

THE GOOD LIFE

..was meant to include our marriages





***50%** of all marriages end in divorce*

⁸“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.”

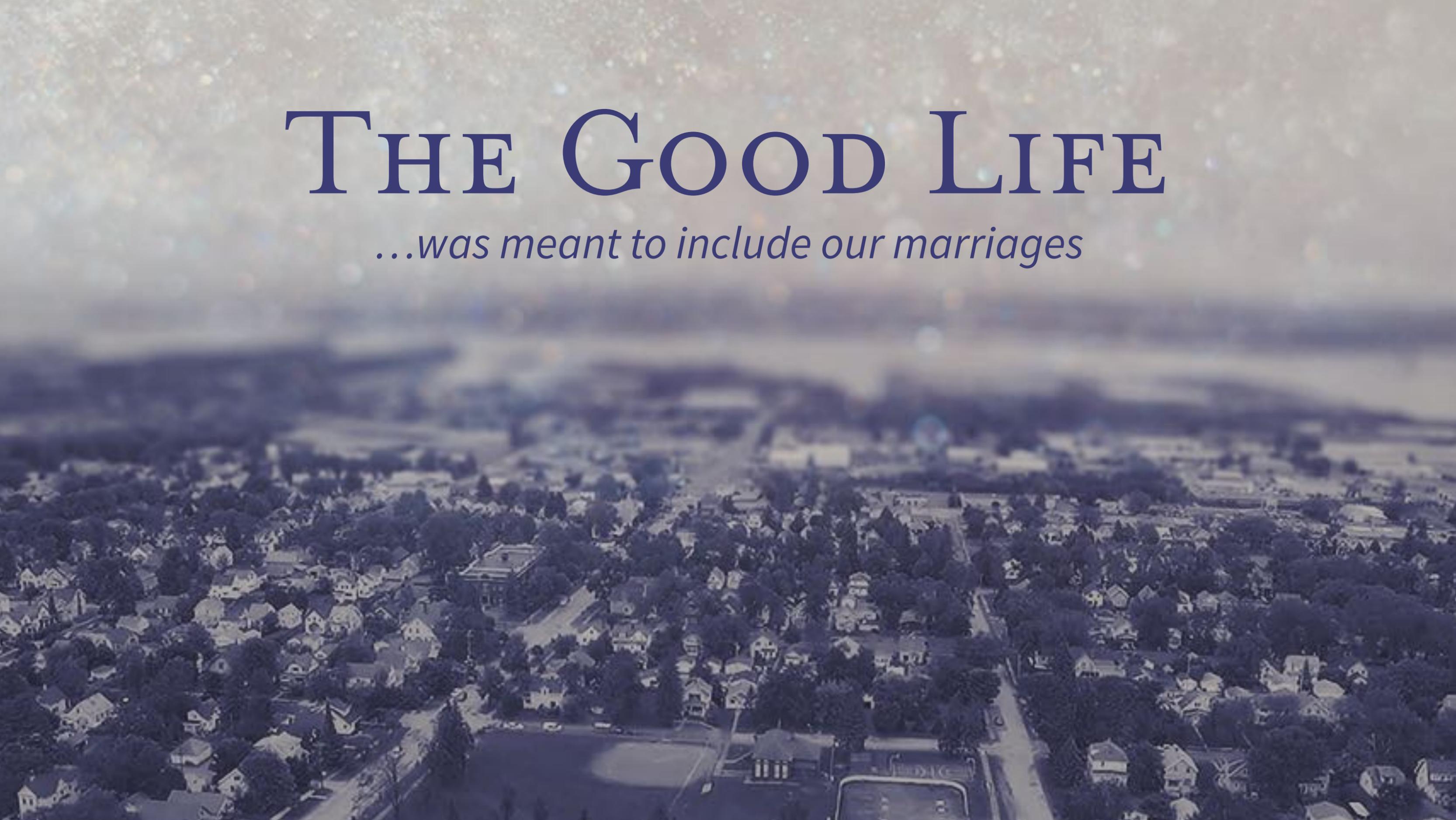
⁹ The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

