



Sermon Discussion Questions

Matthew 5:31-32 // Unadulterated

- How has this mini-series on sex and sexuality impacted the way you think about and practice your own sexuality? Has it changed the way you talk about this topic with others? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus follows up a discussion of sex with teaching on divorce?
- What's the point of the original passage, Deuteronomy 24:1-4, that Jesus quotes from?
- How had different schools of thought in Jesus's day interpreted the phrase "something indecent"? Why is that significant for understanding this passage?
- In Matthew 5:32, who gets the blame for adultery, if the divorce is for invalid reasons? Why is that significant?
- Jesus says "no divorce, except..." What justification does he give for a valid divorce?
- Pastor Joey referred to other passages in which Jesus talks about divorce, Matthew 19 and Mark 10. How do those discussions impact our understanding of Matthew 5?

- Why was “hardness of heart” the reason Moses allowed for divorce, in Deuteronomy 24:1-4?
- Pastor Joey said, “if you divorce your spouse—man or woman—for any other reason than that the other has already, through their actions, broken the one-flesh covenant, then you’re forcing the other spouse into a position where their remarriage constitutes adultery.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
- How does the Apostle Paul’s teaching in 1st Corinthians 7 impact our understanding of Matthew 5?
- Pastor Joey said, “Divorce is only biblically permissible when one spouse has already, through their actions, broken the one-flesh covenant.” What are the ways in which a one-flesh covenant can be broken? Are there more than the two that Jesus and Paul mention (immorality and abandonment)?
- What’s the difference between difficulty and destructiveness in a marriage? What differing response does each call for?
- Why did Jesus say “no” to divorce, except in the most destructive circumstances? Is he trying to stifle our joy or rob us of our freedom? What does he want for us?
- Pastor Joey said that the hardest spiritual discipline of them all is to stand next to the same person quietly for years on end. Do you agree? How have you practiced this discipline?

