

August 23, 2015      Mark 10:1-16

**Intro:**

\*An update on the "Life is short, have an affair" web business that was hacked.

\*As expected they did not shut down their company in response to the threats of the hackers who infiltrated their database.

\*And as promised the hackers released the information on the clients to the "Dark Web" last Tuesday night.

\*Here is the response from the company:

"It is an illegal action against AshleyMadison as well as any freethinking people who choose to engage in fully lawful online activities. The criminals involved in this act have appointed themselves as the moral judge, juror, and executioner, seeing fit to impose a personal notion of virtue on all of society. We will not sit idly by and allow these thieves to force their personal ideology on citizens around the world."

\*I agree it is illegal. I agree it's a bad idea for people, independently of laws to decide what justice should look like.

\*But look at what is being said here by the phrase..."freethinking people"  
-Freethinking=Life is short, have an affair

\*Free to think what?

\*Ideas have consequences...what kind of bondage do you **think** these **free-thinkers** live in?

\*The great irony is that these "free ideas" decrease real freedom in their lives.

**Mark 10:1** Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. **2** Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" **3** "What did Moses command you?" he replied. **4** They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." **5** "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. **6** "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' **7** 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, **8** and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. **9** Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." **10** When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. **11** He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. **12** And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." **13** People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. **14** When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **15** I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." **16** And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

\*Have you ever been posed with a question that was not a question but rather an attempt to "get you"?

\*To expose a lack of knowledge to make you look foolish, or to cause others "to see you for who you really are"?

\*Its a trap...disguised as a question.

\*Reporters often use this ploy and its amazing how often public figures stroll right off the cliff.

\*This question here to Jesus "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife" is not a question it's a trap.

\*Its translated "test" here...but the word means "trap"...not like "test" to see if he will pass...but test so that he will fail and be exposed.

\*Likely they were hoping they could get Jesus into the same kind of trouble John experienced and then Herod would take care of their "Jesus" problem just like he did their "John" problem.

\*Look where this takes place...Mark says it was down by the Jordan, in the Judean wilderness.

\*This is John the Baptist's old stomping grounds...and why was John imprisoned and executed?

\*For criticizing Herod for marrying his brother's wife...ahh...now we see the trap.

\*Maybe they can get Jesus to say something they can present as treason and Herod will eliminate Jesus for them.

\*Oh these guys are just so smart!

\*Problem is...Jesus is brilliant.

\*Jesus can spot a trap a mile off so he deals with it in two separate ways:

1. Publically he opens up a debate about the meaning of different scriptural texts.

\*He's showing the deeper issues involved here...pointing to the gospel.

2. In private he gives a more direct comment to his disciples.

\*Again, getting them ready for the challenges that are soon to come their way.

**\*Let's look at this passage in three parts.**

1. The public debate
2. The private instruction
3. The living application.

### **1. The public debate**

\*There was general agreement among the Jews that divorce was allowed but wide disagreement over the grounds for divorce.

**\*Deuteronomy 24:1: “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 ... “**

\*The crucial words are “something indecent.” What did that include?

\*For some it meant something morally indecent, in particular adultery.

\*For others it was just about anything the husband didn't like...burning a dinner for instance.

\*Jewish marriage was not a contract between equals, a woman did not marry...but was "given in marriage."

\*A divorced woman needed legal, social protection...this requirement of a written document was an important part of this protection.

\*In Matthew's gospel and in Paul's discussion in 1 Cor. 7; permission for divorce is given under certain circumstances.

\*There is, widespread disagreement on the application of these "exceptions."

\*Some believe there may be an exception for divorce in certain instances but no re-marriage is allowed.

\*Some believe there are no "rules" at just love and forgiveness...so there is no choice with lasting implications.

\*Here are the two exceptions:

a. Marital unfaithfulness:

\*Matt. 5:32 (Matt 19:9) But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

\*Jesus is not saying that marital unfaithfulness requires divorce but that it allows it.

\*I personally know of several marriages that have successfully survived unfaithfulness.

\*I know of others that have not.

\*The second exception is...

b. An unbelieving spouse who wants out of the marriage.

\*In 1 Cor. 7 Paul says the "Believing spouse is not bound" in the case of an unbelieving spouse who decides to leave...you can't chose for someone else.