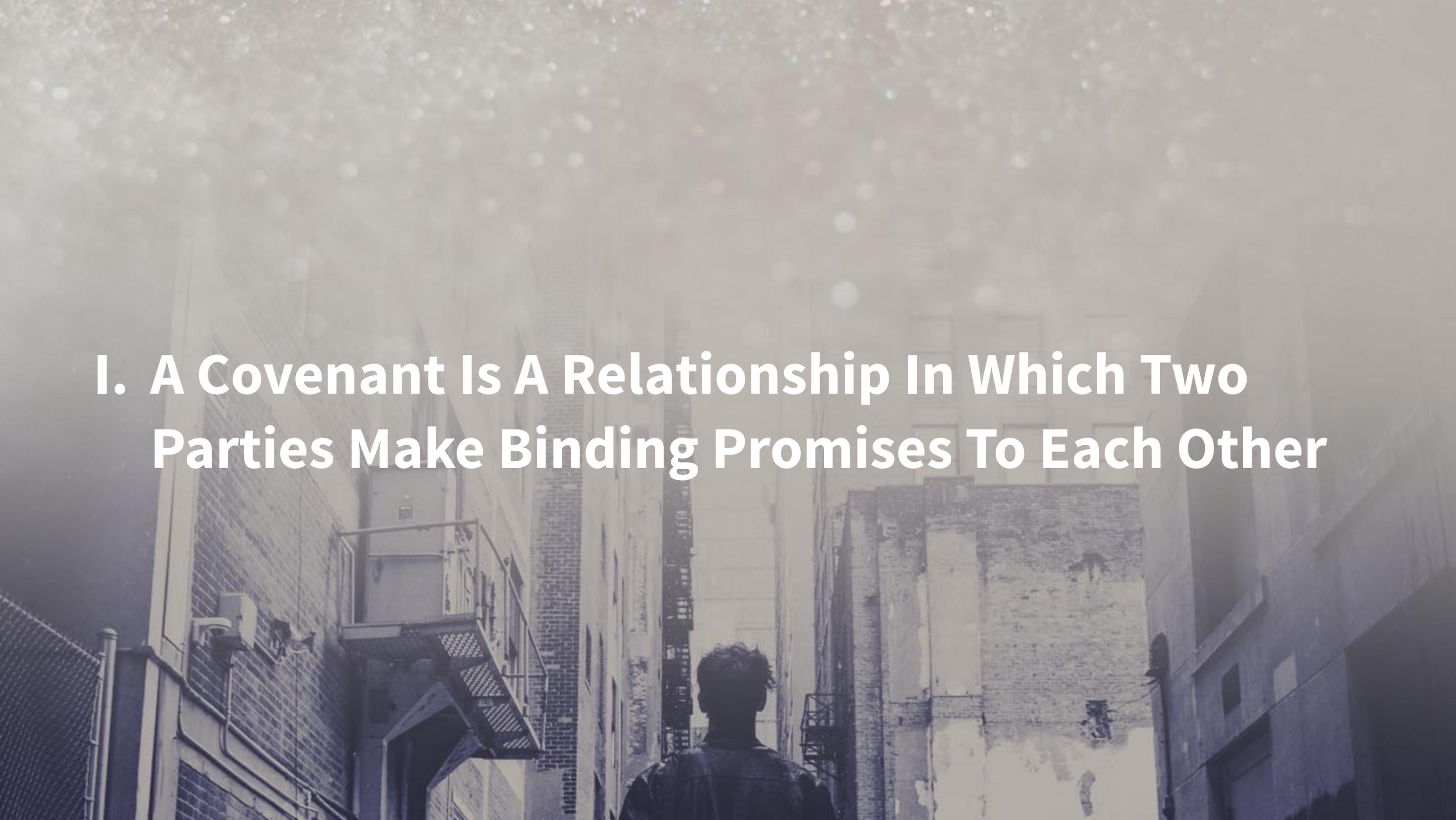
Matthew 19:8-9



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A person is walking away from the camera down a narrow alleyway between tall brick buildings. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish tint. The person is in the center of the frame, wearing a dark jacket. The buildings on either side are multi-story and made of brick, with some windows and balconies visible. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber.

