

10 September 2017 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Ez. 33: 7–11; Ps. 119:33–40; Ro. 13:8–14; Mt. 18:15–20.

Theme: *What God has joined together* - **Mark 10:6-9**, “At the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘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.”



I. THE FOUNDATION: THE GOODNESS OF GOD.

Marriage was God’s idea, out of the goodness of His own heart.

Genesis 2:18, “It is not good that the man should be alone.”

Gen. 2:18, “I will make him a helper **fit for him**.” = *like his opposite*.

Mark 10:6, “God ‘made them **male and female**.’”

Genesis 2:21-22, “The Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping... he brought her to the man.”

Cf. Genesis 3:1, 6, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’? ... When the woman saw that **the fruit of the tree was good** for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.” **1**

Corinthians 3:11, “No one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.”



II. THE BLUEPRINT: LEAVE THEN CLEAVE.

A. LEAVING.

Mark 10:7, “For **this reason** a man will **leave** his father and mother.”

Proverbs 30:21-23, “Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up: **an unloved woman** when she gets a husband.”

John 3:16, “For God so **loved** the world...”

Matthew 10:37-39, “Anyone who loves their father or mother **more than me** is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter

more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and **follow me** is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”



B. CLEAVING.

Mark 10:7, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be united (**hold fast**) to his wife.”

Genesis 15:9-10, 18, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” Abram brought all these to him, **cut them in two** and arranged the halves opposite each other... On that day the Lord made **a covenant** with Abram.”



III. THE GOAL: ONENESS.

Mark 10:8, “the two shall become **one flesh**. So they are no longer two but **one flesh**.”

John 17:22-23, “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be **one** even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become **perfectly one**, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

CONCLUSION: WARNING. C.S. Lewis. Mark Sayers. Matthew 19:10-11, “The disciples said to him, ‘If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not (*it is not expedient*) to marry.’ But he said to them, ‘Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.’” It is now given to us to speak the truth in love. May God’s light shine upon and guide us as we do. Amen. ☺