

WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER

Matthew 19:3-9

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. Strawberries & shortcake; turkey & dressing; Chicago Cubs and futility; these are just a few things that are joined together and always will be.
2. **2** But, more importantly, there's a statement in the Bible that says "*what...God hath joined together.*" It comes from Jesus' teaching on marriage in Matthew 19:6.
3. We usually only think of a "*husband and wife*" when we read "*what therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder*"; however, there are other things that "*God hath joined together*" that we as men have no business putting asunder.
4. So for the brief few minutes we have together this evening let's examine "*what God hath joined together.*"

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **3 Husband and Wife:** Matt. 19:3-9 **4, 5, 6**

- A. **7** God's plan from the beginning was one man for one woman for life (Gen. 2:18, 24)(Adam & Eve; not Adam & Steve, or Eve & Eva).
- B. Sex is reserved for the marriage relationship (Lev. 18:6, 22-23; 20:13-16; Rom. 1:26-27; Heb. 13:4).
- C. Only death and infidelity can sever the marriage bond (Rom. 7:1-4; Matt. 19:9). Anyone putting asunder their marriage is going against God's will!

2. **8 Christ and the church:**

- A. **9** Many say we need to "preach Christ, but not preach the church" (i.e., biblical truth of one church is considered to be too arrogant, too intolerant, totally politically incorrect); Eph. 1:22-23
- B. Furthermore, Christ is the head of the church and savior of the body (Eph. 5:22-23; Col. 1:18). If this is so how could one ever put Christ and the church "asunder"?
- C. When Saul persecuted the "*church*" (Acts 8:1) he was persecuting Christ! Acts 9:4 The church and Christ are inseparable! Anyone who seeks to put them asunder is putting asunder something God has joined together!

3. **10 Worship in Spirit and Truth:** **11** Jn. 4:24

- A. In regards to worship anything goes in this day and age! (e.g., "Beer and Hymn Singing")
- B. **11** Any worship man invents, however "good intentioned" is "*vain*" (Matt. 15:9); it is "*will*" worship (Col. 2:20-23); and is totally unacceptable to God (Lev. 10:1-2; 16:12).
- C. Even those who follow the NT pattern can be guilty of "*vain*" worship (Mal. 1:6-13).
- D. God has joined "*the spirit and the truth*" in worship and we dare not put them asunder.

4. **12 Faith and Works:** **13** James 2:14-26

- A. It is absolutely true that we cannot earn our salvation, but there are things (i.e., works) that we must do! Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 5:6 ("works of faith"; Rom. 10:17).
- B. Acts 10:35 and Rom. 2:6 (Psa. 62:12) makes it crystal clear that there are "*works of righteousness*" that make us acceptable to God. What "works"? The "*good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*" (Eph. 2:10)
- C. So God has joined "*faith and works*" and we dare not put them asunder!

5. **14 Sin and Death:** **15** Rom. 3:23

- A. What is sin? 1 Jn. 3:4
- B. What is sin's result? Ezek. 18:4 (Isa. 59:2)

- C. This result of sin is referred to as a “law” (Rom. 8:2; 6:23).
- D. We have only ourselves to blame for our sin and its consequences (Jas. 1:14-15). But we often justify/rationalize our sins.
- E. Make no mistake God has joined together “sin and death” and we couldn’t put them asunder even if we tried!

6. **16 Belief and Baptism: 17 Mk. 16:16**

- A. It’s always been amazing to me that the vast majority of “Christendom” puts belief and baptism asunder by teaching that baptism is not essential to salvation.
- B. The Bible clearly teaches no such thing! Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21; Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:37-38, 41, 47; 9:6; 22:16; 18:8
- C. God has joined together “belief and baptism” and any man putting them asunder nullifies the gospel plan of salvation!

7. **18 Unbelief and Condemnation: 19 Jn. 3:18**

- A. Jesus does not mention baptism in reference to the unbeliever in Mk. 16:16; because baptism is nothing more than an empty, vain and useless ritual without belief! It is something an unbeliever would only submit to as some sort of joke or stunt.
- B. Because, you see, at the heart of unbelief, in any form, is a rejection of God! Jn. 3:18; unbelief and disobedience equivocated in Heb. 3:12-19
- C. Unbelievers will suffer eternal punishment, the “second death” (Rev. 21:8) just as will “those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” because they are one in the same! 2 Thess. 1:7-9

III. CONCLUSION:

- 1. **20** We need to be extremely careful that we never put asunder that which God has joined together:

- ✓ **Husband and Wife**
- ✓ **Christ and the Church**
- ✓ **Worship in Spirit and in Truth**
- ✓ **Works and Faith**
- ✓ **Sin and Death**
- ✓ **Belief and Baptism**
- ✓ **Unbelief and Condemnation**

- 2. Invitation

Based on a sermon by Ryan Thomas.