
The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 10, Issue 48	Evangelist and Editor: Dempsey Collins	Dec. 13, 2009
Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30		

The Sin of Ingratitude

by Dempsey Collins
Conclusion

Once we have expressed our thanks to God verbally, we then need to thank God in our lives.

We must offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving. True thanksgiving means thanks living. A truly thankful heart will show it in his life. David asked, “*What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?*” Psalm 116:12

The truly thankful heart will show gratitude by faithfulness. As your sacrifice of thanksgiving, have you visited the sick? Have you lifted up the fainthearted? Have you assembled with the saints and worshipped God? Have you given liberally? Have you confessed Jesus before men? Have you helped the needy? Have you helped to edify the saved?

To the Christian, thanksgiving day is 365 days a year.



Let Not Man Put Asunder

by Dempsey Collins

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and put Him to the test asking, “*Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all?*” (Matt. 19:3) This question is just as relevant today as it was in the first century. If the same question were asked today, sadly the majority of people in this country would probably say, “Yes, it is lawful for a man to put away his wife for any cause.” Our society has become so liberal in its divorce laws that it has adopted what is called the “no fault” divorce, i.e., divorce that can be granted without placing blame on either party. A person simply has to state that he and his wife have irreconcilable differences and that they no longer desire their marriage to continue. The rabbinical schools of that day were greatly divided over the idea of marriage and divorce.

In all probability, these “testing” Pharisees were hoping Jesus would enter into debate with some of these rabbinical schools. Instead Jesus refers these crafty fellows to the true measure of all men, the word of God. In doing so, Jesus didn’t go back to the nation of Israel or even to the law of Moses in Deut. 24:1, but rather Jesus took his inquirers back to God’s original law of marriage given in Gen. 2. He went back to the beginning of the human race.

The Messenger

In Matt. 19:4 Jesus answered “*Have you not read?*” This statement alone shows us three things:

1. That Jesus would only accept what God’s word revealed on this matter.
2. The implication of Jesus was that this subject was clearly stated in the word of God.
3. By going back to the very beginning and the institution of marriage, Jesus shows that His teaching on this subject applies to all mankind. Adam and Eve are not just the parents of the Jews, but the entire human race.

“Jesus spanned the ages. His answer goes to the very nature of marriage as God first designed it – not for Jews or for Gentiles, believers or unbelievers, but for men and women of every race and age. The covenant of marriage was given to man generally and not to Adam and Eve uniquely. It was designed to meet man’s innate need for a mate and to provide a secure haven for the children to develop and be nurtured to maturity. The union of a man and woman in marriage was to be an intimate fusing of two personalities into a profound oneness. Jesus, in appealing to Moses’ record of the beginning of things, is answering the Pharisees in terms of God’s original purpose. From the beginning, God’s rule of men has been universal and all men have been expected to worship and serve Him. I want us to clearly see that the eternal moral principles governing marriage and sexual intimacy have been in place ‘from the beginning’. They did not begin with the nation of Israel. God does not have one set of moral standards by which to rule alien sinners and another by which to govern Christians. His moral expectations for kingdom citizens represent His expectations for all men. They are the standard of righteousness to which all men are called. If we submit to Christ they will guide us, if we reject him they will judge us.” (John 12:48) *Paul Earnhart*

In Matt. 19:4 Jesus went on to state that from the beginning God created them male and female. This fact alone forever rules out homosexual marriage. God did not create a man for a man, but a woman for a man. Not Adam and Steve, but Adam and Eve. After creating Adam and Eve, God said, “Thus shall a man leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife and the...” Notice first of all that Jesus said a man. What kind of a man? One who has experienced religious conversion? A heathen? He doesn’t say, therefore it applies generally. A passage is to be understood in its plain and obvious meaning, unless there is something in the context that forbids it. Jesus used the most general terms possible. Man (whoever he is) may not put away his wife for every cause and remarry.

The primary purpose Jesus is to point out is the permanence of the marriage union. The Pharisees asked is it lawful for divorce for any cause? Jesus’ answer to them is no, on the basis of two simple facts:

1. What God did – God created one man and one woman for each other and He intended them to be married for life. Eve was created to be Adam’s wife until death. That is the way it was and forever the way God intended it to be.
2. The permanency of the marriage union can be seen in what God said, “Thus shall a man leave...” God intended a permanent cleaving and joining of two into one.

The permanency of the marriage union can be seen further in Jesus teaching in Matt. 19:6. “*Consequently they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder (or separate).*”

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16