I. A Covenant Is A Relationship In Which Two Parties Make Binding Promises To Each Other

II. God's Plan For Marriage Is For Two People To Join Together In A Covenant Relationship



For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

Matthew 19:5



II. God's Plan For Marriage Is For Two People To Join Together In A Covenant Relationship

A. When we make covenant we promise to love in the future





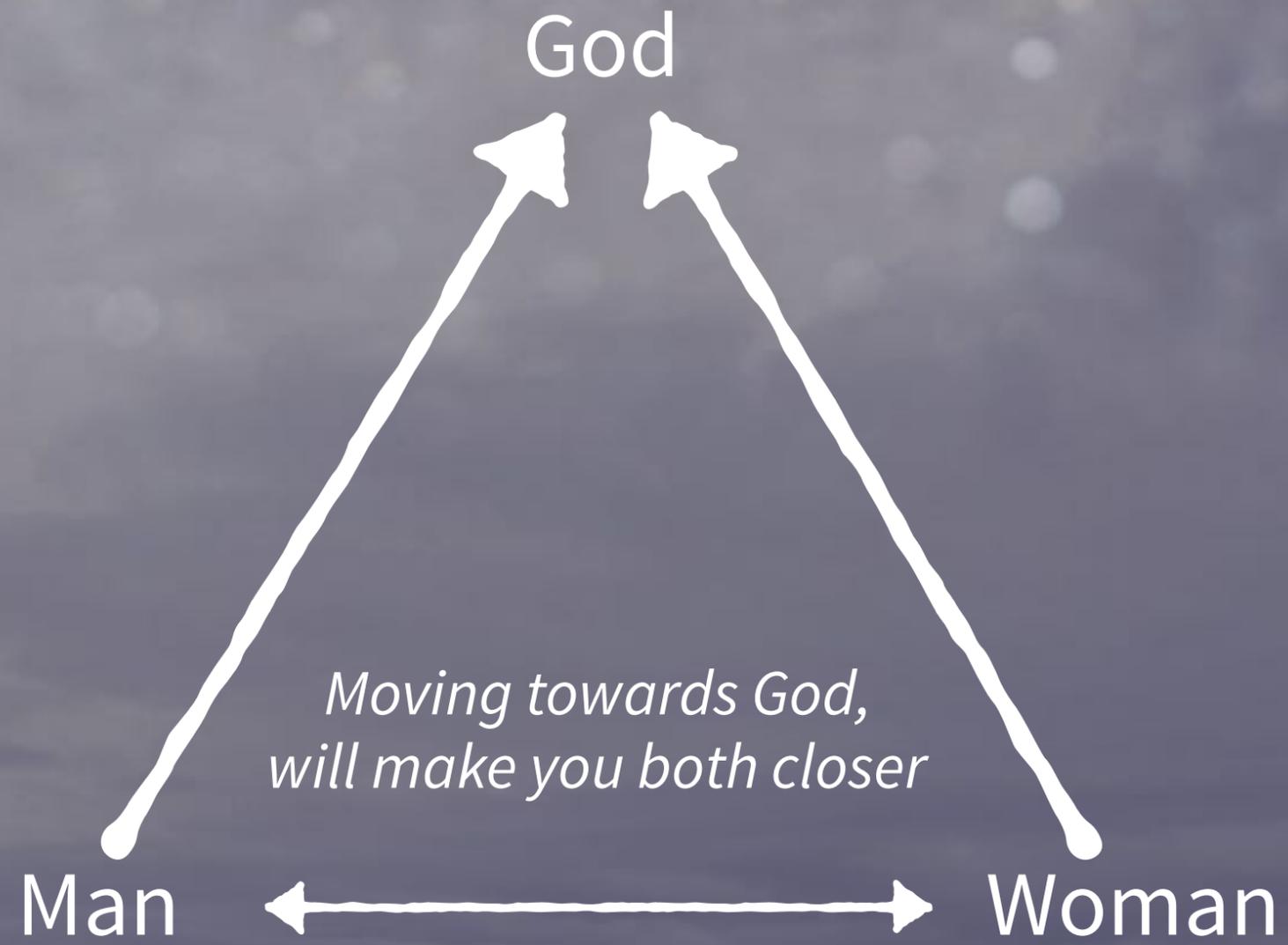




II. God's Plan For Marriage Is For Two People To Join Together In A Covenant Relationship

- A. When we make covenant we promise to love in the future
- B. When we make a covenant we decide to love
- C. When we make a covenant we show love today





Though natural likings should normally be encouraged, it would be quite wrong to think that the way to become charitable is to sit trying to manufacture affectionate feelings.....The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



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- B. When we make a covenant we decide to love
- C. When we make a covenant we show love today