\*What if the spouse claims to be a Christian and leaves?

\*If the spouse claims to be a Christian and abandons his or her marriage simply because they want out then another set of principles comes into play.

\*These are found in Matthew 18 where Jesus is discussing the situation where a (professed believer) lives in consistent, unrepentant, public sin.

\*The process is to go to them, try to restore them, if all attempts fail...then...

**\*Matt. 18:17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**

\*In other words, though we cannot judge a heart...we must act in response to actions...the person who persists in acting like an unbeliever demands to be treated like one.

\*This doesn't mean they are to be mistreated but it does mean...the one who professes Christ but walks away from a marriage simply because they choose to (unrepentant sin)...is to be treated as "an unbelieving spouse."

\*This is a complex issue that can generate a lot of emotion, stir up pain...some here have fresh wounds, some old wounds.

\*There are many questions that are impossible to address in this setting...what about physical or emotional abuse for instance?

\*What is the role of forgiveness for someone who acts outside the boundaries of scripture in regards to divorce?

\*I am not trying to give a detailed theology of divorce and remarriage because Mark is not giving one here.

\*So what is Mark doing? Let's see if we can find out.

\*The Pharisees quoted Moses, who did not command or encourage divorce but allowed it and placed strict controls on it...one had to go through proper written procedures.

\*Moses, Jesus said, permitted divorce in limited fashion not because it was ever good or God's plan but it was the lesser of two evils in some circumstances.

\*Moses gave laws regarding divorce mostly to protect women who were extremely vulnerable and open to exploitation.

\*But this doesn't answer Jesus' actual question...which was..."What did Moses command?"

\*Jesus isn't saying Moses was wrong when he gave his "permission" declaration...but he takes them back to Genesis to creation itself to discover the creator's original intent.

\*Jesus and the Pharisees both assumed that Moses wrote Genesis.

\*So the question "What did Moses command?" Goes back farther than the "permission" passage to the "origin" passage.

\*In Genesis its clear that marriage is a man and woman not just forming a partnership, a legal arrangement...but they are a new entity...they become "one flesh."

\*"One flesh" is the Hebrew way of simple saying "One."

\*So for Jesus, what Genesis says about marriage (Moses wrote it), God says about marriage.

\*So his comment on Moses' permission was important as to what he thought was going on in his own ministry...its about more than a theology of marriage and divorce.

**\*They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."**

**Jesus said... "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,"**

**\*"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."**

\*"Moses gave you this permission because of your hardheartedness"

\*But this was not God's best, still isn't.

\*This has implications for something broader than the question of divorce.

\*This same "hard heart" to the will and ways of God in regards to marriage...was also revealed in the way Israel had failed in their calling to represent God accurately to the world.

\*The problem was not in the ideal of God's best...wanting his people to act like his people in the world ("God just asks too much, he's an idealist not a realist")

\*"No one can live like that"

\*The problem was in the hearts of his people.

\*So Jesus is not just highlighting a problem here...he is highlighting a solution.

\*The problem is "Hard hearts"

\*Moses gave a "less than best option because of hard hearts."

\*Jesus is casting vision for the "best option" "go back to God's original intent".

\*This option is made possible by the reality of "A new heart"....through the gospel.

\*He is not just saying "You need to get right and return to the old marriage standards of Genesis!"  
-Start keeping the rules better.

\*This approach was clearly a failure.

\*He is also not just saying "Oh, just do your best...I'll keep lowering the bar until you can step or fall over it."

\*This is clearly a failure as well...our best is terrible...we are destroyed by our own best.

\*He is offering a way for our hearts to change...the return our hearts to the heart of God through the gospel.

\*Through the gospel, we have now power to accomplish what he wants.

\*I have seen many marriages turned around by the gospel...some in this room today.

\*This is not a slam on those, whose marriages were not saved.

\*It really does take two...one cannot choose for another.

\*Jesus, through Mark's writing is giving us more than some "rules to debate regarding divorce"

\*He is showing the power of the gospel and its ability to return us to God's original good intents.

\*Next we find Jesus, again, in private with his 12 given some extra instruction.

## **2. The Private Instruction:**

\*Mark doesn't tell us how the Pharisees respond to Jesus instead he moves straight to a private teaching session with the disciples.

