

2023 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"[This] is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh". (Genesis 2:24).

"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." (Matthew 19:4-6)

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)

Marriage is presented in the Bible as a covenant relationship, though a worldly view tends to posit a contractual relationship to marriage. Pretty simply, a contract says something like this "if you do A, B, and C, I will do X, Y, and Z. If you fail to do A, B, or C, I will not do X, Y, or Z.". A covenant is something entirely different. A covenant sounds something like this "I will do A, B, and C. You will do X, Y, and Z.". A contract's strength is based upon how well each party follows through – if either party fails to follow through, the contract is broken. A covenant's strength is based upon mutual commitment – this involves forgiveness, trust, and transparency and is not dependant upon follow through.

1. How might a contractual view of marriage come into play in regards to the topic of divorce? How might a covenantal view change one's approach?
2. What do you think is meant by the phrase "become one flesh" in Genesis 2:24?
3. Discuss the idea that we ought not separate that which God has joined. How might divorce (not always, of course) be rooted in a desire to reject the authority of God?
4. Why do you think there are such varied opinions on divorce within the church? How might Ephesians 4:15 come into play as we approach the issue of divorce?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"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. (Matthew 5:31-32)

"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." (Matthew 19:8-9)

"The man who hates and divorces his wife ... does violence to the one he should protect". (Malachi 2:16)

Christ's "divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness". (2 Peter 1:3)

1. Do you buy the idea that hard-heartedness is the root of divorce? Why or why not?
2. Permissible, though not ideally enacted, causes exist for divorce (infidelity, abandonment, abuse). Discuss how each meshes with the commandment to "love others as Christ has loved us".
3. Discuss this quote: *"not only ought divorce become a thing of the past in Christ's kingdom, but the harshness and hard-heartedness that causes divorce ought also have no place in His kingdom or among His followers because of the transformative nature of faith in Jesus."*
4. Discuss how the idea that, in Christ, we have been given new hearts (unhardened hearts) comes into play in relation to the pursuit of divorce. Why is it important that we recognize this reality and that the truth of 2 Peter 1:3 stands even in relation to significant marital discord?