²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:25

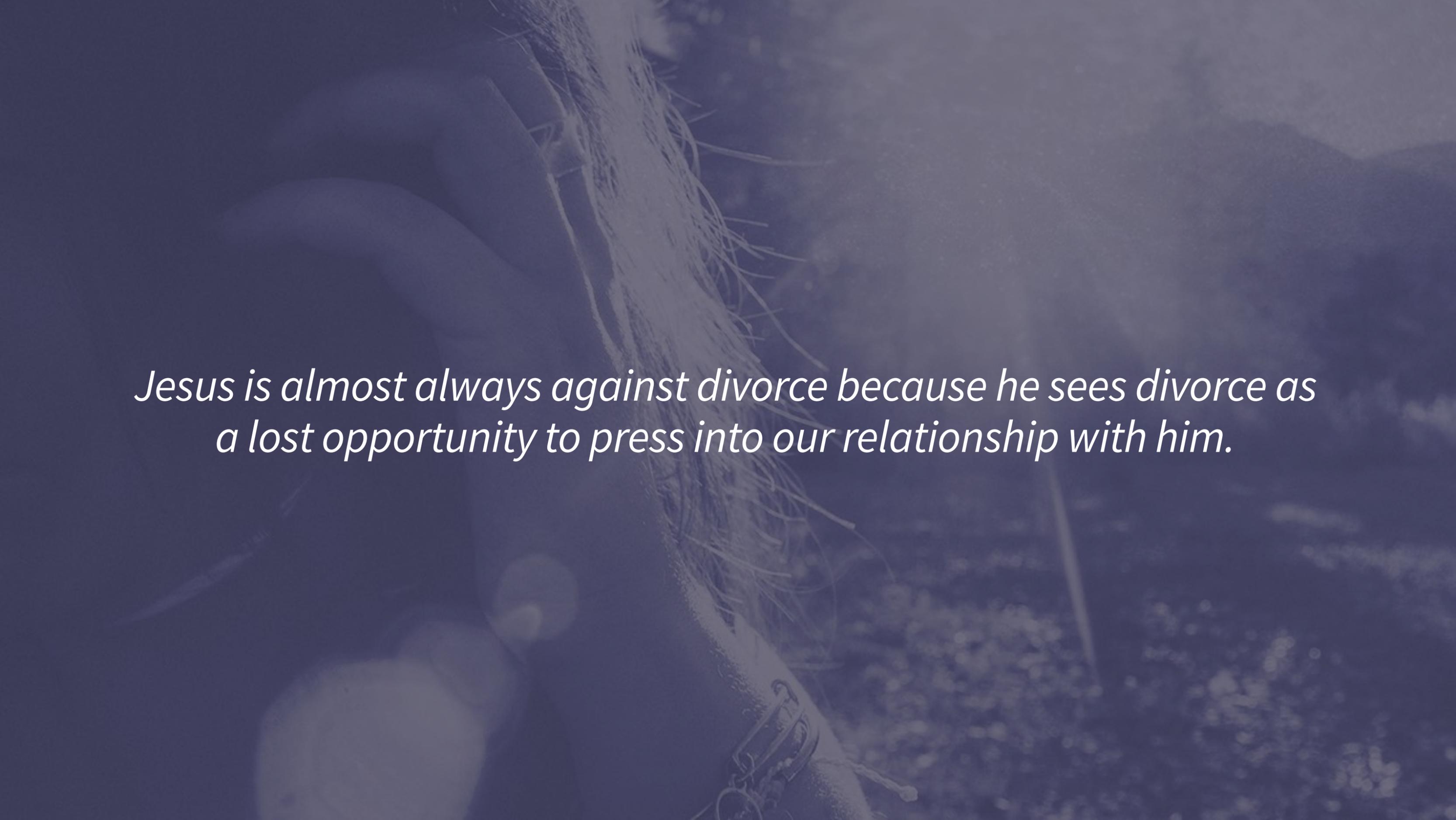


*The key to a good marriage is a sacrificial commitment
to the good of the other.*

*Even if your spouse never changes....you will change.
You will become more like Jesus.*

III. So What Does Jesus Think About Divorce?

A. Jesus is almost always against divorce because keeping our covenants is one of the best ways for us to become more like him

A person with long, light-colored hair is seen from the side, sitting in a boat on a body of water. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The background shows a calm lake and distant mountains under a soft, overcast sky. The entire image has a blue-tinted overlay.

Jesus is almost always against divorce because he sees divorce as a lost opportunity to press into our relationship with him.

