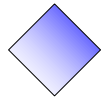


The Voice of Truth



March 17, 2013

DOES BAPTISM "SANCTIFY" A SINFUL RELATIONSHIP?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

It is said by some that since baptism washes away all sins, it sanctifies marriages which existed at the time of baptism - so those involved in adulterous marriages (*those which violate Matthew 19:9*) do not have to separate after baptism. This is a false teaching which jeopardizes both the doctrinal and moral purity of the church.

What they are saying then is that non-Christians are simply not under (*amenable to*) the law (*gospel*) of Christ. Marriages involving only non-Christians are acceptable to God even if they violate **Matthew 19:9** because non-Christians are not under the law of Christ.

In **Matthew 19:5** we learn that marriage was not just for Adam and Eve, but it is for all mankind, "...*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.*" Surely no one contends this was for Adam and Eve only, as they had neither father nor mother. Now, since we have all mankind involved in marriage, it is crystal clear that marriage is not an institution limited to the church or covenant, limited to Christians only. Marriage antedates the church and the nation.

Does the covenant of God apply to all men? The Biblical answer to this question is **"YES."** The Lord commissioned his apostles to teach "*all nations*" (**Matthew 28:19-20**), "*unto the uttermost part of the earth*" (**Acts 1:8**), and "*to preach the word to the whole creation*" (**Mark 16:15-16**). Christ will judge all men by His words (**John 5:22, 27; 12:48**). The commands to repent and be baptized are in the covenant of Christ (**Acts 2:28; Mark 16:15-16**). They are not addressed to Christians but to the alien sinners. Therefore, all men are accountable to the covenant of Christ.

Some might ask, "Doesn't baptism take away all sin?" The Biblically correct answer to that question is **"NO!"** Baptism will not forgive a sin known to an individual which is yet un-repented. Repentance demands that one sever all relationships which violate the will of God. Faith in Jesus Christ must precede baptism (**Mark 16:16**), and baptism without prior faith is of no value; repentance must also precede baptism (**Acts 2:38**), and baptism without prior repentance of every known sin is useless.

If a man makes it clear that he does not intend to repent of his sinful situation, he cannot be scripturally baptized! He would get wet! The notion that baptism somehow sanctifies an unholy relationship so as to turn adultery into marriage is preposterous. Baptism is not some sort of magic which performs marriage ceremonies for adulterers!

If one can keep on committing adultery after being baptized then one can keep on committing murder after being baptized. If not, why not? Baptism does many things: baptism puts one into Jesus Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**); it is into the death of Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**); it saves one from sin (**Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21**); it brings remission of sins (**Acts 2:37-38**); baptism washes away sins (**Acts 22:16**); it inducts one into the body, the church (**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**); baptism is into newness of life (**Romans 6:3-5**); it frees one from sin (**Romans 6:17-18**). But baptism will not remove temptation, nor does it guarantee eternal life and will not change a sinful practice into a righteous one or change a sinful relationship into a righteous one!

All men are subject to the laws of Christ on divorce and remarriage. I would be a false teacher if I tried to justify those who are living in a sinful relationship! ♦

When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself. Failure to hit the bull's-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim – Improve yourself.

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“Til Terrible Illness Do We Part”

By Jarrod Jacobs

In yet another attack against God’s will for marriage and its permanency, Pat Robertson, host of “The 700 Club,” has emerged to said that a person whose spouse has Alzheimer’s disease could divorce the ailing spouse and find someone else. This statement was broadcast on his television show on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. He included the caveat that the divorcing spouse ought to provide for “custodial care” for the ill spouse, but otherwise, the person, according to Robertson, would be justified in divorcing the spouse and marrying another.

