

**WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER**  
by Jim Bornzin October 1991 Mark 10:2-16

**The Wedding**

Two before the altar stand  
Pledging vows, hand in hand,  
Trembling with love, excitement, fear,  
Together drawing ever near.  
"I now pronounce you husband and wife."  
Health and happiness in this new life.  
Each looks so young and clean and fresh;  
Jesus says, "The two become one flesh."  
Radiant, glowing, down the aisle,  
To greet each guest with joyful smile.  
Gown and gifts and rings and cake,  
These and more a wedding make.  
Good wishes from friends near and far,  
For luck a wish upon a star.  
The wedding day is almost done,  
But married life has just begun.

**The Honeymoon**

Now it's off to honeymoon,  
The day that could not come too soon.  
In love, in-sane, it matters not,  
The weather cold or weather hot.  
Going home or distant places,  
Hometown folk or foreign faces.  
Just to hold you, feel you near,  
Take your hand, or shed a tear,  
Laughing, dancing away the hours,  
Just for now, the world is ours.  
Children off to pursue a dream,  
Following the Lord's most ancient scheme  
That as two lives are joined as one,  
Life's deepest lessons have just begun.

**Reality Rediscovered**

"The honeymoon's over," a proverb so true,  
It's meaning keeps unfolding, all our life through.  
Back to work, or back to school,  
For too short a time, we were love-sick fool.  
Bills must be paid, expectations increase,  
Responsibilities mount, we look for release.  
A baby arrives, our heart swells with pride,  
And so for a time, anxiety hide.  
But why does he do this?  
And why does she do that?  
Why does my partner look so skinny or fat?  
Why is there always a mess every day?  
I don't remember the honeymoon being this way.

The wedding pictures hardly look real  
Considering how I presently feel.  
Reality rediscovered, perhaps at a year,  
Maybe less, maybe more, it begins to appear  
That the dream we were living  
In which we both kept on giving  
Is becoming a task.  
As we both start to ask  
For more than we give  
It gets harder to live  
And we pray to restore  
Our oneness once more.

**Silent Winter**

Now the snow is falling  
And each of us keeps calling  
In subtle ways for what we need  
Which the other person sees as greed.  
One needs closeness, the other space,  
Both stand in need of God's sweet grace.  
A silent winter, both agree,  
For love's sake, though we disagree,  
Under the covers hurt is swept  
And shameful thoughts in secret kept.  
So day by day we grow apart  
Each harboring an aching heart.  
We've prayed and we've tried,  
And God, how we've cried.  
We've offered our prayer,  
O God, aren't you there?  
The winter is long, the winter is bleak,  
For love's sake we go on, even though weak.

**Crisis or Catharsis**

Then comes a day, some crazy dumb thing,  
A crisis occurs, the beginning of spring;  
But all we can see is the damage that's done,  
A dream that has crumbled, no victory won.  
Now the anger comes forth, can't hold any more,  
A torrent of frustration, bitterness galore.  
God brought us together, but where is God now?  
Where's the joy that was ours on the day of our  
vow?

Over

### **Divorce Considered**

There comes a time to consider divorce  
The answers have certainly not come by force;  
And so the thought, once it crosses our mind  
Seems to offer an out, the freedom to find  
The happiness we dreamt our marriage would  
bring  
When on the right person we slipped the gold  
ring.  
The Pharisees debated the wisdom of life.  
They asked, "Is it lawful to divorce your wife?"  
Jesus said, "Yes, it is lawful;  
But still, it is awful;  
It's not meant to be.  
But God made you free  
So provision is sent  
If you cannot repent."  
Some people have such hardness of heart  
That there is no other way except to depart;  
Yet you need not despair  
For God's love is still there  
And is offered to each  
In spite of the breach  
That new life might begin  
In spite of the sin  
And in spite of the loss  
That's why Christ died on the cross  
So that deep in the night  
You might still have the light  
That together or apart  
Love might return to your heart.  
Divorce was never meant to be;  
It always is a tragedy.  
And yet, as long as hope abides,  
Possibility for love resides,  
If in humility, both seek God's will,  
Forgiveness can lead to deeper love still.

### **Forgiveness and Hope**

Out of the ashes and darkness and gloom  
Can come the new life, as if from a tomb.  
Forgiveness the key to the prisoner's release,  
The key to new life, new hope, and peace.  
The gospel of Jesus is not ancient myth;  
It's good news for all of the people we're with.  
For husbands and wives, it leads us along,  
Turning our darkness and tears into song.  
It shows us our sin, yet opens the way  
For new possibilities, day after day.

The mystery of marriage that two become one  
Is not until eternity finally done.  
For two are still two while on earth they remain,  
And in ways must be separate for both to stay  
sane.  
Some human boundaries can't be crossed  
Without the identity of one being lost.  
So God leads us on to new depths of love  
As we open our minds to wisdom from above.  
How blessed we are to have a good mate;  
What God has joined together, let no one  
separate.

### **Love's Depth**

The winter is over, "Thank God," we sigh,  
And so is the honeymoon, years have gone by.  
The wedding photos faded, lie on a shelf;  
We look in the mirror and see a different "self."  
Love has done its miracle,  
The gospel's word is true.  
This crazy person standing here  
Is loved by God and you.  
Love brought us together,  
And at times I've wondered why;  
But trusting God and trusting you  
Makes it okay to cry.  
Love has led us through the years,  
Taught us with laughter as well as tears,  
Forgiveness and patience do their part  
In softening up our hardness of heart.  
Our vows are renewed each day with a kiss,  
In God's holy moments we taste of the bliss,  
Awaiting us fully in heaven some day,  
Where God's awesome love forever holds sway.  
How blessed we are to have a good mate,  
What God has joined together,  
Let no one separate.