\*The guys ask for a clarification of what they had just heard.

\*Jesus gives them a straightforward answer...divorce is wrong...and he stops there.

\*However in Matthew he gives an exception:

**"except for marital unfaithfulness..."**

\*Why the discrepancy?

\*There is none.

\*The Bible is a "book made of books"...the primary principle for understanding it is to understand it as whole.

\*This principle often described as "Scripture interprets Scripture."

\*This is not circular reasoning, "I'm right because I'm right."

\*In order understand a person or a book you have to compile the complete record not just pull out individual parts.

\*So if you are the disciples and one time you heard Jesus say "Divorce is wrong, marriage is sacred."

\*And another time, "Divorce is allowable **only** for something extreme like adultery."

\*You would not conclude that Jesus is confused...but that divorce is serious and marriage is serious and adultery is serious.

\*One time he said, "don't get divorced"

\*Another time he said "Only something extreme like adultery could warrant a divorce"

\*The message is clearly "marriage is precious, divorce is a bad idea...as is adultery"

\*But the Lord's context in all this is..."What is impossible for you on your own, is possible if you live in relationship with me."

**\*Moses gave allowance for your hard hearts...I am the cure for those hard hearts.**

\*So much of what Jesus offered as "paths to human freedom" are seen as bondage from the vantage point of an unchanged heart.

### **Examples:**

-Forgive those who hurt you

-Love your enemies

-Be morally pure

-Stay married

**\*These are not rules to follow to earn God's approval...**these are pathways to freedom, joy and life.

\*They are seen as bondage because they are viewed as impossible rules to keep...and in fact they often are when seen as rules.

\*But for the one who walks in the power of the Gospel...these are clear and obvious paths to joy and freedom...not rules at all.

"Of course I will forgive, why would I want to live in a prison of bitterness?"

\*"Of course I want to live pure, why would I intentionally ruin my own life with impurity?"

\*"Of course we want to stay married, this is where God is doing his very best work in our hearts."

\*Finally this passage concludes with another living example...and once again Jesus uses Children to put the exclamation mark on his instruction.

### **3. The Living Example:**

**13 People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 I tell you the truth,**

**anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” 16 And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.**

\*The next verse is not a diversion but flows with this passage.

\*The world often condemns the church for taking a stand on matters of truth like marriage and divorce.

\*"You don't care about people, just your "rules""

\*"But as for us, we care about people, that's why we accept people as they are...we want people to be happy...so no rules just love."

\*How many atheist youth groups, boys homes, ministries to trafficked women are there in Wichita? In the world?

\*How happy is the world out there? What do you see?

\*I am not implying that there are no atheists who do not care or that atheists are bad people.

\*Or that there are no unhappy Christians.

\*What I am saying is that Richard Weavers maxim, "**Ideas have consequences**" is factually true and actually real.

\*Here we see Jesus going from giving a very hard truth...that many then and now would and do struggle with...the priority and importance of marriage as God has designed it.

\*Then immediately he is leading out in showing love to the "least of these" little children.

\*Then he says, "don't hinder these little ones from coming to me."

\*Then he wrapped his arms around them, and blessed them.

\*Clearly for Jesus "truth and love for people" are not separate realities.

\*Let's just take the facts regarding the impact of divorce on children.

\*Every since culture shifted to being largely about "me" "self-actualization" rather than about the next generation and "self-sacrifice"...children have paid the heaviest price.

\*The sexual revolution did not bring freedom for anyone and in particular for children.

\*Ease of divorce has not brought the widespread happiness it promised.

\*The most common quoted "idea" that is used to justify what is often (not always) a pursuit by one spouse of selfishness is :

"Its better for children to have divorced parents than parents who don't get along, who fight, or who don't love each other."



\*Ideas have consequences.

**\*Here's what wrong with that idea:**

1. First and worst...its not factually true.

\*Real research has debunked this myth.

\*Those children are in fact, not better off.

2. It's a false dichotomy...

a. Either we don't get along and our kids suffer

or

b. We divorce and its better.

\*There is third choice...

C. We can act like grown ups and learn how to get along...God will help us if we allow him to.

\*I believe Jesus is demonstrating here, as he does over and over, that loving truth and loving people are one and the same thing.

