

# Why MARRIAGE Matters

April 25, 2010

When Love Fails  
Matthew 19:1-9

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1. Marriage is worth \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19:1-3)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is not an \_\_\_\_\_  
in God's plan. (v. 19:4-6)

3. Divorce is a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (v. 19:7-9)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Corinthians 7:12-16)

4. The goal is \_\_\_\_\_.

- For the \_\_\_\_\_
- For the \_\_\_\_\_

## Digging Deeper

1. How has divorce affected you personally? How has it influenced your view of marriage and close relationships?
2. Read Matthew 19:1-7. What was the mindset and heart condition of the Pharisees?
3. What does it mean for two to become one? (see also Genesis 2:18-25)
4. What do you understand to be the biblical grounds for divorce? Read Matthew 19:8-9; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16. How does the phrase "hard hearts" apply to your answer?
5. What steps should be taken before someone pursues divorce?
6. What can be done within a church to develop a culture of lasting and vibrant marriages?
7. What can be done within a church to promote restoration of individuals who have experienced divorce?
8. Bonus: We often miss the connections to the larger context. Read Matthew 18:12-35 and consider how these verses provide instruction regarding divorce. How would they guide those needing help and those trying to give help?

Consider watching the movie *Fireproof*. If you have watched it already, what did you learn from it? The centerpiece is the love dare. To learn more go to [thelovedarebook.com](http://thelovedarebook.com)

Until we can offer comparable programs at South Park Church, consider attending a Monday Night Workshop at Willow Creek Community Church ([classes.willowcreek.org](http://classes.willowcreek.org)):

- **Marriage Matters** helping you enrich and restore your marriage
- **Divorce Recovery** helping you heal from relational breakdown
- **Oasis** helping children experience God's love during life's challenges