

## Matthew 19:3-9 as Midrashic Reflection

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## What is the issue?

"At the beginning God created (them male and female) with the intention they be TWO but in the end he (Adam) was only created to be ONE."

*bKetubot 8a, bBerakhot 61a, bEruvin 18a*

## What is the issue?

- Genesis 1 & 2
- Genesis 1:27  
"So God created man (*adam*) in his own image, in the image of God He created *him*, male and female he created *them*."
- Genesis 5:2  
"Male and female He created *them*. And when *they* were created, He blessed *them* and called them Man (*adam*)."
- Genesis 9:6  
"For God made *man (adam)* in his own image."

## Matthew 19:3-9

Then some Pharisees came to him in order to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful to divorce a wife for any cause?"

He answered, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator *made them male and female*, and said, '*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh*'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

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They said to him, "Why then did Moses command us to *give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her*?" Jesus said to them, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because of your hard hearts, but from the beginning it was not this way. Now I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another commits adultery."

## How is the problem solved?

- Genesis 1:27  
"So God created man (*adam*) in his own image, in the image of God He created *him*, male and female he created *them*."
- Matthew 19:4-6  
"Have you not read that *from the beginning* the Creator *made them* 'male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the *two shall become one flesh*'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."
- Genesis 2:24  
For this reason a man (*ish*) leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, so that *they* become *one* flesh.

## Is this solution unique to Jesus?

Genesis 2:24

MT: ... they become one flesh.

LXX: ... ἔσονται οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν  
... the two shall become into one flesh.

TgOnk: ... they become one flesh.

TgPsJ: ... the two become one flesh.

Vulg: ... two shall become into one flesh.

SyrPesh: ... they shall be one flesh.

Matt 19:3: ... ἔσονται οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν.

>>> It appears that the LXX and the later TgPsJon were already heading in the direction of "two shall become one"

## Matthew 5:18

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.