

**\*181.**

(805-4) Matthew 19:3–6

What God has united, man must not separate.

✠ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”

He said in reply, “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, man must not separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.