

“What God Has Joined Together”

No. 83

Introduction.

I. One time the Pharisees came to Jesus and asked, “Is It lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?”

A. They were hopeful that Christ would give an affirmative answer.

B. In response to this question Jesus said. (Matt. 19:4-9).

MAT 19:4 "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said,' For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. 9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

II. From this reading I call your attention to the statement Jesus made in verse 6, “What God has joined together, let not man put asunder.” This statement is very important and deserves our utmost consideration.

I. **Sanctity Of Marriage** - Jesus used this statement to stress the sanctity of marriage.

A. Marriage is not an institution of men, but is a divine union. It was ordained by God in the beginning.

1. Since marriage, is a divine union it must not be entered into lightly and must not be dissolved by man. God does not approve of divorce. He intends for a man and woman to become one flesh until death separates them.

2. **Divorce is wrong.** Every time divorce occurs one or both parties commits sin.

B. In view of this fact, it is sad that marriage is regarded so very lightly in our country today.

1. Some laugh at it and live together without being joined by God. Others sever the marriage relationship by divorce.

2. **The divorce rate is very high and is increasing every year.** In 1870, there was 1 divorce out of every 34 marriages. In 1900 this figure jumped to 1 out of every 12 marriages. In 1940, there was 1 divorce out of every 5 marriages. In 1960 the divorce rate was about 1 in 4 marriages. Today the divorce rate has soared even more and in some places nearly half of all marriages end in divorce.

3. There are many reasons for the climbing divorce rate, but perhaps the greatest reason is the failure of parents to teach their children what God says on the subject. Some grow up thinking marriage is

as long as “we dig it” or find someone better or until we have some problems. Parents need to instill in their children that marriage is a sacred relationship and it is for life.

- C. This statement, “What God has joined together, let not man put asunder” is not limited to marriage. There are many other applications of it in the scriptures.

II. **God And His Son** - God has joined together Himself and His Son.

- A. There are millions who reject God’s Son. They say, “I can accept God, but not Christ.” They say, “I do not believe Jesus was born of a virgin. I do not believe He was the Son of God.” They believe they can have God and reject Christ. They believe they can reject and spurn the Holy One of God.
- B. Those who do this are trying to separate what God has joined together are severing themselves from God. We cannot accept God without accepting His beloved Son. (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:2; Lk. 10:16b; Jn. 14:6).

III. **Christ And The Apostles** - God has joined together Christ and the apostles.

- A. There are some who teach that the words of Christ are more important than the words of the apostles.
 - 1. Some have gone so far as to say that one does not even need to study the epistles of the apostles.
 - 2. They say, “All you need are the four gospels to be saved.”
- B. Those who teach this have not read the words of Jesus carefully enough.
 - 1. The apostles did not pen their own words.
 - 2. Jesus taught that the disciples would teach His words and thus what they said would be binding on men. (Lk. 10:16a; Jn. 14:26; 16:13; 17:8; 1 Cor. 14:37).

IV. **Christ And The Church** - God has joined Christ and the church.

- A. There are many who try to separate Christ from His church. They teach that the church is not important and one can be saved outside the church. The important thing is accepting Christ.
- B. **Christ did not believe the church was unimportant.** (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20; Col. 1:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).
- C. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that Christ promises to save only those in the church. (Eph. 5:23).

V. **Faith And Works** - God has joined together faith and works.

- A. Though the years there have been many debates on the subject of faith and works.
 - 1. Many have tried to separate them by saying that faith is necessary, but works are not essential.
 - 2. Others have tried to de-emphasize faith and exalt works as being more important.

B. The truth of the matter is that the 2 are inseparable.

1. Saving faith works. (Jas. 2:18; 2:14-17, 24, 26; Eph. 2:10; Gal. 5:6).
2. Beloved, faith without works is dead and works without faith is dead. We must have both to be saved by God's grace. God only bestows the free gift of salvation on those who have a loving, obedient, working faith.

VI. **Christians** - God has joined Christians together. (1 Cor. 1:10; Jn. 17:20-21).

- A. Many people today ignore Jesus' prayer for unity and have built hundreds of denominations with conflicting doctrines. When man does this he sins by dividing what God has joined together.
- B. With the Bible as our only authority and guide let's strive for unity that Christians might be of the same mind and judgment.
 1. This is not impossible. God never commands the impossible. He only commands, what by His grace, we can and must do.
 2. Let us heed the admonition of Paul. (Eph. 4:3, 4-6).

VII. **Baptism And Salvation** - God has joined baptism and salvation together.

- A. God has tied the two together in the New Testament. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21).
 1. Note in each of these verses that baptism is joined together with salvation.
 2. Note also in each of these verse that baptism is put before salvation, not after it.
- B. In reply to this some say, "The order is not important." I don't agree with this statement.
 1. **Let me illustrate.**
 - a. About 40 years ago I was on the campus of Oklahoma Christian College as a freshman student. I had a car, and one day 6 girls asked me if I would take them to downtown Oklahoma City. It was about 20 miles from the college, and I said I would. A real tall girl, by the name of Janille slid in beside me as we headed to town. I was attracted to her, and desired I would ask her out. But what if I had asked her before even getting acquainted with her to marry me. She likely would have rejected the offer and not wanted to date me. It was necessary to get acquainted and then date and then talk about marriage. Order was very important. We did get married about 8 months later.
 - b. My telephone number is 776-8036. If you call 776-0836 I do not know who you will reach, buy you won't reach me. Surely, all of us recognize that order is important when dialing a telephone number and in doing 10,000 other things.
 2. Order is also important when it comes to salvation. When one says the order is not important, where does he get his information? The Bible does not say that. It clearly states baptism is essential and precedes salvation. We could not write a clearer sentence than, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

VIII. **Salvation And Present Time** - God has joined salvation and present time together. (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8a; Prov. 27:1).

A. These scriptures teach that today is the day of salvation. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow may never come. Today is the only time we have for sure.

B. In view of this fact, we must not put off becoming a Christians. Tomorrow may be too late.

Conclusion.

I. Once there was a **19 year old boy who rejected Christ** because he thought he had plenty of time to become a Christian. Not too long after that boy was in a serious accident and was taken to the hospital. This boy wanted to put the Lord on in baptism and sent for the local preacher. The preacher was willing to baptize the boy, but the hospital authorities would not allow it. They were interested in saving his life, not his soul. This boy died begging someone to assist him in obeying Jesus. He died in his sins because of his delay.

II. This could happen to you. Your life could be taken at any moment. Accept Christ now. Make Him your Savior. Submit to Him as we stand and sing the hymn of invitation.