

Things Which God has Joined Together

Introduction:

1. Matthew 19:3-6.
2. From these verses we learn that the Pharisees asked Jesus a question, v. 3
 - a. Their motive was not good; they were tempting Him, or testing Him. They knew that if Jesus gave either a "yes" or a "no" answer, it would put Him in trouble with certain people.
 - b. However their question was a good question.
 - c. Jesus, however, instead of responding as they had anticipated, reminded them of God's plan "*from the beginning*" when He "*made them male and female,*" and Jesus then quoted from Genesis 2:24.
 - d. Jesus then, in verse 6, said "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*"
3. This verse implies that there are certain things which God has "*joined together.*" And whatever God has joined together man is forbidden to "*put asunder.*"
 - a. To "*put asunder*" is separate; it is to divide into separate parts.
 - b. If God put the parts "*together,*" then if man puts it "*asunder,*" if man separates what God joined together, then man is rebelling against God.
4. A study of the Scriptures reveals that there are a number of things which God has joined together. In this lesson we shall consider some of those "*things which God has Joined together.*"

Discussion. God has Joined Together:

I. A Husband and a Wife (in a Lawful Marriage).

- A. Those Who have a right to Marry (before God)
 1. Responsible people who have never married.
 - a. Genesis 2:18; Heb. 13:4; I Cor. 7:2.
 2. People, who have been married, but whose mate has died, Rom. 7:2-3.
 3. People, who have been married, but who divorced their mate "*for the cause of fornication,*" Matt. 19:9.
 - a. "*Except*" in Matt. 19:9 means the same thing it means in Matt. 18:3; Luke 13:3,5; Rev. 2:5.
- B. In a lawful marriage, husbands and wives have been joined together by God.
 1. It is a holy union; In fact, the first marriage (that of Adam and Eve) prefigured the union between Christ and His church, Eph. 5:31-32.
- C. We must not allow "*man*" to "*put asunder*" what God has joined together.
 1. This no doubt is one reason why God "*hates divorce,*" Mal. 2:16.

II. The Words of Jesus and the Rest of the New Testament.

- A. Many of the actual words Jesus spoke are recorded in the four gospels.
 1. Many people want a "red letter edition of the Bible.
 2. Many believe that what is written in "red" is more important than what is found elsewhere in the Bible.
- B. But Jesus called twelve disciples, whom He called "*apostles,*" Matt. 10:1-2.
 1. He gave them the "*words*" which the Father had given Him, John 17:8.
 2. After He was raised from the dead, they were to continue His work, Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15.
 3. Jesus taught them many things while He was with them, prior to His death, John 16:12.
 - a. Upon His returning to heaven, the Holy Spirit would be sent who would teach them "*all things*" and bring "*all things*" to their "*remembrance*" that Jesus had taught them while here, John 14:26.
 - b. They were to be guided into "*all truth,*" John 16:13.
 - c. Hence, the early church continued in "*the apostles' doctrine,*" Acts 2:42.
 4. The words of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament are thus "*joined together;*" man must not "*put asunder*" what God has joined together!

III. Faith and Obedience.

- A. Many say that man is justified by "Faith alone."
 1. Article nine of the **Methodist Discipline** states: "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort."
 2. Compare that with the writing of James, James 2:14-26.
 3. Note other scriptures as well: Acts 10:34-35; Gal. 5:6; Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14.
- B. It is a fact that no man can earn salvation by works.
 1. When we have done all He has commanded we are still unprofitable servants, Luke 17:10.
 2. The gospel must be obeyed; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

- a. Yet the gospel is the “*gospel of the grace of God,*” Acts 20:24.
- b. Note also Titus 3:5-7. Those who were “*saved...by the washing of regeneration...,*” (v. 5) are the ones “*justified by His grace*” (v. 7).

IV. Baptism and Salvation

- A. The religious world largely tries to negate the necessity of baptism for salvation.
 - 1. Most require something they call “baptism” for membership in their respective denominations, but they generally deny the necessity of baptism for salvation.
 - 2. But note the predicament they put themselves in:
 - a. One does not have to be baptized to be saved.
 - b. One must be “baptized” to become a member of a particular denomination.
 - c. Therefore their denomination is not necessary for salvation!
 - d. Further, if one does not have to be baptized to be saved, but he must be baptized in order to enter a particular denomination, then it takes more to get into that denomination than it does to get into heaven!
- B. But note the Scriptures:
 - 1. Mark 16:16, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...*”
 - 2. Acts 2:38, “*repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins..*”
 - 3. Acts 22:16, “*arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins.*”
 - 4. Gal. 3:27.
 - 5. I Peter 3:21, “*the like figure whereunto baptism doth also now saved us...*”

V. The Blood of Christ and Baptism.

- A. Redemption is obtained in the blood of Jesus.
 - 1. Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19.
 - 2. Jesus shed His blood in His death, John 19:34.
 - a. But it is in baptism that we contact the death, and therefore the blood of Jesus, Rom. 6:3-4
- B. The “*remission of sins*” is connected with both:
 - 1. The blood of Jesus Christ, Matt. 26:28.
 - 2. Baptism, Acts 2:38.
 - a. Hence, it is in baptism that we contact the blood of Christ, by which we are redeemed.

VI. Jesus Christ and the Church.

- A. Many ridicule the idea that one must be a member of the church to be saved.
- B. Jesus believed the church was important!
 - 1. Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23-25.
- C. The church:
 - 1. Constitutes the saved, Acts 2:47.
 - 2. Those reconciled unto God, Eph. 2:16.
 - 3. The body of Christ, Col. 1:18, the body of which He is “the savior,” Eph. 5:23.
- D. To be “*In Christ*” is to be in the church.
 - 1. Gal. 3:27; I Cor. 12:13.

VII. Worship In Spirit and in Truth.

- A. John 4:23-24. Involves.
 - 1. The heart, the attitude. Cf. I Cor. 11:28-29.
 - 2. Truth.
 - a. God’s word is truth, John 17:17.
 - b. The “items of worship,” Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; Eph. 5:19.

VIII. God and Christ.

- A. Multitudes believe in God, but reject His Son
- B. But we cannot accept God without also accepting His Son.
 - 1. John 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:10; Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:2; Luke 10:16; John 14:6.

Conclusion:

- 1. What God has joined together is sacred; we must not “*put asunder*” what God joined together.
- 2. Finally, God joined together obedience and salvation, Matt. 7:21.

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