**“You Know What They Say…”** *\*\*Series Graphic\*\**

**Part 1**: …Do not murder.

**Part 2**: …Do not commit adultery.

(Matthew 5:31-32)

“It has been said, ‘Anyone who **divorces** his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who **divorces** his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Destroy the **family**, destroy the **church**, destroy the **community**, destroy the **nation**.

God wants to:

Heal the **family**, heal the **church**, heal the **community**, heal the **nation**.

(Malachi 2:13-16) NLT

“Here is another thing you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn’t accept them with pleasure. You cry out, “Why doesn’t the Lord accept my worship?” I’ll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been **unfaithful to her**, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.”

**“**Didn’t the Lord make you **one** with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So **guard your heart**; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. “**For I hate divorce!**” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “**So guard your heart**; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

(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, and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, 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, then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to **marry her again** after she has been defiled.”

(Matthew 19:3-6)

“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?” “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ 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’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what **God has joined together, let no one separate**.”

 Jesus points out: **In the beginning.**

 **Divorce**: to cut, sever, the ripping apart of flesh.

(Matthew 19:7)
“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

(Matthew 19:8-9)

“Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives **because your hearts were hard**. But it was not this way from the beginning. **I tell you** that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

 Jesus’ teaching was seen as **extremely strict** by all who heard it.

(Matthew 19:10)

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

 **1st Century debate:** Hillel vs. Shammai

**Marital Unfaithfulness**: anytime someone is breaking the basic agreement with their spouse in an unrepentant pattern.

1. **One** to one
2. **Two** to one.
3. **Spiritual leaders** to one.

You do **everything** you can possibly do.

(1 Corinthians 7:10-16)

“To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): **A wife must not separate from her husband**. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And **a husband must not divorce his wife**.

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is **not** a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must **not** divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is **not** a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must **not** divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the **unbeliever leaves, let it be so**. The brother or the sister **is not bound** in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will **save** your husband? Or, how to you know, husband, whether you will **save** your wife?”

Is divorce a **sin**?

(Jeremiah 3:6-8)

“During the reign of King Josiah, the Lord said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has **committed adultery** there. I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her **certificate of divorce** and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.”

 **God hates divorce** because he knows the pain of divorce.

 **Divorce does not disqualify you** anymore than it would disqualify God.

What now?

1. If you’re married: **remain loyal to your spouse**. Be resolute.
2. Use **every resource** to fix relational problems.
3. **Never look down** on those that have experienced the pain of divorce.
4. If you’ve been through divorce: forgive and heal.
5. If you’re divorced and remarried and your **unsure** you rightfully divorced: repent and choose to be resolute in your new marriage.