusts His person and one who rejects His words and person, thus revealing that the destiny of those who hear Christ's words would be determined by their response to His message (Matt 7:24–8:1; Luke 6:46-49).

**When You Say “I Don’t”**

***Matthew 5:31-32***

**Divorce**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only never divorce his wife without legal documentation but will never divorce his wife at all lest this cause her and her future husband to both commit adultery when she remarries (Matt 5:31-32)

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way Jesus protected marriage against attack by the Jewish leaders was to prohibit frivolous divorce.

# I. The way Jewish leaders attacked marriage was to use a marriage protection as an excuse for frivolous divorce (5:31).

## Jesus’ listeners knew that the divorce certificate protected wives from frivolous divorce (5:31a).

## Pharisees used this OT protection to justify their frivolous divorces (5:31b).

# II. The way Jesus defended marriage was to prohibit divorce unless promiscuity had led to adultery (5:32).

## Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce leads to adultery unless preceded by sexual unfaithfulness (5:32a).

## Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce also leads to adultery for the person who marries the divorcee (5:32b).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will commit never to divorce their spouse.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Kids have interesting views on marriage.

### Need: Do you personally defend marriage?

### Subject: How can you defend marriage?

### Background: Most Jewish teachers of Jesus’ day influenced first-century Jews to justify divorce for many silly reasons.

### Preview: Today we will see two ways we can defend marriage like Jesus.

### Text: The two verses of Matthew 5:31-32 are among the most important verses in the Bible on marriage.

(So what’s the first way that you can defend marriage?)

# I. Don’t let marriage be devalued (5:31).

## Jewish leaders attacked marriage by supporting frivolous divorce (5:31).

### Jesus’ listeners knew that the divorce certificate protected wives from frivolous divorce (5:31a).

### Pharisees used this OT protection to justify their frivolous divorces (5:31b).

## We must defend marriage today from attacks.

(How can you defend marriage? Don’t let it be devalued, but now we see one of the most important ways to preserve it.)

# II. Defend marriage against adultery (5:32).

## Jesus defended marriage by prohibiting divorce unless promiscuity had led to adultery (5:32).

### Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce leads to adultery unless preceded by sexual unfaithfulness (5:32a).

### Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce also leads to adultery for the person who marries the divorcee (5:32b).

## We need to help marriages in trouble.

(How can you defend marriage?)

# Conclusion

### Guard against divorce (MI).

### Main Points

### Exhortation/Application

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**Rick Griffith**

28 February 2016

Message 7 of 20

**When You Say “I Don’t”**

***Matthew 5:31-32***

# Introduction

### Question: How can you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ marriage?

### Background: Most Jewish teachers of Jesus’ day influenced first-century Jews to justify divorce for many silly reasons.

# I. Don’t let marriage be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:31).

## Jewish leaders attacked marriage by supporting frivolous divorce (5:31).

### Jesus’ listeners knew that the divorce certificate protected wives from frivolous divorce (5:31a).

### Pharisees used this OT protection to justify their frivolous divorces (5:31b).

## We must defend marriage today from attacks.

# II. Defend marriage against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:32).

## Jesus defended marriage by prohibiting divorce unless promiscuity had led to adultery (5:32).

### Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce leads to adultery unless preceded by sexual unfaithfulness (5:32a).

### Jesus honored marriage by declaring that divorce also leads to adultery for the person who marries the divorcee (5:32b).

## We need to help marriages in trouble.

(How can you defend marriage?)

# Conclusion

### Guard against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea).

### Thought questions (please answer these below).

**Thought Questions**

1. What one, single thing can you begin to do *today* to better assure that you have a life-long, satisfying marriage?

Text

Text

Text

Text

1. With whom should you share this new goal?

Text

Text

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