

Oneness in Marriage

Mark 10:5-9

- I. **Hard Hearts: The Root of Marriage Problems (Mark 10:5)**
 - A. We are hard-hearted when we do not give or receive love (the cause of isolation, separation and/or divorce).
 - *A heart damaged by sin (our responsibility) or pain (hurt from others) is unable to give or receive love (Bob Moeller)*
 - B. When we are hard-hearted we become rejecting and self-absorbed (bitterness, detachment, escape, immorality, control/intimidation, etc.).
- II. **Oneness: God's Design for Marriage Success (Mark 10:6-9)**
 - A. God made us different than our spouse (Mark 10:6).
 1. *Male and Female* – God made us physically and emotionally different (Genesis 1:27).
 2. *Suitable Helper* – We are designed to compliment each other's strengths and weaknesses (Genesis 2:18).
 - ✓ Do we attack our spouse's differences or appreciate them?
 - B. God joined us to our spouse (Mark 10:7-9).
 1. We cannot unite unless we overcome dependence on our parents (10:6).
 2. We cannot unite unless we are truly one flesh (10:7-8).
 - One flesh means spiritual unity
 - One flesh means emotional/relational unity.
 - One flesh means romantic/sexual unity.
 3. We cannot unite without God's help (10:9).

Trading a Hard heart for an Accepting heart

1. Confession: Accepting responsibility for my failures – whether or not my spouse admits theirs.
2. Grace: Accepting my spouse with their failures – before they change.