\*So here at the end of this passage we again see Jesus taking a hard line on truth...sowing a soft heart toward actual children.

\*"Hey Jesus what do you think about divorce?"

\*"I think you shouldn't do it...its not God's best."

\*"Hah! He doesn't care about people...what about all the lonely, unhappy, suffering people...he doesn't care about them...only about his truth."

\*Next thing you see is him practically showing love for people...little people....while the other "adults" were busy trying to "shoo" these little ones away.

\*Ironic? A little bit.

\*Before we conclude I want to give you a perspective if you are divorced or the children of a divorce.

\*In every life there are static and dynamic factors.

\*Static factors are fixed...they will not be changed...they are in the past.

\*You have been divorced or your parents have been divorced...static life factor.

\*What is dynamic, not fixed...are your own choices going forward.

\*Static factors have statistical probabilities attached to them...however you are not a statistic you are a person...you can exceed statistical probabilities because God is real and your choices matter.

\*A year ago I was asked to perform the marriage ceremony of a military couple who both had some specific background factors that predicted a future divorce.

\*I said to them: "These are the statistical predictors of divorce"  
-Then I listed them; they had them all.

\*They looked at each other and one said "We are in big trouble."

\*I said: "That's not why I told you those facts, I told you them so you above all others would pay attention to the dynamic factors...you would see the extreme importance of the choices you can and must make."

\*Do not despair if divorce is a factor in your life...but choose, choose, choose and trust.

### **APPLICATION:**

\*Love for truth and love for people are one and the same thing.

\*It is has been said "That contrast is the mother of clarity"

\*It's why Jesus loved to use comparison and contrast..."You have heard it said, but I say..."

\*Here he takes a hard line on truth...then shows his soft heart for children.

\*This a contrast with those who are "soft on truth and hard on people."

\*When there are rules, laws, principles...when God takes what to us is a "hard line"...he is not at that point...choosing truth over and against love.

\*He is always choosing truth and love...actually he's not "choosing" he is always "being" truth and love...that are essential aspects of who He is.

### **Two applications:**

#### 1. Consider how you think and feel about truth and God's love in your own life.

\*Do you struggle with believing that what is clearly the right path (truth) for your life...is out of sync with what is actually going to make you happy, fulfilled?

\*Do you believe that obedience is the path to the best possible life?

\*This is something to think through...because "ideas have consequences"

#### 2. Consider how you communicate and demonstrate truth to the watching world.

\*Remember the cultural deck is stacked against us.

- \*You say the word "truth" and you are automatically judgmental and unloving.
- \*You state or even imply that someone's idea of freedom is a path to bondage... you are from "dark ages" and a threat to all "freethinkers."
- \*Article in the Atlantic(Aaron Lewis)... "The Coddling of the American Mind"...
- \*It demonstrates that the fact that students are demanding protection from ideas they don't like is distasteful for both education and mental health.
- \*How could demanding protection from ideas they don't like harm mental health?
- \*Protection from ideas and words I don't like makes me less resilient, less reality based, more fearful, more self-absorbed...more confirmed in my own wrong thinking patterns.
- \*And...ideas have consequences.
- \*If I get stuck on an elevator for 8 hours and develop a phobia related to elevators...you don't help me by making sure I never see, or even hear of an elevator.
- \*My granddaughter loves "escalators"...she means "escalators" but has morphed the word with "elevator."
- \*Today...you would be "shushing" a three year old because it might traumatize an adult who has an elevator phobia.
- \*This is not just irrational its not practically helpful.
- \*You help me by lovingly exposing me to reality not further strengthening my fears.
- \*The mental health folks call it exposure therapy...you gradually help the person deal with their fear of elevators by exposing them to elevators and the reality of the world of elevators.
- \*The article discusses Cognitive behavioral therapy (proven to be the most helpful and longest lasting form of treatment for anxiety, depression, eating disorders, etc.)
- \*CBT is essentially training your own mind to minimize distorted thinking and to see the world more accurately.
- \*Sound familiar?
- \*We are surrounded by "freethinkers" who are freely thinking their lives into bondage.
- \*Their thinking regarding the gospel is often a distortion...
- \*We don't help people by ensuring that nothing we say (or believe) is offensive...the gospel is an offense.
- \*It is an all-exclusive claim in a relativistic world.