Robertson’s co-host on the show asked him such questions as: “What about ‘for better or for worse?’ and, ‘in sickness and in health?’” She went on to say, “If you respect that vow, you say ‘til death do us part’.” Robertson’s response was: “This is a kind of death.” According to Robertson, since the ailing person is enduring a “kind of death” in losing cognitive function, then this justifies the healthier person’s decision to divorce and find a similarly healthy mate! How horrible! In addition to Robertson’s statement being completely anti-Scriptural (**Matt. 5:32, 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3;** etc.), it is also unethical, reprehensible, irresponsible, and just down-right mean to entertain thoughts that when a spouse gets “too sick”, then the healthy spouse would have God’s sanction to divorce and find someone else!

Based on Robertson’s reasoning, wouldn’t the person who has a spouse dying of terminal cancer also be justified in divorcing and marrying someone healthier? So long as “custodial care” was provided, of course! After all, the ravages one suffers as terminal cancer spreads through the body is a “kind of death,” too! What about lung diseases, heart diseases, bone diseases, etc.? Actually, once we are born we begin to die (**Gen. 3:17-19; Ecc. 9:5; Heb. 9:27; Ecc. 12:7**). Therefore, are we not all suffering a “kind of death” as we move toward our “eternal home” daily (**Ecc. 12:5**)? Based upon Pat’s reasoning, I wonder why Mrs. Robertson would want to stay married to Pat at all when she can simply provide for his “custodial care” and find a healthier spouse?

I am glad to see many in our country outraged by Robertson’s words. I was sorry though, that people spoke in outrage merely from the standpoint of feelings, rather than Scripture. This is because much of our population is ignorant of God’s words (**Hos. 4:6**), and ignorant of the fact that it is God who instituted marriage in the first place!

What, then, has God said concerning marriage and its permanency? May spouses divorce when bad problems come, such as one spouse gets an incurable disease? Let us note that God spoke about marriage in both the Old and New Testaments. He said

- ◆ *“Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (**Gen. 2:18-24**).*
- ◆ *“And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, ‘Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?’ He answered, ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate’” (**Matt. 19:3-6; Mk. 10:7-9**).*
- ◆ *“For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress” (**Rom. 7:2-3**).*

A cursory reading of these texts shows us that God’s will for marriage and Pat Robertson’s will are diametrically opposed! In truth, when hard times come to a marriage (and they will), THIS is the time that we ought to turn to God and lean upon Him all the more (**1 Pet. 5:7**)!

It is difficult to imagine all the emotion one feels when a spouse has contracted a fatal disease, or a disease from which there is no cure like Alzheimer’s. However, one who knows the Lord’s will (**Rom. 7:2-3**) and one who loves his spouse as himself (**Eph. 5:28-29; Titus 2:4**), would not

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think of abandoning his life-long love, partner in life, and parent of the children, etc., at this time in life when the need is the greatest! Truly, let us *"love thy neighbor as thyself"*! This, the *"second commandment"*, applies in the home as well as among strangers (**Matt. 22:39**)! Can we think of any greater expression of such love than when we see the healthier spouse caring for the ill spouse in those final years? What selfishness it displays when people are encouraged to divorce a life-long spouse when the problems of life are the greatest! Shame on us!

What makes this worse is to learn that Pat's view is not unique. In fact, a man named Stephen Gola wrote a book entitled: Divorce Hope wherein he encourages people to get out of what he calls "bad marriages" in order to find "good marriages." He suggests that there is such a thing as doing the right thing for "too long" and that God supports your divorce even if the church does not! What convoluted thinking is this? Please go back and read what the Bible reveals concerning marriage and its permanency. This is yet another occasion where man's thinking is diametrically opposed to God's thinking! In the long ago, Isaiah recorded the following words from God: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my*

ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (**Isa. 55:8-9**). The apostle Paul said a similar thing to the Corinthians when he wrote by inspiration: *"For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God"* (**I Cor. 1:25-29**).

