



## SOLVING THE RELATIONSHIP RUBIK'S CUBE SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 1

**Matthew 19:3-6 (NIV)**

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that 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. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

1. In the above passage, what was the question that was asked of Jesus? In our modern culture, how would this question be answered? How is what Jesus said different? What do you think it means when God says: "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate"? What do you think it means when it says that God joins two people together?

**Answer** – There is a spiritual element in marriage and it is God who initiates it, he is the one who joins a husband and wife together. Is it possible for human beings to sever this spiritual connection? Many theologians believe that just because a man and woman get a legal divorce, only God can sever the spiritual connection and he only does that in two situations (refer to next question).

2. Shelley Long said that marriage between two people should be until they die and that divorce should not be an option. Do you agree with this? In what two situations did God say it was okay for a divorce to occur? If divorce is not an option, what would that force people to do instead of getting a divorce?

**Answer** – God says that he recognizes divorce in two situations: 1. In the case of adultery (Matthew 19:9) and 2. Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15). If divorce is not an option, this forces the two people to work out the differences that exist through forgiveness and applying God's principles of relationships.

3. If you are married or have been to a wedding, you know that there is a part of the ceremony where the people involved make vows to each other. What are some of the most common statements made in most traditional vows? What are the two people promising to each other? Why do you think so many people break these vows? Do you think it is practical to believe that people can actually keep these vows? Why? In the marriage ceremony, do you think these vows are only between the two involved or are they making them to God also?

**Answer** – The most common elements of traditional marriage vows revolve around the idea of permanence of the relationship. This is what we mean when we say “for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, in good times and bad. We are literally promising that even when things are the worse, we will not pursue other people but stick with it through “thick and thin”. God takes these vows seriously and is the cause of him joining a man and woman into “one flesh”, the spiritual element of marriage.

4. Many people say that lack of communication is the problem in most marriages but Shelley said that she thinks that selfishness is the main problem. Do you agree with her? Why or why not? In Ephesians 5 Paul said that the relationship between husband and wife should be like the relationship between Christ and the church (believers). What do you think that means?