

In **Matthew 19:3-6**, we see Jesus questioned about marriage and divorce, and then we see Him giving His answer. This is not going to be a lesson on God's commandments concerning marriage, but I want to take a principle of this passage and make some applications to other areas of our faith. Notice the last sentence of **v.6**. **"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."** The world's desire is to completely tear apart things that God has joined together. Many, for the majority of time, have tried to separate many things that God has solemnly joined together. God has joined the man and woman in marriage, yet man has tried to tear a marriage apart without just cause. However, marriage is not the only union created by God that man has tried to separate. Many want the rewards and blessings that come with Christ, but they are not willing to do the necessary requirements in order to receive the rewards and blessings. They have separated those necessary steps from the desired reward and that should not be the case. So let's open our Bibles and look at 5 things God has joined together that man should not separate.

### **3 Things Man Should Not Separate**

#### **I. Sound Doctrine and a Relationship to Christ.**

- A. Man says that doctrine does not matter and that we just need Jesus.
  1. While it is true that we do need Jesus, the vast majority of people have a faulty view of Jesus.
  2. They believe Jesus taught nothing but love while He was on the earth and that doctrine doesn't matter.
  3. Jesus was all about grace and didn't want anything to do with laws and standards.
  4. "Just love Jesus and you will be accepted by Him!"
  5. "No need to fight over who is right and who is wrong. We just all need to love Jesus!"
- B. The Bible teaches and Jesus taught that only those who teach and hold sound doctrine can have a relationship with Him.
  1. God has always expected for His creation to meet His standards in order to have a relationship with Him, which is His desire for us. (**"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we would be holy and blameless before Him."** Eph. 1:4)
    - a) God had a standard for Adam and Eve. (**Genesis 2,3**)
    - b) The world did not meet God's standard for holiness and God decided to destroy it with water. (**Gen. 6**)
    - c) Nadab & Abihu did not meet God's standard of religious practice and they were destroyed with fire. (**Lev. 10**)
    - d) Israel failed to meet God's standard and they were cut off from being in God's good graces.
  2. There is a right way and a wrong way to handle the word of truth. (**II Tim. 2:15**)
  3. Only correct teaching and obedience will ensure salvation. (**I Tim. 4:12ff**)
  4. Not everyone who holds to just any doctrine will be saved. (**Matt. 7:21-23**)
  5. Jesus says we must obey what He has commanded. (**Matt. 28:18-20**)
  6. Refusing to abide by Jesus' teachings will separate one from the Father and the Son. (**II John 1:9**)

## II. Righteousness and Salvation

- A. Man teaches that righteousness is not necessary in our salvation.
  - 1. As long as you accept Jesus as your savior then you are assured salvation.
  - 2. Once you're saved then you are always saved, no matter how you live.
  - 3. "God will overlook the sin that you have in your life!"
  - 4. "God is perfectly merciful!"
- B. God is perfectly merciful but He also says that only the righteous will be saved and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - 1. God's perfect love and mercy also demand perfect justice on His part.
  - 2. God, being holy cannot be joined with wickedness and unrighteousness.
  - 3. God cannot look upon the unrighteous. **(Hab. 1:13)**
  - 4. Sin and unrighteousness separates mankind from God. **(Isaiah 59:2)**
  - 5. Only those who are righteous will be in heaven. **(II Peter 3:13)** Jesus taught that those who suffered for the sake of righteousness would have the kingdom of heaven. **(Matt. 5:10)**
  - 6. He went on to say that they should seek the Father's kingdom and His righteousness. **(Matt. 6:33)**
  - 7. Paul told the Ephesians to resist the devil and stand firm in righteousness. **(Eph. 6:14-17)**

## III. Repentance with Baptism and the Forgiveness of Sins.

- A. Man says that baptism and repentance are not required to receive the forgiveness of sins.
  - 1. Baptism takes place after one's sins have already been forgiven.
  - 2. Just accepting Jesus and His sacrifice will get one's sins forgiven.
  - 3. One can be baptized as a baby and have their sin of Adam forgiven.
  - 4. God loves you for who you are and there's no need for drastic things because He accepts you.
- B. The Apostles of Jesus and Jesus Himself were all united in teaching the necessity of baptism with repentance in order for one to be forgiven.
  - 1. Jesus began this teaching upon His ascent to heaven after His resurrection. **(Mark 16:15,16)**
  - 2. The Apostle Peter preached the same message on Pentecost to those who had killed Jesus. **(Acts 2:37-41)**
  - 3. The same message was given to Paul. He was told to change his life! **(Acts 9:10-19)**
  - 4. When we are baptized, the old man of sin is put away. **(Rom. 6:3-11)**
  - 5. Putting on Christ means we put off sin. **(Gal. 3:27)**
  - 6. Through baptism in faith we washed in the working of God and have our sins forgiven. This is a circumcision made without hands that cuts off the sins we have committed. **(Col. 2:11-14)**

Man has constantly tried to redefine and separate aspects of God's commandments. Part of being faithful followers of Christ is deciding to humble ourselves to simply obey what God has dictated. We are not at liberty to change God's commandments to meet our desires. If we speak, we are to speak as God has spoken. Notice why we do this from **I Peter 4:11**. We submit to God so that we might glorify Him through Jesus Christ. May God help us all to not strive to separate that which He has joined together.