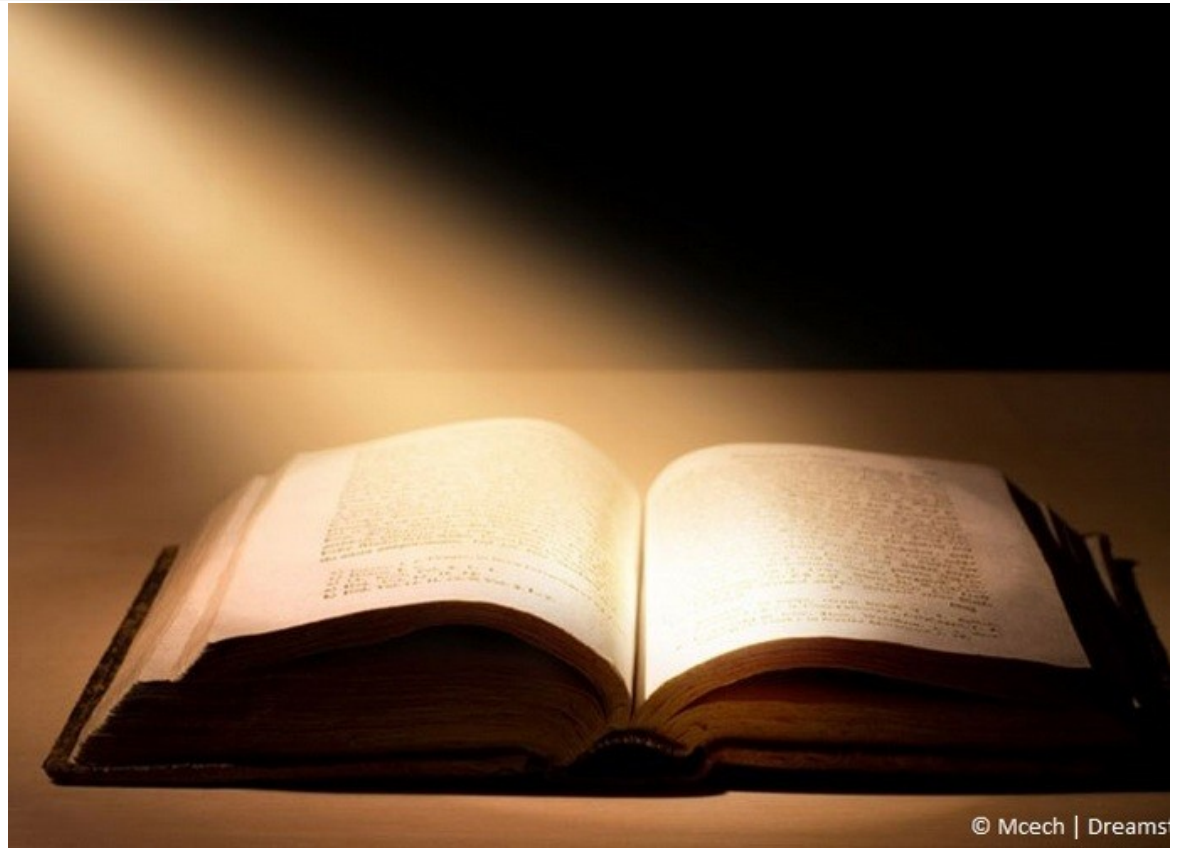


GOSPEL PEARLS

The ultimate goal of Paradise

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And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." And in the house the

disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.
(Mark 10: 2-16)

Man and woman were created by God not to compete with each other and claim an impossible equality between the two sexes, but to help each other in their lives and in their love for each other while using their complementarity of roles and responsibilities based on equal dignity. Married couples must not feel in their hearts that the other is an obstacle to their own fulfilment. Otherwise, they will see their spouses as evil, to the point of making their divisions irreconcilable. By forgiving and serving one another, however, all difficulties between couples can be ironed out. Jesus came not only to restore the original harmony between men and women and with His Father, but to call them to an even greater happiness. He called them to live together on this earth and to help each other reach the ultimate goal of entering Paradise.