“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, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commmits adultery.”

Matthew 5:31-32



When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. 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 flesh.

Matthew 19:1-10 (Page 689)



Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”
“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” 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.”

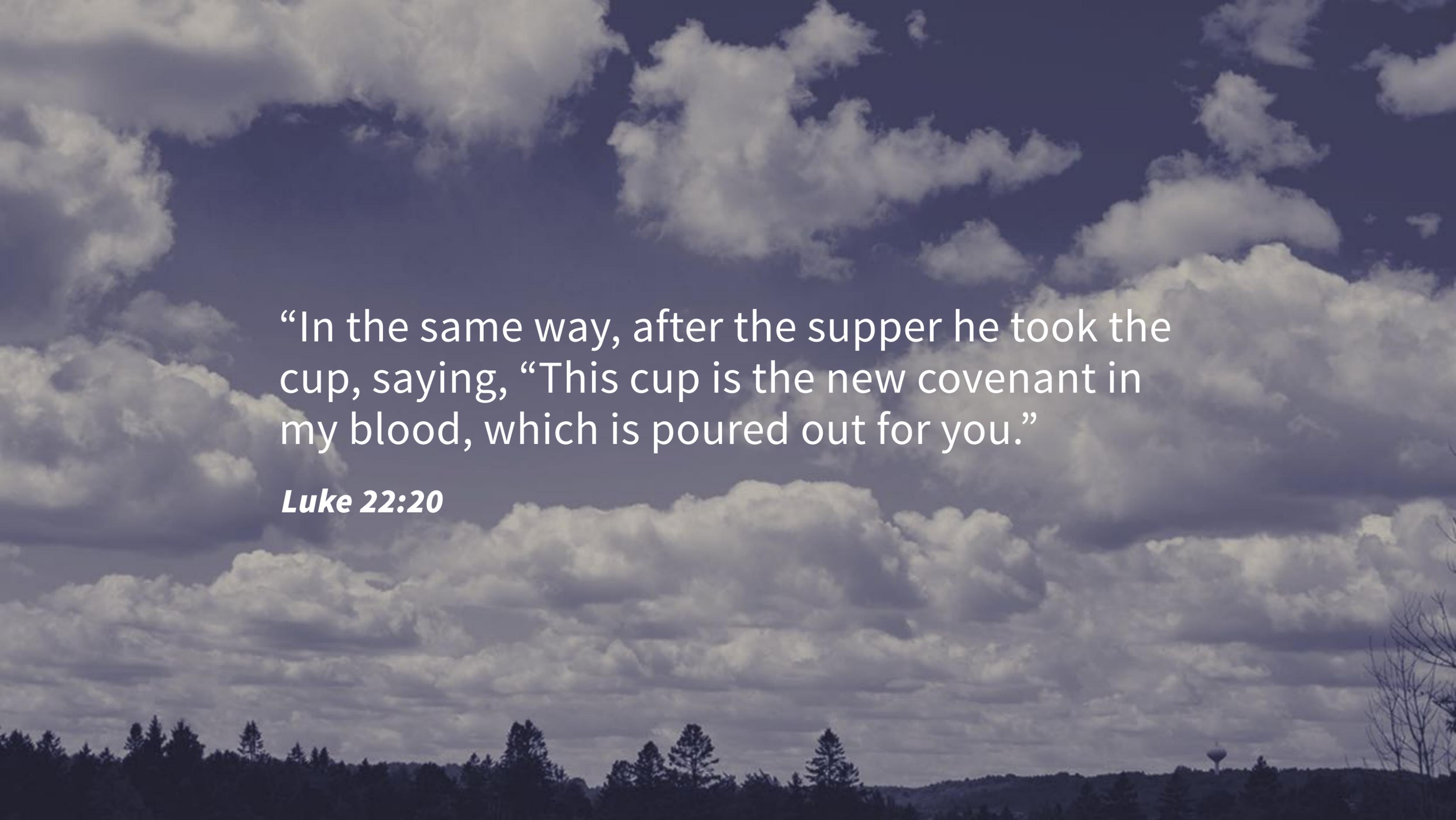
The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

Matthew 19:1-10 (Page 689)



III. So What Does Jesus Think About Divorce?

- A. Jesus is almost always against divorce because keeping our covenants is one of the best ways for us to become more like him
- B. There is provision made for extreme situations
- C. Good news of healing from your past



“In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

Luke 22:20