

Divorce, Remarriage, and the Grace of God

Matthew 5:31-32 Small Group Questions

- (1) From your perspective, how come divorce and remarriage is such an avoided topic in many churches and also one on which many theologians and pastors disagree?
- (2) Read Matthew 5:27-32.
 - (a) How does Jesus' teaching on divorce and remarriage connect with what He discussed just before in vv 27-30?
 - (b) How does Jesus' discussion with the Pharisees and His disciples in Matthew 19:1-12 connect with what He says in Matthew 5:31-32? (In other words, what observations do we see about Jesus' view of marriage, divorce, and singleness in Matthew 19?)
- (3) How come it is important for us to recognize that Jesus is talking to Christians in the Sermon on the Mount? (Or put another way, Jesus is talking to those who have been believed the Gospel in repentant faith, not to those who are simply looking to live moral lives apart from God's grace.) How should that Gospel-centeredness frame every discussion about divorce and remarriage?
- (4) As a group, discuss your way through point II from the sermon outline ("Understanding God's Word on Divorce and Remarriage").
 - (a) Where do we see each of these points arising from the Scripture Texts that were cited?
 - (b) How come it is important for all believers – not only those who are married, divorced, or remarried – to understand what God has to say about this difficult subject?
- (5) *{This question may be a very sensitive one depending on who is in your group. Please use wisdom and sensitivity in navigating the discussion. Leaders, if you think there is a better way to frame the question or a different question that would be helpful for shepherding the people in your group, feel free to modify as you think best!}*

How can we as a church most faithfully nurture, support, and love fellow believers who...

- ... are single because they have never been married?
- ... are married?
- ... are single through the pain of divorce?
- ... are remarried?
- ... are single through the pain of widowhood?