The home and family are the very foundation of a society. With the current onslaught against the home being waged through "shack-ups" and through folks justifying sodomite marriages; Pat Robertson has done no favors to those of us who love the Lord's will! Let us awake from sleep and be active in teaching our children and grandchildren God's will for marriage. Let us be active by also **LIVING** it in front of them! (**Eph. 5:22-33**)

Credit: The Old Paths - 9/25/11 ♦

In Defense of the "Biblical Family"

By Jeff Smith

The family in our culture has undergone much change in the last few decades. "Once upon a time" the traditional family was commonplace. The husband/father supported his family while the wife/mother stayed at home to manage the house and care for the children. This was God's idea when He designed the family. It was Adam, not Eve, who was told to work (**Gen. 2:15**). Passages in the New Testament teach the same principle (**1 Tim. 5:8; Titus 2:4-5**).

However, it isn't politically correct anymore to suggest, let alone preach, the scenario above. It is no longer regarded as the simple truth of the gospel. It is blind bigotry and a prejudiced opinion forced on a more "educated and enlightened" society. Therefore, we have a dilemma in our nation, and not a small one, either. How this is decided affects all other endeavors because the "family" is still our most basic relationship-oriented unit. What notions threaten the family?

The family is threatened by the notion that two people can live together before they get married. This is their "trial period." If it doesn't work, then they won't have to go

through all the divorce process, etc. Of course, when did you ever hear of people living together and not engaging in sexual activity? The Bible calls this "fornication" and argues only in marriage is the bed "undefiled" (**Heb. 13:4**).

The homosexual movement undermines the Biblical family. States legalize "unions" between consenting adults of the same sex and call them "families." They even try to pass legislation to give them the same benefits enjoyed by those who have "heterosexual" marriages. This is gross perversion. Anyone who can remotely read can understand **Romans 1:18-32**.

The Bible notion of family is also dealt a blow by the "convenience factor" or the ease of divorce to end a marriage. A couple's "irreconcilable differences" have become the norm used by our courts. We are long past the days when people view marriage as permanent. If they want out, they will find a way. Yet, the Lord taught the only reason for divorce was if one spouse was unfaithful to the other. Divorce for any other reason and a subsequent remarriage is adultery (**Matt. 19:9**). Is this a big deal? Read

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1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

Other threats could be mentioned, but space does not permit. We could decry the feminist movement and its perversions about womanhood. However, all roads lead

back to the same intersection. What has God said about the family? Do we really care about Divine intentions re: the most basic societal unit?

Will you stand up and defend the family as it was originally designed by God? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

**The Final Judgment
By David Padfield**

- All of the nations of the earth who have ever lived will be present (**Matt. 25:32**)
- The Word of God will be the standard of judgment – not the creed books written by men (**John 12:48**)
- We will be judged on the basis of our deeds and not just our attitude (**Rom. 2:6**)
- No "warning signs" will be given prior to the return of Christ (**Matt. 24:36**)
- Christ will return at an unexpected time, during normal circumstances upon the earth (**2 Pet. 3:10**)
- When Christ returns "every eye shall see Him," not just the redeemed (**Rev. 1:7**)
- For some, it will be a day of unspeakable joy (**Rev. 21:1-4**)
- For others, it will be a day of horror (**2 Thes. 1:6-8**)
- When Christ returns He will deliver the kingdom back to His Father (**1 Cor. 15:24**)
- There is no passage in the Bible which states Christ will ever set foot on this earth again – the Bible teaches that we will "meet the Lord in the air" (**1 Thes. 4:17**)
- Once Christ receives His own they will "always" be with Him, not just for a 1,000 years as some teach (**1 Thes. 4:17**)
- While we wait for the Lord to return we have the opportunity to repent (**2 Pet. 3:10**)
- There is no second chance for men to repent after death (**Heb. 9:27**)
- Take comfort in the thought of His return (**1 Thes. 4:18**)

Credit: www.padfield.com ♦

Can You Imagine?




1. **Paul saying:** "You don't have to obey the gospel to be saved?" Read **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
2. **Paul saying:** "We are sprinkled with him in baptism?" Read **Romans 6:4.**
3. **Jude saying:** "I don't think it is right to argue the scriptures?" Read **Jude 3. ♦**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
 Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
 Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
 Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
 Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
 Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p>Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com</p>  	<p>1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p> 	<p>Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p><small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small></p>