\*What we can and must do is follow the lead of Jesus, who "Took a hard line on truth and a soft line on people"

\*We can be hard on ideas and in fact we must be...especially our own ideas...but never hard on people...

\*"speaking the truth in love."(eph. 4:15)

## SMALL GROUP NOTES 8.23.15

### Intro:

\*It's common for people to see the Scriptures as a set of rules to be followed.

\*This approach creates guilt and/or pride and at the same time it misses the real point altogether which is the heart.

\*The commands of Scripture are presented as paths to freedom and life but they are often not treated as such.

\*List and discuss some the "commands in Scripture" that are seen as "bondage" but are actually the paths to freedom.

### Read:

**Mark 10:1** Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. **2** Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" **3** "What did Moses command you?" he replied. **4** They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." **5** "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. **6** "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' **7** 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, **8** and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. **9** Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." **10** When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. **11** He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. **12** And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." **13** People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. **14** When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **15** I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." **16** And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

### Discuss:

## 1. The public debate:

\*Do you think the Lord's primary purpose here was instruction on divorce or was he using this topic to make a larger point? Why or why not?

\*Terry believes that although the Lord's teaching on divorce is relevant, his larger point is about the gospel. He takes the Pharisees back past Moses "permission" to the Creator's original intent. What was God's original intent for marriage?

\*How is this different from the "permission" given by God through Moses?

\*What does Jesus say is the reason for the "permission"?

\*Hard hearts are the "problem" how is the gospel the "cure"?

## 2. The private instruction:

\*In private the Lord is very direct regarding divorce. What does he say about it to the disciples?

\*In Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 the Lord gives an "exception clause." How do you deal with this apparent discrepancy?

\*Why is it important to take the Bible as a whole and not "proof text"?  
(Proof texting is taking a verse or passage out of its larger context)

\*How might "proof texting" lead to a misinterpretation of Scripture?

## The Living Example:

\*Why do you think Mark goes from showing Jesus giving some "tough teaching" straight to Jesus loving on children?

\*Whether we have been impacted by divorce or not we all have both static and dynamic factors in our lives. What are some of the static factors in your lives that impact your choices? What are some of the dynamic factors in your life?

## **Apply:**

### 1. Consider your own thinking regarding God's truth in your life.

\*If you were completely honest would you say that you have trouble seeing his commands as freedom?

\*If so, what can you do to change your thinking?

### 2. The gospel is the best possible way to eliminate distorted thinking and see the world as it actually is.

\*What are some forms of distorted thinking you have experienced or have seen in others and how does the gospel address that thinking?

\*How do you use the gospel to reshape yours or help others reshape their distorted thinking?

\*Use the list of common thinking distortions below to help you consider this question:

### **1. Filtering.**

We take the negative details and magnify them while filtering out all positive aspects of a situation. For instance, a person may pick out a single, unpleasant detail and dwell on it exclusively so that their vision of reality becomes darkened or distorted.

### **2. Polarized Thinking (or “Black and White” Thinking).**

In polarized thinking, things are either “black-or-white.” We have to be perfect or we’re a failure — there is no middle ground. You place people or situations in “either/or” categories, with no shades of gray or allowing for the complexity of most people and situations. If your performance falls short of perfect, you see yourself as a total failure.

### **3. Overgeneralization.**

In this cognitive distortion, we come to a general conclusion based on a single incident or a single piece of evidence. If something bad happens only once, we expect it to happen over and over again. A person may see a single, unpleasant event as part of a never-ending pattern of defeat.

### **4. Jumping to Conclusions.**

Without individuals saying so, we know what they are feeling and why they act the way they do. In particular, we are able to determine how people are feeling toward us.

For example, a person may conclude that someone is reacting negatively toward them but doesn’t actually bother to find out if they are correct. Another example is a person may anticipate that things will turn out badly, and will feel convinced that their prediction is already an established fact.

### **5. Catastrophizing.**

We expect disaster to strike, no matter what. This is also referred to as “magnifying or minimizing.” We hear about a problem and use *what if* questions (e.g., “What if tragedy strikes?” “What if it happens to me?”).

