

## The Simple Gospel

*How do we live it?*

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 2, 2025

- 4) What is Jesus emphasizing in these verses about divorce and vows?
- 5) What heart issue is Jesus confronting here?
- 6) Why do you think Jesus connects divorce and oaths in the same teaching?
- 7) How does this passage redefine what faithfulness looks like in relationships?
- 8) How does this challenge the cultural view of marriage today?
- 9) Why do you think making vows is such a big deal to Jesus? What might it look like to live with integrity in your everyday commitments?
- 10) For single people, what principle from this teaching applies right now?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Ask God to show you one area where your integrity needs to reflect His truth more clearly.
- 2) Pray for your relationships—present or future—to reflect God’s faithfulness and truth.
- 3) Spend time thanking God for His mercy that restores what’s broken and strengthens what’s whole.
- 4) Is there something in your marriage that needs attention.

**Thread:** The goal of marriage is *“One flesh.”*

These 2 topics are connected.

- Both are about keeping our commitments.

### How do we live that?

#### Church at Corinth:

*“Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations. But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband...So I say to those who aren’t married and to widows—it’s better to stay unmarried, just as I am. But if they can’t control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It’s better to marry than to burn with lust.”* **1 Corinthians 7:1-2,7-9 NLT**

Paul is helping people answer the question: “How do we follow Jesus and His teaching about marriage?”

- As you find yourself today, honor God.
- Who should marry?

#### What is the goal of marriage? *“One flesh.”*

*“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”* **Ephesians 5:21-24 ESV**

A man and a woman who aim to submit one to another.

Both husband and wife pursue Christ.

Man and a woman who are equals, but...

- The man will be held accountable for the decisions of this couple first, before God.

Both husband and wife give their attention to serving and helping one another, but husbands are to lead the way.

*"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." Ephesians 5:25 ESV*

**Sounds like a lot of sacrifice.**

*"In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.*

*He who loves his wife loves himself." Ephesians 5:28 ESV*

**Sounds like a lot of responsibility being shouldered.**

**What is the goal of marriage? "One flesh."**

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."*

**Ephesians 5:31-32 ESV**

**Our marriages reflect the divine relationship God has with His people.**

*"However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." Ephesians 5:33 ESV*

**Sounds like both husbands and wives are to be intentional about what the other needs.**

**I'm single and want a God honoring marriage. What now?**

**My marriage is not awesome... what now?**

**Challenge:**

- Does your marriage need attention?
- What needs to change in your thinking to get God's heart for you?
- Will you trust God for how you find yourself today whether single or married?
- Let's promote God's view of marriage! It's way better than what everyone else is offering.

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [Dougbrittonbooks.com/resource](http://Dougbrittonbooks.com/resource).*

# Homework

## Simple Gospel

### Fall 2025 | Week 8

Message Date 11/2/2025

## MY STORY

- 1) If you could swap your alarm clock sound for any noise in the world, what would wake you up every morning?
- 2) If emojis were real creatures, which one would be the most terrifying?

## QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

## DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

**Matthew 5:31–37 (NLT)**

*31 "You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.' 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless his wife has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.*

*33 "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.' 34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. 35 And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. 37 Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one."*