

## Things Which God Has Not Joined Together

### Introduction:

1. In the previous two weeks we discussed lessons entitled “Things Which God Has Joined Together.” These lessons were based upon the principles set forth in Matthew 19:3-6. From those verses we noted the question the Pharisees asked Jesus, “*Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause,*” v. 3, and then the answer Jesus gave as cited in verses 4-5.
  - a. After having quoted God’s plan from “*the beginning,*” Jesus then added this admonition, “*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder,*” v. 6.
  - b. We observed that to “*put asunder*” is to divide or to separate, and that God-fearing people must not divide or separate what God has “*joined together.*”
2. Having established that principle, we then observed a number of things which God has joined together, such as:
  - a. A lawfully married husband and wife.
  - b. The words of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament.
  - c. Faith and obedience.
  - d. Baptism and salvation.
  - e. The blood of Jesus and baptism.
  - f. Jesus Christ and the church.
  - g. God and Christ.
  - h. Hearing the word and faith.
  - i. Forgiveness and a forgiving heart.
  - j. Discipleship and fruitfulness.
  - k. The Lord’s Supper and the Assembly.
  - l. Faithfulness and a Crown of Life.
3. In this study, we are looking at the other side of the coin; we are talking about “**things which God has Not Joined Together.**”
  - a. Observe: If it is wrong to separate things which God has joined together, it is equally as wrong for man to join together things which God intended to be separate.

### Discussion:

#### I. God Has Not Joined people of the same sex in Marriage!

- A. The Bible identified who should be joined in marriage.
  1. Gen. 2:18, 21-24; I Cor. 7:2.
  2. Until a few years ago, throughout the history of man, marriage has universally been recognized as a union between a male and a female, a man a woman, a husband and a wife.
- B. The Bible has always opposed same sex unions.
  1. Lev. 18:23; 20:13; Jude 7; Rom. 1:26-27; I Cor. 6:9.
- C. Hence, it is contrary to God’s plan for people to be joined together in same-sex unions.
  1. The very fact that such is now “legalized” in many states does not make it right; to the contrary it reflects the existence of a decadent society, and illustrates the truth set forth in 2 Tim. 3:13.

#### II. God has not Joined Together Good and Evil!

- A. Many Now Call Evil good and good evil!
  1. Isaiah 5:20.
  2. A person who opposes homosexuality is now called a homophobe; a person who opposes abortion (murder) is looked as one who “hates women.” A preacher who opposes virtually any form of immorality is regarded as “bigoted and intolerant,” and is accused of using “hate speech.”
- B. But God has always made a distinction between good and evil.
  1. Consider the very Person of God, Deut. 32:4; 2 Chron. 19:7.
  2. Consider the conditions in Noah’s time, Gen. 6:5,8-9.
  3. Consider the instructions given to the Israelites, Deut. 7:1-6.
  4. Consider the instructions given in I Cor. 5:1,4-6,11.

#### III. God Has Not joined Together Salvation and Worldliness.

- A. God’s people are to be different!
  1. Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:15; 2 Cor. 7:1; Matt. 5:14-16; Titus 2:11-12,14.
- B. Worldliness can keep a person out of heaven.

1. I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; James 4:4; I John 2:15-17.
2. Note an article which said that "many preaches have quit preaching," and then it further stated they have "**quit preaching against**" such things as:
  - a. Immodesty, gambling, drinking, dancing, smoking, etc.
  - b. This statement is all too true, but God has not changed His mind about such things.

#### IV. God has Not Joined Together the Bible and Human Creeds.

- A. The Bible came from God!
  1. John 16:13; I Cor 14:37; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; I Thess. 2:13.
  2. It must not be tampered with! Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 9-11; Rev. 22:18-19.
  3. The Bible is:
    - a. Complete, John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:3.
    - b. Understandable, Eph. 3:3-5; 5:17; John 8:31-32.
    - c. Infallible, John 17:17.
    - d. Indestructible, I Peter 1:22-25; Matt. 24:35.
    - e. Perfect, Jas. 1:25.
    - f. Right, Psalm 33:4
- B. Other Standards came from men, such standards as:
  1. The Methodist Discipline.
  2. The Presbyterian Book of Confession.
  3. The Catholic Catechism.
  4. The Book of Mormon.
  5. The Koran
- C. Human authority in matters religious has never been acceptable to God.
  1. Isaiah 55:8-9; Jer. 10:23; Mat. 15:8-9.

#### V. God Has Not Joined True Christianity Together with Denominationalism.

- A. Basic Bible Facts:
  1. Jesus promised to build His church, Matt. 16:18.
  2. "*The church*" came into existence on Pentecost. Acts 2:47.
  3. Jesus prayed for unity, John 17:20-21.
  4. Paul condemned the division at Corinth, I Cor. 1:10.
  5. Paul set forth the requirements for unity, Eph. 4:1-6.
    - a. The attitudinal requirements, Vs. 1-3.
    - b. The doctrinal requirements, vs. 4-6.
- B. Definitions:
  1. "Denominate" means "to give a name to; designate," **American Dict.**
  2. "Denomination" is (a) "large group of religious congregations united under a common name and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy; a name or designation, especially for a class or group."
- C. The church Jesus built does not have:
  1. A denominational name.
  2. A denominational creed.
  3. A denominational structure; all local churches were independent and autonomous.
  4. A denominational plan of salvation.
  5. A denominational worship.
  6. A denominational work.

#### Conclusion:

1. Even as we must not "**put asunder**" what God "*has joined together*," neither are we allowed to put together what God never joined together!
2. Our goal for every accountable person in the world should be for that person to become "a Christian," a member of the church for which Jesus shed His blood.
3. Are you a Christian?

--Bobby Witherington, November 18, 2015