For example, a person might exaggerate the importance of insignificant events (such as their mistake, or someone else's achievement). Or they may inappropriately shrink the magnitude of significant events until they appear tiny (for example, a person's own desirable qualities or someone else's imperfections).

**6. Personalization.** Personalization is a distortion where a person believes that everything others do or say is some kind of direct, personal reaction to the person. We also compare ourselves to others trying to determine who is smarter, better looking, etc. A person engaging in personalization may also see themselves as the cause of some unhealthy external event that they were not responsible for. For example, "We were late to the dinner party and *caused* the hostess to overcook the meal. If I had only pushed my husband to leave on time, this wouldn't have happened."

### **7. Control Fallacies.**

If we feel *externally controlled*, we see ourselves as helpless a victim of fate. For example, "I can't help it if the quality of the work is poor, my boss demanded I work overtime on it." The fallacy of *internal control* has us assuming responsibility for the pain and happiness of everyone around us. For example, "Why aren't you happy? Is it because of something I did?"

### **8. Fallacy of Fairness.**

We feel resentful because we think we know what is fair, but other people won't agree with us. As our parents tell us when we're growing up and something doesn't go our way, "Life isn't always fair." People who go through life applying a measuring ruler against every situation judging its "fairness" will often feel badly and negative because of it. Because life isn't "fair" — things will not always work out in your favor, even when you think they should.

### **9. Blaming.**

We hold other people responsible for our pain, or take the other track and blame ourselves for every problem. For example, "Stop making me feel bad about myself!" Nobody can "make" us feel any particular way — only we have control over our own emotions and emotional reactions.

### **10. Emotional Reasoning.**

We believe that what we feel must be true automatically. If we feel stupid and boring, then we must be stupid and boring. You assume that your unhealthy emotions reflect the way things really are — “I feel it, therefore it must be true.”

### **11. Fallacy of Change.**

We expect that other people will change to suit us if we just pressure or cajole them enough. We need to change people because our hopes for happiness seem to depend entirely on them.

### **12. Always Being Right.**

We are continually on trial to prove that our opinions and actions are correct. Being wrong is unthinkable and we will go to any length to demonstrate our rightness. For example, “I don’t care how badly arguing with me makes you feel, I’m going to win this argument no matter what because I’m right.” Being right often is more important than the feelings of others around a person who engages in this cognitive distortion, even loved ones.



**THE GOSPEL OF**

# MARK



**Mark 10:1-16**

**“FOR EVEN THE  
SON OF MAN  
DID NOT COME  
TO BE SERVED,  
BUT TO SERVE,  
AND TO GIVE  
HIS LIFE AS A  
RANSOM FOR  
MANY.”**

**MARK 10:45**

**J. STILL**

**Mark 10:1-8** Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” “What did Moses command you?” he replied. They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. “But 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.

**Mark 10:9-13 “Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”**  
**When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”** People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

**Mark 10:14-16** When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

- 1. The public debate**
- 2. The private instruction**
- 3. The living application**

**Deuteronomy 24:1 “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 ...”**

**a. Marital unfaithfulness:**

**Matt. 5 & 19**

**b. An unbelieving spouse who wants out of  
the marriage.:**

**1 Cor. 7**

**Matt. 18:17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.



**“But 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. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”**

**"except for marital unfaithfulness..."**

## Examples:

- Forgive those who hurt you
- Love your enemies
- Be morally pure
- Stay married

**These are not rules to follow in order to earn God's approval...these are pathways to freedom, joy and life.**

**Mark 10:13-16** People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

**"Ideas have consequences"**

# **Static vs. Dynamic Life Factors**

**Love for truth and love for people are  
one and the same**

**Jesus "took a hard line on truth and had  
a soft heart for people"**

**VS.**

**"A soft line on truth and a hard heart for  
people"**



## **Application:**

**Consider how you think and feel about  
truth and God's love in your life**

**Consider how you communicate and  
demonstrate truth to the watching  
world**

*The Atlantic*

SUBSCRIBE SEARCH MENU ≡



EDUCATION

# The Coddling of the American Mind

In the name of emotional well-being, college students are increasingly demanding protection from words and ideas they don't like. Here's why that's disastrous for education—and mental health.

**"speaking the truth in love."**

**Eph. 4:15**

